
3 things



3 Things – Part 3

We are deep in our journey to discover the **3 things** we need to believe (that is to actively believe) to overcome our trust issue with him and begin to experience the deepest sort of intimacy with God where we abide in His joy, peace, and rest, regardless of our circumstances. We spent the last Podcast discussing the first of the 3 things, and that is that **Yahweh is our sovereign Lord**, in absolute control of all things all of the time, without exception.

That clearly raises a lot of issues and questions regarding the fairness, justice, and goodness of God. For how can a good and loving God be personally responsible for evil and all the terrible things that occur to people in this world? And with those questions raised by this issue of the absolute sovereignty of God, it brings us to the second of **3 things** we need to believe, and that is that **Yahweh is good**.

Much like the issue of sovereignty, the Word of God makes clear and unqualified statements about the fact that **Yahweh is good**. Let's just consider a few of them.

- Taste and see that Yahweh is good.¹
- You are good, and what you do is good.²
- For He is good for His mercy endures forever...³
- Good and upright is the Lord.⁴
- Give thanks to Yahweh for He is good.⁵
- The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble.⁶
- For you, Yahweh, are good and ready to forgive.⁷
- Praise Yahweh for Yahweh is good.⁸
- give thanks to the Lord for He is good.⁹
- ...the goodness of God leads you to repentance.¹⁰
- I have no good besides You.¹¹
- No one is good except God alone.¹²

¹ *Psalm 34:8*

² *Psalm 119:68*

³ *Ezra 3:11*

⁴ *Psalm 25:8*

⁵ *Psalm 136:1*

⁶ *Nahum 1:7*

⁷ *Psalm 86:5*

⁸ *Psalm 135:3*

⁹ *1 Chronicles 16:34*

¹⁰ *Romans 2:4*

¹¹ *Psalm 16:2*

¹² *Mark 10:18*

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- All that He does is just and good and reveals His glory and majesty.¹³

We can blindly take these declarations at face value with a “God said it, so I believe it, that settles it” attitude. But that does not begin to address the question of how can the sovereignty of God be reconciled to the goodness of God? If God is good, how can He let evil, calamity, turmoil, pain, injustice, and so on to invade our lives and destroy our world?

Before we jump into the “reconciliation” of these seemingly contradictory truths, let’s review a couple of truths that might absolutely shock your mind. And I say that because these items are so mind blowing that the translators of our English Bibles decided that the truth was too much too bear, something with which they could not abide, so they decided not to translate the text according to its original meaning, but obfuscated the text. I guess they thought they were protecting people, or more likely, protecting their own religious worldview which could not handle, much less grasp, what the Bible actually says, so they had to make the text fit their own presuppositions about God.

Isaiah 45:6-7

That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other, the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these.

The Hebrew rendering of the text is shocking and not watered down at all. First of all, God makes sure it is personal as He uses His name twice, so we know this is personal and needs to be taken personal, and He does not water down the truth. Accordingly, this verse should be translated as follows.

Isaiah 45:6-7

That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am **Yahweh**, and there is no other, the One forming light and creating darkness, causing **Peace** and creating **Evil**; I am **Yahweh** who does all these.

The Hebrew word for peace is “*Shalom*,” and the word for evil is “*Ra*.” There is a Hebrew word

¹³ ***Psalm 111:7 and 3***

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for “calamity” or “disaster,” but it is a completely different word, “*Ed*.” Thus, it is problematic that they did not translate “*Ra*” as “evil” but slipped in an entirely different word.

The net of it all is that Yahweh created evil. And He boldly declares it to be so. Therefore, it is shocking that the religious community has decided to strike this from our normative truths and whitewash it in order that we might think better of God.

This truth is confirmed in **Amos** which says: “If a trumpet is blown in a city will not the people tremble? If evil occurs in a city has not the Lord done it?”¹⁴ And **Lamentations** which says, “Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, unless Yahweh has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both good and evil go forth?”¹⁵

Again, in our translations the word “calamity” and “ill” are substituted for evil, but in both instances the Hebrew word “*Ra*” is used and speaks of unmitigated raw evil.

