

## GOODNESS- THE GLORY OF GOD



(Exodus 33:18-19)

The word goodness carries a strong connotation of its meaning. It is the goodness of our God that showers us with blessings. God's creation in its various aspects of life depend on His goodness to survive. Psalm 104 beautifully describes the goodness of God toward His creation: **O Lord, how many and varied are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all; the earth is full of Your riches and Your creatures, these all wait and are dependent upon You, that You may give them their food in due season. When You give it to them, they gather it up; You open Your hand and they are filled with good things. When You hide Your face, they are troubled and dismayed; when You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When You send forth Your Spirit and give them breath, they are created, and You replenish the face of the ground. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in His work (vs. 24,27-31).** Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits – Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems you live from the pit and corruption, Who beautifies,

dignifies and crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercy; Who satisfies your mouth with good so that your youth, renewed is like the eagle's (Psalm 103:1-5).

The beauty of God's goodness is reflected on people and all His creation. It shines ever so brightly with the splendor of His glory. We experience His glory when we seek Him in the limited space of time of opportunity available to us. Isaiah says, Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have love, pity and mercy for him, and to our God, for He will multiply to him His abundant pardon (Isaiah 55: 6-7). In seeking and returning to Him, His glory will be manifested in His goodness through love, pity and mercy and forgiveness. We experience the glory of God when we seek Him with a humble heart. Proverbs 15:33 says, the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord brings instruction in wisdom and humility comes before honor. The glory of God can also be experienced in our affliction and tribulation, as Paul said, For our light, momentary affliction is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory, since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal, but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting (II Cor. 4: 17-18). Earthly tribulations and afflictions do not hinder the glory of God to be manifested to us when we spiritually discern and understand God's purpose lodged in His eternal promises.

When in their journey through the desert to the Promised Land, Israel sinned grossly against God by practicing idolatry. God's glory departed from their midst then. Moses, as their intercessor, pleaded Him for His glory to return to them. He prayed, "I beseech You, show me Your glory." Then the Lord answered him, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim My name, THE LORD, before you..." (Exodus 33: 18). Through His Goodness He blesses us with grace, mercy and loving-kindness. Goodness is a word within words embracing the meaning that shines the glory of our God.

When God's glory departed from Israel, His goodness also departed from them, but Moses stood in the gap for his people and God heard his plea. Many times when the believer continuously sins against God, he suffers the absence of God's glory, causing God's blessings to be eradicated from his life. He will only perceive

and understand it when he enters God's presence with a contrite heart, seeking his restoration. God's glory is not displayed in a life of disobedience without first going through discipline. Goodness does not exist in the life of man apart from God's holiness being imparted to him. God is the only source of all goodness. YAHSHUA answered the rich man who had come to Him, that "there is only One Who is good –God." Goodness springs forth from the heart that loves God because God's Holy Spirit abides in him. When Isaiah came face to face with the glory of the Lord, he repented of his sins of unclean lips and pride and the goodness of the Lord was manifested to him through forgiveness.

YAHSHUA is the Lord of glory. All goodness springs forth from Him. Only through our new birth will God's goodness be partaken to the believer to share with others. His good works should radiate the goodness of God for others to give the glory due His name. Paul so advised the church: So then, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you may do, do all for the honor and glory of God (I Cor. 10:31). We were born in sin and children of sinful parents, but our Lord YAHSHUA is the incarnation of the glory of God; He is the sole expression of the glory of God, and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power (Heb. 1: 3a). God used Mary as an instrument to bring Him to the world; He was incarnated as man, so to associate with us, but never lost His attributes of Who He was –God. When He allowed His arms to be stretched out, his hands and feet pierced, His glory was expressed through the goodness of His love. Glory is the mean by which God's attributes are defined. It is also descriptive by brilliance, splendor as the Prophet Ezekiel described: " And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne in the appearance like a sapphire stone, and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with the appearance of a Man. From what had the appearance of His waist upward, I saw a luster as it were glowing metal with the appearance of fire enclosed round about within it; and from the appearance of His waist downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness round about Him Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face and I heard a voice of One speaking (1:26-28).

When man comes face to face with the Lord God he cannot stand at the brilliance of His glory. Glory comes in two ways: goodness, honor and praise. We are recipient of His glory through His goodness. We are held convicted before the brilliance of His glory. Paul, in his first letter to Timothy described the glory of YAHSHUA, Who alone has immortality and lives in unapproachable light, Whom no man has ever seen or can see. Unto Him be honor and everlasting power and dominion. Amen (I Tim. 6:16). Before the brilliance of God's glory men become weak and unable to look at Him. John, the beloved disciple of YAHSHUA, when in the Patmos Island experienced the glory of the resurrected Lord. He had not come to John as the Lamb of God to save the world, as when He had first come, but as the Sovereign God with judgment. John described Him as One like the Son of Man, clothed with a robe which reached to His feet and with a girdle of gold about His breast; His head and His hair were white like white wool [as white] as snow and His eyes like a flame of fire. His feet glowed like burnished bronze as it is refined in a furnace and His voice was like the sound of many waters... when he saw Him, John said, I fell at His feet as if dead... (Rev. 1:14-15, 17). It is a fact that today's believer lacks respect and honor to the glory of God. The churches are filled with indifferent and irreverent people. They enter the sanctuary of God with the same attitude of a party goer, they dress like one, talking about anything and everything that comes to mind, disregarding the meaning of worship and reverence to the glory and holiness of God, Whom they had come to worship. Solomon gave us this advice: Keep your foot [give your mind to what you are doing] when you go to the house of God. For to draw near to hear and obey is better than to give the sacrifice of fools, too ignorant to know that they are doing evil ( Ecclesiastes 5:1).

### **THINK ABOUT IT!**

