The Goodness and Kindness of God

Divine Connection: The Greatest Gift of God's Kindness

Primary Text: Galatians 5:25
Supporting Texts: John 15:1-8; Psalm 73:28; Exodus 33:15; Psalm 119:68

Big Idea:
The greatest evidence of God's goodness is not what He gives us, but that He gives us Himself.

Key Question:
Have I been pursuing God's hand or God's heart?

INTRODUCTION (3-4 min)

Good morning Oakhill.

Today we begin a new series on **The Goodness and Kindness of God**.

As we look back on the past year as a church family, we have much to celebrate. We have seen God's provision, faithfulness, protection, guidance, and His work in people's lives.

But as I reflected on this message, I became convinced of one simple truth:

The greatest evidence of God's goodness to Oakhill is not what He has given us. The greatest evidence of His goodness is that He has continually given us Himself.

Over and over again God has called us back to intimacy with Him.

Before ministry. Before structures. Before vision. Before growth. Before leadership.

God has been saying:

"Walk with Me."

1. GOD'S GOODNESS IS WHO HE IS (5 min)

Psalm 119:68

"You are good, and what You do is good."

Notice the order.

God does good because God is good.

Goodness is not something God occasionally demonstrates.

Goodness is part of His nature.

Everything God does flows from who He is.

Important Truth

We often evaluate God's goodness through our circumstances.

- If life is easy, God is good.
- If prayers are answered, God is good.
- If everything works out, God is good.

But Scripture teaches us something deeper.

God's goodness is not determined by our circumstances. God's goodness is rooted in His character.

God was good:

- At the Red Sea
- In the wilderness
- In Joseph's prison
- In Daniel's lions' den
- At the Cross

God does not become good when life becomes comfortable.

God is good because He is God.

Application

If God's goodness depends on our circumstances, our faith will constantly fluctuate.

If God's goodness depends on His character, we can trust Him in every season.

2. GOD'S KINDNESS IS GOODNESS IN ACTION (4 min)

Romans 2:4

"God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance."

Goodness describes who God is.

Kindness describes how God's goodness reaches us.

Think of it this way:

Goodness is God's character. Kindness is God's character moving toward people.

"Biblically, God's kindness is His gracious and loving action toward His people whereby He draws them to Himself, reveals truth, convicts of sin, shapes their character, and leads them into repentance and Christlikeness. God's kindness is not simply making life easier. It is God working for our ultimate good, even when that work involves conviction, correction, pruning, or discipline.

God's kindness:

- Pursues us
- Forgives us
- Restores us
- Corrects us
- Draws us back when we drift

The greatest display of God's kindness was not a miracle.

It was Jesus.

Titus 3:4-5

"When the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, He saved us..."

The kindness of God has a face.

His name is Jesus.

The cross is where God's goodness and kindness meet.

TRANSITION

- But there is something even deeper we need to understand.
- Many of us define God's goodness by what He gives.
- The Bible defines His goodness differently.

3. THE GREATEST GIFT OF GOD'S KINDNESS IS HIMSELF (7 min)

Psalm 73:28

"But as for me, it is good to be near God."

Notice what Asaph does not say. He doesn't say:

"It is good to receive from God."

He says:

"It is good to be near God."

The greatest blessing is not:

- Provision
- Healing
- Opportunities
- Success
- Open doors

The greatest blessing is God's presence.

Illustration: Moses

- Exodus 33 is one of the most remarkable passages in Scripture.
- God tells Moses:
- "I will still give you the Promised Land."
- Imagine that.
- Victory. Provision. Blessing.
- But Moses responds:

- **Exodus 33:15**
- ***"If Your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."***

Moses understood something many believers miss:

The Promised Land without God's Presence is not enough.

Main Point

- **God's greatest gift is not His blessing.**
- **God's greatest gift is Himself.**

- The highest expression of God's kindness is relationship with Him.

4. DIVINE CONNECTION: WALKING WITH THE SPIRIT (6 min)

Galatians 5:25

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

This is our theme today.

Paul is not describing an occasional spiritual experience.

He is describing a lifestyle.

What does it mean to keep in step?

- Daily dependence
- Daily surrender
- Daily awareness
- Daily obedience
- Daily fellowship

Christianity is not merely believing truths about God.

It is walking with God.

The Holy Spirit is God's continual presence within His people.

Key Thought

God's kindness is not simply helping us from a distance.

His kindness is choosing to dwell within us.

5. ABIDING BEFORE ACCOMPLISHING (5 min)

John 15:1-8

Jesus repeatedly uses one word:

"Abide"
The Meaning of "Abide"

The Greek word Jesus uses is **μένω (menō)**, which means:

- To remain
- To stay
- To continue
- To dwell
- To make your home in
- To maintain a living relationship with

Jesus is not talking about a brief visit, an occasional prayer, or a Sunday-only faith.

He is describing a **continuous, ongoing relationship** with Him.

- **Notice the order in this passage.**
- **Jesus does not begin with fruit.**
- **He begins with connection.**
- **Before fruitfulness comes intimacy.**
- **Before effectiveness comes abiding.**
- **Before ministry comes relationship.**

John 15:5

"Apart from Me you can do nothing."

- **Not little.**
- **Nothing.**
- **The Kingdom of God is built by connected branches.**
- **Not talented branches.**
- **Not busy branches.**
- **Connected branches.**

OAKHILL APPLICATION (4 min)

As I reflect on this past year, I believe God has been teaching us, as Oakhill, exactly this.

God has continually been calling us back to intimacy with Him.

Before:

- **Ministry structures**
- **Leadership conversations**
- **Vision planning**
- **Church growth**
- **Programmes**

God has been asking:

"Will you walk with Me?"

I genuinely believe one of the greatest acts of God's kindness toward Oakhill this year has been His invitation into deeper intimacy.

- **At times through blessing.**
- **At times through challenges.**
- **At times through pruning.**
- **At times through unanswered questions.**

But always with the same goal:

More of Him.

Because God cares more about our connection to Him than our activity for Him.

CONCLUSION (2 min)

As we begin this series, let's remember:

✅ **God is good by nature.**

✅ **God's kindness is His goodness expressed toward us.**

✅ **The greatest gift of His goodness is not what He gives us.**

✅ **The greatest gift of His goodness is Himself.**

So let me leave us with one question:

Have I been pursuing God's hand or God's heart?

Because God's deepest desire has never simply been to bless us.

His deepest desire has always been relationship with us.

Psalm 73:28

"But as for me, it is good to be near God."

- May that be true of Oakhill.
- May we be a people who walk with the Spirit.
- May our ministry flow from intimacy.
- May our leadership flow from intimacy.

- May our vision flow from intimacy.

And may we never forget:

The greatest evidence of God's goodness is not what He gives us, but that He gives us Himself.

CLOSING PRAYER

"Father, thank You for Your goodness and kindness. Thank You for Your faithfulness to Oakhill throughout this year. Thank You for every blessing, every challenge, every moment of provision, and every moment of pruning that has drawn us closer to You. Forgive us when we have pursued Your hand more than Your heart. Teach us to walk with Your Spirit, abide in Christ, and treasure Your presence above every other gift. As we start this series, open our eyes to see Your goodness more clearly and draw us deeper into relationship with You. In Jesus' name, Amen."