Yahweh sits on the seat of the great assembly in the heavens and it is His decisions that go forth upon the earth and upon all of humanity (whether for good or for bad). This is the same reason why the Bible declares that He is the absolute sovereign Lord.

I know this is hard to understand (and perhaps even harder to accept) but, in effect, God owns up to the fact that He created evil and all those who are evil, like Satan. After all, He alone established all authorities, whether seen or unseen, even that of Satan.¹⁶ He also created Eve knowing in advance that her encounter with Satan (the serpent) would result in evil being unleashed upon the earth.

Remember, because He has complete foreknowledge, He does not react, and He can never be surprised. Instead, all things work according to His **Plan-A**, which is premised upon His foreknowledge of all things, all people, all beings, all choices, and so on. Therefore, we must conclude that He knew evil was necessary to the story, and therefore in its own strange way, is good.

THE TRUE NATURE OF GOD’S GOODNESS IS ROOTED IN THE STORY OF HIS LOVE FOR HIS BRIDE.

Ok, I know that was a lot to absorb. So, let’s take a step back and look at the overall narrative

¹⁴ **Amos 3:6**

¹⁵ **Lamentations 3:37-38**

¹⁶ **Romans 13:1**

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of the Bible—the broader story, if you may. I believe that will help us understand more clearly this issue of good and evil.

The Bible is clear, the Father is on a journey to find the Son of Man a bride, a woman who would love His Son with her whole heart, mind, soul, and strength—with the entirety of her being. Isn't that what every man wants?

This is a theme that runs across all the pages of scripture. But make no mistake, the Father wants a true lover for His Son, one who is passionate, committed, and maniacally obsessed with Him, who given the **CHOICE** to have anything else or anyone else, would still only choose the Son.

And this is why evil is not only necessary, it is, in its own strange way, good. Please follow along with me through the story.

It seems that when mankind was created, both male and female, they were given the power of choice, after all they were made in the image of God. For instance, Adam choose the name of each animal and even classified Eve as a “woman”.¹⁷

But if all Adam and Eve had to choose from was that which is “good,” as all that God said He created was good,¹⁸ would this special “woman” whom the Father was seeking for His Son ever know anything else? If all she knew was “good,” and there was no actual tension, no actual options, would she actually be able to choose the Son with her heart, mind, soul, and strength?

The Tension, the Evil, was Necessary

In *Romans* we are find the following statement. “...for until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.”¹⁹ How odd. Sin was present from the beginning, and being rendered as a noun, it must have been created, as it is a thing and not so much something that describes an action. But clearly, though present, it had not been activated by law.

Let me explain. We know that the serpent was present in the garden. “Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord had made.”²⁰ And John tells us that the from the beginning, from the moment he was presented to mankind, the devil sins (rendered in the *present active indicative*).²¹ Therefore, sin is plastered over every moment of Lucifer's “now,” whether the now of his past, present, or future. It is a statement on His existence.

Thus, sin was present in the garden while at the same time, we also find Adam cultivating and

¹⁷ See *Genesis 2 and 3*

¹⁸ *Genesis 1:4, 7, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31*

¹⁹ *Romans 5:13*

²⁰ *Genesis 3:1*

²¹ *1 John 3:8*

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keeping the garden.²² In effect, sin and man coexisted without consequence until the coming of the law. The law gave sin opportunity.

“The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”²³ This was the first commandment, the first law ever given, and it was a commandment that if broken would result in death; after all it was law.

And since the serpent deceived Eve, and Adam chose to break the law, sin was activated, brought to life, and it produced all those terrible things of which we are so familiar: guilt, shame, separation, division, hatred, betrayal, violence, murder, death, and so on.

On that day, Adam died spiritually, “...through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin.”²⁴ There was no death in the world before sin was activated by the law. But once sin was activated, God had to take a physical life to pay the penalty for that sin. In fact, the first animal blood sacrifice was performed by God to cover, or to atone, for their sin (which is how they got the garments of animal skin which the Lord made for them).²⁵

Spiritual death, separation from God, was now a given part of life. In fact, death spread to all mankind. **Romans** tells us that through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam.²⁶

Thus, the law provoked sin, condemned mankind, and sentenced mankind to death. And from the time of Adam, “condemnation” became the tool which the enemy has used to assault man’s personhood, identity, and self-worth. This is why we (people in general) struggle so deeply with worthlessness and identity issues which impact every single one of our relationships and all that we do. Do you understand what all of this means?

