

STUDY NOTES

VISION 2018

A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “The Goodness of God” on 12/31/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 118:1-9

THE LORD IS GOOD

People say that God is good all the time. But what does that really mean? In fact, even the word “good” can be hard to define because it is used so often. God sets the standard for goodness. Whatever he says and does, is good. You cannot find true goodness apart from God. The real reason that Hell is so bad is because it is separation from God, the separation from true goodness.

- *How would you define the word good?*

Psalm 34:8 says, “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!” David wants us to experience the goodness of God. Tasting is experiencing, and experiencing leads to knowledge. Knowledge leads to conviction, and conviction helps you get through difficult times. Because of the experience of God’s goodness over and over again, we can truly believe that God is good when we are going through hard times.

- *What if your experience seems to tell you otherwise? How has it been difficult for you to see God’s goodness?*
- *What are some specific ways that you have experienced God’s goodness in your life over the last year?*

THE LORD LOVES US AND ALWAYS WILL

David says that God’s steadfast love endures forever. The creator of the universe loves you with an eternal love. Romans 8:38-39 tells us that “nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.”

God will never stop loving you no matter what you think, say, or do.

- *Why do you think it is hard for us to truly understand God’s unconditional love for us?*

THE LORD IS FOR US

God is fundamentally for us—on our side. Because God is for us, he will use every circumstance in our lives for good. But what about trials? James 1:8 tells us that “trials produce perseverance.” In essence, every situation asks us, “will I bail on God, or will I stick with him?”

Because God is for us, we don’t need to be afraid to go to him when we sin. He is the one being in the universe that can deal with our sin. God is for you, not against you.

Only the Lord is always good, only the Lord will love unconditionally, and only the Lord is truly for us.

- *How does knowing that God is for you, give you the freedom to come to him in anything, even with sin?*

TRUST IN THE LORD, NOT MAN

It’s okay to trust people, but only God should take our ultimate trust. If you put your ultimate trust in a person, they will let you down. If your ultimate trust is anchored in people, not God, then you are on loose footing.

- *How could these truths shape your outlook on life and God in 2018?*
- *Pray for each other as you enter the new year.*