

## Knowing God ch 16

### Goodness and Severity

#### I. Context / Intro

##### a. Severity to the Jews

###### i. Broken off

###### ii. Unbelief?

###### 1. Devout

###### 2. Law

###### 3. Heart?

###### 4. Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

###### 5. Who judges it?

##### b. Goodness to the Gentile **Christians**

###### i. in bringing them to faith "grafted in"

###### ii. Devout?

###### iii. Law?

###### iv. Difference?

Why is it important to hold these in tension?

Matt 7:23

Psalms 6:8

## II. Confusion around faith in God

a. "People say they believe in God, but they have no idea who it is that they believe in, or what difference believing in Him may make (p159)

b. What lies at the root of this confusion?

i. Pride

1. Private religious hunches

2. How one feels

ii. Misconceptions about Scripture

1. Pagan / unbelieving sources

2. Uninformed theologians

iii. Failure to recognize our own sinfulness

1. We reject God when we excuse or ignore our sin

2. We harden our hearts and become increasingly callous

3. Remember the devout Jews...

c. How do we correct this confusion?

1. Know God according to Scripture

2. Know ourselves according to Scripture

3. Submit to and apply the truths of Scripture

4. Spirit empowered prayer, confession, and repentance looking

to Him as He reveals Himself, in the light of who we are and our need of rescue.

III. To reject all ideas of God's wrath (severity) is to make grace (goodness)

irrelevant. These are inseparable attributes.

- a. True Christianity dies off (p160)
  - i. Without recognition of sin, there is no need of forgiveness
  - ii. If grace is extended regardless, I have no reason for repentance
- b. A god without severity is no god at all
  - i. A god without severity has no authority
  - ii. A god who has, but does not execute severity, does not love.
- c. A God of love does not leave us as orphans (to ourselves).
  - i. Exodus 34:7 7keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."
  - ii. John 14:18 18"I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.
  - iii. Hebrews 12:6 " For whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He punishes every child whom He accepts."
  - iv. Proverbs 3:11-12 11My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD or loathe His rebuke, 12 For whom the LORD loves He disciplines, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights.

A view of God lacking either or both of these attributes leads to despair. We don't know what to expect or who is in control.

#### IV. God's Goodness

- a. We like good.
  - i. We assign good to what we like.
  - ii. We like justice
- b. God's definition of Himself is beyond good.
  - i. Morally perfect
  - ii. Compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, forgiving...and just.
  - iii. He gives us better than justice
- c. David says "His way is perfect" (2 Samuel 22:31) Packer derives generosity.
  - i. Creation, nature and general habitat
  - ii. Personal, determining times and boundaries
  - iii. Spiritual, Justice in securing our salvation

He saves us from our enemies and provides shelter. He saves us from our own rebellion and resulting darkness. He saves us from spiritual disease which He leaves us to in our rejection of Him. He spares us in our fears of the storms of life that we fear will overtake us. If we will cry out and seek His salvation, He is mighty and merciful to save us.