



## Come to Jesus (Part 5) The Goodness of God Pastor Ryan Bunbury May 5, 2024

**SERIES TEXT:** “Are you tired? Worn out? **Burned out on religion? COME TO ME.** Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” - Jesus, Matthew 11:28-30 MSG

**SERIES BIG IDEA:** Come to Jesus.

TODAY, let’s consider the invitation in Psalm 34 where we will come to experience “The Goodness of God.”

### Psalm 34 (The Passion Translation & \*Commentary)

#### *The Goodness of God*

- (1) Lord! I’m bursting with joy over what you’ve done for me! My lips are full of perpetual praise.
- (2) I’m boasting of you and all your works, so let all who are discouraged take heart.
- (3) Join me, everyone! Let’s praise the Lord together. Let’s make him famous! Let’s make his name glorious to all.
- (4) Listen to my testimony: I cried to God in my distress and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears!
- (5) Gaze upon him, join your life with his, and joy will come. Your faces will glisten with glory. You’ll never wear that shame-face again.
- (6) When I had nothing, desperate and defeated, I cried out to the Lord and he heard me, bringing his miracle-deliverance when I needed it most.

\*David wrote this psalm at perhaps the lowest point in his life. He had to part from Jonathan (his dearest friend), was alone, and was now being chased by Saul and his paid assassins. David had run to hide in the cave of Adullam (meaning “their prey”). Yet, the beautiful sounds of praise and worship were heard echoing in his cavern.

**The Lesson: We can praise and worship our way through our difficulties.**

- (7) The angel of Yahweh stooped down to listen as I prayed, encircling me, empowering me, and showing me how to escape. He will do this for everyone who fears God.
- (8) Drink deeply of the pleasures of this God. Experience for yourself the joyous mercies he gives to all who turn to hide themselves in him.
- (9) Worship in awe and wonder, all you who’ve been made holy! For all who fear him will feast with plenty.
- (10) Even the strong and the wealthy grow weak and hungry, but those who passionately pursue the Lord will never lack any GOOD thing.
- (11) COME, children of God, and listen to me. I’ll share the lesson I’ve learned of fearing the Lord:
- (12-13) Do you want to live a long, GOOD life, enjoying the beauty that fills each day? Then never speak a lie or allow wicked words to come from your mouth.
- (14) Keep turning your back on every sin, and make “peace” your life motto. Practice being at peace with everyone.

\*David uses the Hebrew word *shalom*. *Shalom* means more than “peace.” It means wholeness, wellness, well-being, safe, happy, friendly, favor, completeness, secure, prosper, victorious, content, tranquil, quiet, and restful. *Shalom* breaks off all authority that would attempt to bind us to chaos.

- (15) The Lord sees all we do; he watches over his friends day and night. His godly ones receive the answers they seek whenever they cry out to him.
- (16) But the Lord has made up his mind to oppose evildoers and to wipe out even the memory of them from the face of the earth.
- (17) Yet when holy lovers of God cry out to him with all their hearts, the Lord will hear them and come to rescue them from all their troubles.
- (18) The Lord is close to all whose hearts are crushed by pain, and he is always ready to restore the repentant one.
- (19) Even when bad things happen to the good and godly ones, the Lord will save them and not let them be defeated by what they face.
- (20) God will be your *bodyguard* to protect you when trouble is near. Not one bone will be broken.

(21) Evil will cause the death of the wicked, for they hate and persecute the devoted lovers of God. Make no mistake about it: God will hold them guilty and punish them; they will pay the penalty!

(22) But the Lord has paid for the freedom of his servants, and he will freely pardon those who love him. He will declare them free and innocent when they turn to hide themselves in him.

## EVERYDAY “GOODNESS OF GOD” APPLICATIONS

### G: GRATITUDE

- Begin each day with a heart filled with gratitude for the goodness of God.
- Take time to count your blessings and offer thanks for God’s provision and grace.
- *Dear Jesus, thank you for* \_\_\_\_\_.

### O: OBEDIENCE

- Walk in obedience to God’s Word.
- Trust in God’s promises and follow His commandments, knowing that His ways lead to abundant life and blessing.
- *Dear Jesus, I’m sorry for* \_\_\_\_\_.

### O: OUTREACH

- Extend the goodness of God to others through acts of kindness, compassion, and generosity.
- Be a beacon of God’s love in a world that desperately needs His light.
- *What is something kind, compassionate, and generous you can do this week?*  
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### .D: DEVOTION

- Cultivate a deep and intimate relationship with Jesus through prayer, worship, and study of God’s Word.
- Let Jesus’ love overflow into every aspect of your life.
- Text “DEVOTION” to (206) 594-5683 for Pastor Ryan’s Devotional Book and the BiOY Devotional App.

### N: NURTURE

- Care for your spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being, knowing that you are fearfully and wonderfully made by a loving Creator and God.
- On a 1 to 10 scale, rate yourself in the following areas:  
Spiritual Well-being: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Emotional Well-being: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Physical Well-being: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- Seek to grow and flourish in these areas of your life.

### E: EMPATHY

- Show empathy and compassion towards others, recognizing that we are all children of God in need of His mercy and grace.
- Seek to understand and uplift those who are hurting.
- *Who is someone I can pray for and reach out to this coming week?*  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### S: SURRENDER

- Surrender your will and desires, trusting in God’s perfect plan and timing for your life.
- Allow God’s goodness to guide you, knowing that He works all things together for your good.
- *Dear Jesus, I surrender* \_\_\_\_\_.

### S: STRENGTH

- Draw strength from the goodness of God, knowing that He is your refuge and fortress in times of trouble.
- Lean on God’s everlasting arms and find courage to face whatever challenges may come your way.

**SEVEN “Goodness of God” Scriptures to Memorize and Lean on Every day This Week:**

- ◆ For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with GOODNESS. Psalm 107:9 NKJV
- ◆ Taste and see that the Lord is GOOD. Psalm 34:8a NIV
- ◆ If you, then, though you are evil know how to give GOOD gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give GOOD gifts to those who ask him. Matthew 7:11 NIV
- ◆ Surely GOODNESS and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6 NIV
- ◆ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, patience, kindness, GOODNESS, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. *Against such things there is no law.* Galatians 5:22-23 NIV
- ◆ But Joseph said to them... “You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for GOOD. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” Genesis 50:19a-20 NLT
- ◆ And we know that in all things God works for the GOOD of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 NIV

**Jesus**

**Salvation Prayer:**

*Dear Jesus, I repent of my sin. Please be my Savior and Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen*