

Attributes of God
Goodness
Volume 5 - Unit 7

H. Goodness - Omnibus term - including:

Love

Mercy

Grace

1. Love

a. Definition - God is infinite affection, i.e. has a continuous, infinite concern for the well being of others.

I John 4: 8, 16

b. Within the Trinity

Matthew 3:17

John 17:24

c. Toward believers

John 14:21

John 17:23

d. Toward the world of sinners

John 3:16

Romans 5:8

e. Principal manifestation

I John 4:9-10

John 3:16

2. Mercy

a. Definition - God's goodness manifested toward those in misery or distress. (Synonymous with compassion, pity, lovingkindness.)

b. Classic scriptures

Ephesians 2:4

James 5:11

3. Grace

a. Definition - God's goodness manifested toward the undeserving (unmerited favor).

b. Common grace

(1) Longsuffering in punishing sin

II Peter 3:9

Romans 2:4

(2) General care of His creatures (benevolence)

Psalms 145:9

Psalms 145:15

Matthew 5:45

(3) Restraint of sin

II The s 2:6

Romans 13

(4) Provision of salvation

John 3:16

Romans 5:8

John 16:8-11

c. Efficacious grace - God's special grace toward "the elect"

Romans 8:29-30:

foreknowledge

predestination

calling

justification

glorification

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God - not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Note: In the statement - ". . . and that not of yourselves . . .", that refers to salvation, not faith.