EVE WAS INTENTIONALLY FRAMED, NOT BY SATAN BUT BY GOD!

Yes, Eve was framed. And we know this to be true because if we look at the first chapter of *Ephesians*, the Spirit tells us that the bondservants of Christ were chosen in Christ from before

²² **Genesis 2:15**

²³ **Genesis 2:16-17**

²⁴ **Romans 5:12**

²⁵ **Genesis 3:21**

²⁶ **Romans 5:12-14**

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the foundations of the world. And He chose that they would be holy and blameless before Him. In love, He predestined them to adoption as sons **through** Jesus Christ, according to the kind intention of His will.²⁷ Therefore, the path of redemption, the cross was **Plan-A** all along and not a reaction to the transgressions of Adam and Eve. It was all part of the plan. Again, it was a setup.

Plan-A.

Let's talk a bit more about **Plan-A**. God ensured sin was in the garden, as well as someone who can use sin to entice others. Still, sin had no power over Adam and Eve. Thus, God gave them a law, and it was the law that provoked them to sin. And that was ok because God had already planned the path of redemption before the foundation of the world was laid (imaged in the animal He killed). He planned for His Son to be the sacrifice; after all, it was only fitting that the creator of all, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, including evil, sin, and Satan, to be that sacrifice.²⁸ In other words, it was His fault in the first place, and so He took the blame and the punishment. That is fitting.

Man sinned; therefore, it was only right that a man paid the penalty of sin. And since it was a setup from the beginning, it was only fitting that the Son of Man pay that penalty. Hence, God gave Him a body.²⁹ Since Adam and Eve were just flesh and blood, He also became flesh and blood so He might be the appropriate sacrifice which would render powerless him who has the power of death, that is the devil, and free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.³⁰

What was Accomplished Through Plan-A?

Let's review. We have a setup, we have a temptation, we have a huge (but totally expected) failure, we have a judgment of death, we have condemnation, and we have sin running rampant throughout all of humanity infecting everyone, such that everyone became a sinner by nature and by choice. But then we also have a body that was given in the place of humanity, a sacrifice to satisfy the requirements of judgment and death for transgressing the law. Thus, every man, woman, and child has been given the opportunity, through Christ, to live free from sin, death, judgment, condemnation, and so on.

And this leads us to the beauty and goodness of evil.

Because sin runs rampant in humanity, the soul of mankind **aches** continually because it is always trying to find that state of being that was once unpolluted, functioning in the image of

²⁷ *Ephesians 1:1-14*

²⁸ *See Hebrews 2:10-11*

²⁹ *Hebrews 10:5-10*

³⁰ *See Hebrews 2:14-18*

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God. In effect, our soul longs to return to the garden where we had perfect fellowship with God. Being unable, however, to find that place of safety and peace, the soul of man is unsatisfied, and on a continual search for something to stop the ache and to quiet the groans. As a result, the one who had initially lied, and deceived mankind, continues with his serpentine like antics and offers up every manner of substituted indulgence that creation has to offer.

Idolatry (demon worship), religion (demon worship), spirituality (demon worship), nationalism, family, marriage, that special someone, children, education, sexuality, sensuality, success, money, glory, fame, honor, goodness, reputation, beauty, health, wellness, wellbeing, anger, wrath, vengeance, war, wickedness, pride, shame, and fear. I am sure this list could go on and on and on. But nothing satisfies that ache, so the search ensures relentlessly.

Satan offers up any and every indulgence that is not actually God. For those who seek God, he makes their options look like God, he makes them look like light (hence, religion). For those who do not have a second thought about God, he binds them with cords of wickedness. And for so many others, he just keeps them confused, and keeps them searching for answers.

