

GOD ALONE IS GOOD

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—November 5th, 2023

Mark 10:17-31

(ESV)

[17] And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” [18] And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. [19] You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” [20] And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” [21] And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” [22] Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

[23] And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” [24] And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! [25] It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” [26] And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” [27] Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” [28] Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” [29] Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, [30] who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. [31] But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

INTRODUCTION

Amos 5:14–[14] Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said.

Our lives will abound with goodness only if we faithfully and wholeheartedly follow Jesus.

ONLY GOD IS GOOD

This man lacked an understanding and a commitment to what is truly good.

Proverbs 24:24–25–[24] Whoever says to the wicked, “You are in the right,” will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations, [25] but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.

Jesus knew the man had a superficial and erroneous definition of the word ‘good.’

GOD'S LAW REVEALS WE ARE NOT GOOD

The gospel justifies but the Law condemns.

Galatians 3:10–[10] *For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”*

The 1st Table of the Law	→Comm. 1-4	→Our relationship to <u>God</u>
The 2nd Table of the Law	→Comm. 5-10	→Our relationship to <u>others</u>

The man thought of God more lowly than he should and of himself more highly than he ought.

At the heart of Christianity there is this truth we must constantly be reminding ourselves that God is good and we are not.

Coveting is desiring things as though they were God.

At the heart of the 10th commandment, there is the 1st commandment.

Colossians 3:5–[5] *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*

GOD GRANTS US THE GOODNESS WE NEED

God makes salvation, men don't.

Men are only good in as much as they are made one with God. And how does this happen? Through faith in the gospel.

Following Jesus does not require possessions or perfect faith—it just demands obedience to the call.

Mark 1:16–20–[16] *Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. [17] And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” [18] And immediately they left their nets and followed him. [19] And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. [20] And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.*

How do we receive all of these great benefits now in this time? Through the church!