

GOODER THAN GREAT

WILLIS 2/12/12

Is52:7-12 Msg

We are continuing our focus on The Gospel or The Good News of Jesus Christ. Have you ever wondered why the Gospel is just good? **When it comes to assigning a quality to the news of Jesus Christ, was good all the gooder it could get?**

- Being the Good News is news from God, you would think we would be dealing with words like “stupendous news,” “outstanding news” or at least “wicked good news.”
- But when it came to announcing the news of God, “good news” was the word of choice...not because of its hierarchy of value but because of its association with character.
- The goodness of the good news is not found primarily in its face value but in its associated value. **The goodness of the “good news” is gooder than great not because it stands alone but because “good” associates the news with the very nature of God.**
- Ps119:68 say’s “God is good.” If God is good then His good must be gooder than great.

I have entitled what I want to share with us today “Gooder than Great.” I know “gooder” is not a real word but sometimes there just aren’t words to describe just how good the good news of God really is.

- **When good is used in the context of God, good becomes infinitely gooder than great because with God good is no longer used in relationship to value but as a description of character.**
- Such is the case with “The Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” The good in the good news of the Gospel is not used in the sense of quality it is used in the sense of identity.
- If God wanted to describe the quality of the Gospel He could have used words like great, excellent or extraordinary for they are all better than good. But God chose to use the word good to describe the identity of the Gospel...so good is gooder than great.

Goodness doesn’t just single out one of God’s many attributes; Goodness is the sum total of all of His attributes. When Moses asked to see the glory of God, God responded by saying, “I will make my goodness pass by you...” Ex33:19

- **Goodness is what God chose to reveal Himself by for in His goodness we receive His all.** You can have goodness without having God but you cannot have God without having goodness. The original Saxon meaning of the English word God was “The Good.”

The goodness of God is the axiom through which all of life must be viewed. This is why in the temptation of Adam and Eve, Satan brought the goodness of God into question. Satan knew he had one shot and if he could get the goodness of God he could get it all.

- **How we view God determines how we interact with life...therefore the most important truth we will ever embrace is God is Good.** Important because it is first cause...important because His Goodness determines how we view everything else.
- **We become what we believe about God. We grow to resemble our mental image of God.** This is why we must receive and believe in the Good News...
- The Good News is God is infinitely good, eternally good, and immutably good. It is impossible for God to be anything less than good. In fact God is so good no subtraction can be taken from Him or addition be made to Him.
- Because God is good His news is incapable of being anything but good news.

So let me break this down a little further and explain why the Gospel is so good:

1. **The Gospel is Good Because of its Tense: Col2:15 The Gospel is a past tense accomplishment with a present tense realization and a future tense hope.** Because of the past tense accomplishment no one, nothing has the authority to reverse the goodness of the Gospel.
 - Because the Gospel was good from the beginning, it is still good and will forever be good. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is so good it has already disarmed evil; it only waits for the people of God to agree with it.
 - Your past doesn't disarm you. The Gospel disarms your past.
2. **The Gospel is Good Because of its Reach: Heb7:25 The Gospel is good because it brings sinful man in reach of a holy God.** Mans highest good is found in his nearness to God. The Gospel is good because it has the power to reach to the uttermost...
 - You are not out of reach. Your sin is not out of reach. David made his bed in hell and found the Good News was already there.

- The Gospel is just as good for the saved as it is for the unsaved. The goodness of God is no respecter of persons; if your need is to be redeemed the Gospel will reach you. If your need is to be restored the Gospel will reach you.
- The Good News has neither limit nor bias. There are no taboos to the Gospel or sins that are untouchable. Whoever, whatever, wherever...the Gospel is always Good News.

3. The Gospel is Good Because of its Sufficiency: Col2:10 The Gospel of Jesus Christ is our means of completion. Man is hopelessly incomplete until we are completed in Christ. Consequently we never get beyond our need of the Gospel.

- The Gospel is not just a first step in our walk with Christ; the Gospel is the hub of all truth in Christ. The Gospel is not just the ABC's of Christ it is the A-Z in Christ.
- The Gospel is our way in; our way through and our way out.
- Through the Gospel Jesus became our propitiation, our regeneration, our justification and our sanctification. Through the Gospel Jesus is our substitute, our transformation, our righteousness and our example.

That's why the Gospel is good. When the Gospel is God's kind of good it is gooder than great. If circumstance has caused you to form any other perception of God other than good, let the truth set you free.