Satan's goal is to keep us from ever truly beholding the Son for who He is, the one and only Yahweh, and from falling in love with the Son. But the twist to the story is wonderful. At the same time, the Father's goal is to use Satan's goal to give us every opportunity to be that woman He always dreamed of for His Son. That one woman who will look at every other option, and even try every other option, yet dig down deep in her soul and decide that she wants the Son above and beyond anything that this life, this world, and Satan has to offer. It is how the Father finds a pure bride for His Son.

Now, keep in mind, being a pure bride does not mean that she has not sought fulfillment in other options, nor does it mean that she has not sinned. Rather, it means that though the circumstances of her life, she has chosen to finally bet her life on the things that God has said about Himself and the things that God has said about her, and she chooses to cherish those truths with her heart, mind, soul, and strength. In so doing, she ultimately, piece by piece, rejects all of the substitutes which Satan offers up. She becomes a spiritual virgin, saving herself for the Son.

We see this play out in the narrative of **Revelation** where one of the climaxes of the story (no pun intended, well maybe) is the marriage supper of the Lamb where the Son is given His bride, this woman who has made herself ready for intimacy with Christ.³¹

The entire narrative of the Bible is a love story; God's search for a bride and His preparation of that special woman to be married to His Son. It is told many ways, through the lives of many

³¹ **Revelation 19:7-9**

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people, but when it is all said and done, this woman falls in the love with the Son and never leaves Him, and He never leaves nor forsakes Her, so she can confidently say that the Lord is her helper, she will not be afraid, what can man do to her.³² And the amazing thing is that the Son knows that she loves Him with her heart, mind, soul, and strength because she had the option to love anything else or anyone else, but she chose Him. It's true love, the kind of love that is fitting for Yahweh Qanna, the God who is jealous.

And that is why God created evil and sin, and why, in their own way, they are good because they are necessary for the woman and are an essential part of her choice to love as she has been loved.

With that said, evil and sin are obviously destructive to the soul and that is why God is always working, through His Holy Spirit, to convince us that there is a better way, a true path of satisfaction that can only be found in betting our lives upon Him.

Now, clearly, not all will choose the Son over the substitutes offered up by Satan. And that is tragic, but it is not because God did not shed His love over all, providing everyone the opportunity to know His character, nature, and phenomenal personhood. After all, He died for the sins of all men and women; He died for the sins of the world.³³

Yahweh wanted to ensure that "sin" as a blocking agent, as a thing which separated man from God, would not be the reason people rejected His love. He wanted it to be only about their choice in regard to His Son, a choice which He was fully aware they would make before the foundations of the world.

Thus, God uses light and darkness, peace and evil, to accomplish His purpose. To Him everything (light and darkness, good and evil) is just a tool He uses to raise the dead and give us a real choice. And it is this choice to love Him, to come to Him, to believe in Him, to accept Him, to give ourselves to Him, and to overcome and conquer all that attempts to seduce us away from Him, that secures us as His bride.

And rest assured that once that choice is made and we have been re-born with His nature, filled with His Spirit, He gets to work to train us to remain in His love; hence, the best friend of faith, suffering. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, He enables us to now and continually be found choosing to be dependent upon Him. Accordingly, He uses our sin, He uses our failings, He uses our deficiencies in our humanity to show us how needy we are for Him in all things all the time.

³² *Hebrews 13:5-6*

³³ *John 3:16*

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Again, evil, sin, failure, and darkness are all just tools which Yahweh uses to convince us, once and for all, that He is the way, the truth, and the only pathway for life.³⁴

- All that He does is just and good and reveals His glory and majesty.³⁵

Thus, it is vital, essential, and critical that we come to know and believe, to bet our lives upon the fact, that **Yahweh is good**, all the time, in all things. Accordingly, in His goodness, He uses all manner of tools to woo us to Him as a lover, to attract us to the beauty of His glory and majesty.

... and though you have not seen Him, **you love Him**, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.³⁶

With that said, there is so much more to be discovered about His goodness in association with the evil and terrors of this world, and we will explore it all in the next episode as we learn why we must believe that **we are aliens and strangers in this world**.

³⁴ *John 14:6*

³⁵ *Psalms 111:7 and 3*

³⁶ *1 Peter 1:8-9*