

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT TO ENJOY GOD'S GOODNESS

Psalms 1:1-3

Introduction: Most people have dreams of retiring someday and try to keep a saving account or a retirement fund for that long awaited for day. Then, too, Christians know that they have a place waiting for them and the Bible describes the beauty and wonder of the place God has prepared for them. However the Christian doesn't have to wait till he/she gets to Heaven to enjoy God's goodness for God has much He wants the Christian to enjoy right now.

I. CHRISTIAN, ENJOY GOD'S GOODNESS NOW

1. Just what is "God's Goodness?"
 - Abraham, Joseph, Jacob and David enjoyed "God's Goodness" while they were here.
 - Daily fellowship with God, such as walking, talking to Him, being aware of God's presence, assured of His acceptance of them.
 - Having a personal experience of God's presence, His blessings, approval and His help in life's situations are but some expressions of God's Goodness now.

2. One needs to remember that there is a connection between conduct and consequences.
 - Holiness brings Happiness. Losers to sin can be gainers in righteousness.
 - *"Them that honor Me, I will honor and they that despise Me, shall be lightly esteemed.." (1 Samuel 2:30)*
 - In equal proportion as one honors God, so will God honor back.
 - Nothing less than full and constant obedience to God is what is required by Him.
 - *"He which soweth sparingly, shall reap also sparingly; he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.." (2 Corinthians 9:6)*

3. What does it take for one to enter into and enjoy God's Goodness?
 - *Joshua 1:8* - One must be single minded with one's thoughts to be on God.
 - *Psalms 1:3* - One must turn his/her back on the world. One must be completely subject to God's authority (for what the heart is most set upon engages one's thoughts).
 - Remember Abraham and David?

II. WHAT DOES ONE DO OR NOT DO TO MISS GOD'S GOODNESS?

1. It is quite possible to miss God's Goodness and in doing so bring down upon oneself God-sent difficulties.
 - God will no more turn His head at a Christians' sins than at those of a non Christian.
 - There are wonderful benefits from keeping God's Word but on the other hand, the breaking of God's Word brings much loss to the Christian.

2. God's Goodness will be missed upon willful, deliberate sinning.
 - When one does things his/her own way, self will, self pleasing, living like unbelievers.
 - Following the world's ways provokes God and He will show His displeasure.

3. Clearly the unsaved cannot enjoy God's Goodness. (There just is no reason or excuse for a person to remain an unbeliever once he/she has heard the gospel).
4. Sadly, many Christians are living under God's frown instead of enjoying His Goodness.
 - Christians start out right but some drift away, they "...*leave their first love..*"
 - If a Christian does not meet God's requirements then God's Goodness will not be experienced, only His displeasure.
 - God's holiness cannot tolerate sin in the Christian if that Christian does not repent.
 - Remember Lot? He eventually lost everything, even his wife.
 - Remember David? Lusted, even murdered and had family troubles all his life.
 - Remember Zachariah? Struck dumb because he didn't believe that he could be a father, but was the father of John the Baptist anyhow.
 - Remember Annanias and Sapphira? They lied to God and were struck down.
5. Many don't know but failure in the area of their Home can cause one to miss God's Goodness.
 - Husband and wife not in harmony. The children in rebellion .
6. Even Churches can miss God's Goodness.
 - Members not caring for one another. Misconduct in services. Allowing false teaching.

III. CAN GOD'S GOODNESS BE RESTORED WHEN LOST?

1. It is possible to get God's Goodness restored, but it's not easy.
 - Missing God's Goodness happens so quietly, slowly that it happens before one is aware.
 - Easing up on daily talks with God or reading His Word, or obedience or worship, or fellowship with other Christians.
 - Sliding back into the world's way of life and it's people and interests.
 - It is hard to believe how far one has traveled away from God or how serious things are.
 - It is usually hard to even want to get back to the lifestyle that will bring God's Goodness.
2. So, how does one get back into receiving God's Goodness again? *2 Chronicles 7:14* is the only way God says.
 - One must ask, seek, knock, while on his/her face before the one offended - God.
 - One must confess (agree with God) from the heart what he/she has done, in detail.
 - One must forsake hate and give up all that which drew one away from God in the first place and refuse to allow any of it back. There must be a complete break.
 - One must accept God's chastisement without grumbling, complaining, griping or blaming.
 - Only when one has fully met God's conditions will one ever enjoy God's Goodness again.

CONCLUSION:

1. Retirement and Heaven are not the only times one can enjoy life and God's Goodness.
2. One's conduct before God determines whether he/she will enjoy God's Goodness or not.
3. To enjoy God's Goodness, His requirements must be met. Are you meeting them?