

NOT BILL BELICHICK

2nd in a Series on the Character of God Called, “Indescribable”
Psalm 34:8 – Topic: The Goodness of God

Last week we saw that the most reasonable conclusion one can reach is that there is a creator behind all that we see in the universe. But what do we know about this creator? Is this a personal being? If so what is this being like? Just by looking at all that exists we can know that this creator has awesome, unimaginable power. We can also recognize that the creator made personal sentient beings with moral tendencies, which demands that the creator also be a personal being. But that’s not much to go on. What else do we know about this powerful being? Since he made us it is reasonable to assume he had some purpose in mind. Given that’s the case, getting to know something of this being and his purpose is crucially important.

But how are we to learn what he is like and what his purpose was? Most people who know this being exists have some concept of who he is and what he is like. But if you ask them where they got those ideas, often their answer will boil down to, “It’s just what I think.” I see it’s what you think, by why do you think it? Where did you get the idea of what he is like? Pretty quickly you begin to get the sense that they’ve made God in their own image. They’ve made him what they want him to be.

We can look at what God has made for clues as to his nature. What do we see there? We have a couple of rabbits living around our property. I like rabbits, even though the one in the front is a pest who eats our grass and flowers. Maybe it’s because they’re really cute. But I was watching one in our back yard a few days ago. Actually the rabbit is a little scrawny. There’s just not a lot to eat and they have to scrounge very hard to get a meal. They have to be careful about it because they are prey. There are predators around like coyotes, dogs, birds of prey that would like to make a meal out of them. It struck me that nature is pretty brutal. It’s dog-eat-dog, survival of the fittest. It is full of harsh realities. I reflected on nature and realized it is the place of corona viruses, cancer, tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, sharks, conflict, disappointment and death. It’s violent. And many of the aforementioned disasters strike seemingly at random without regard to people’s character, value, or lives.

This is the Maker’s creation. If we can only determine what this Creator is like by observing what he has created, from where I sit the picture is not very pretty. His creation is kind of random, cold and cruel. He kind of reminds me of Bill Belichick, the head coach of the New England Patriots football team. Belichick is known for being relentless, demanding, aloof, rather cold, hard-nosed and uncaring. He has a reputation for heartlessly dispensing with loyal players because he deems them too expensive or not helpful enough. He even got rid of the GOAT, the greatest quarterback of all time, Tom Brady. If all I have to go on when it comes to the character of God is observing creation, I come to the conclusion that he must be a bit like Belichick, brilliant, but aloof, cold, uncaring and demanding.

That could be how God is. That would be unpleasant. But it isn't at all out of line with how life often goes. It's hard, short and it ends tragically for everyone. How many of us feel like life has been one fulfilling, exciting journey as our dreams have come true? Not many. The norm is hardship, disappointment, loss and death. So some conclude that there is, indeed, a Coach Belichick God out there. However, nature is not our only source of information about God. We have a saying, "you can't judge a book by its cover." We know we can form totally wrong impressions of people just by looking at them. We only really get to know what a person is like when they reveal themselves to us. God has revealed himself to us in ways far more instructive than nature. The Bible is like a letter in which he has communicated to us his thoughts and his heart. Here we get a very different picture of God. It turns out he is not at all like coach Belichick.

PREMISE: GOD IS GOOD

Psalm 34:8 says, "taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." I don't know Bill Belichick. He certainly is a good coach, and it is possible those who are close to him would say he is good. However, I suspect few would say blessed is the one who takes refuge in Belichick. David insisted that when you taste of God, when you see what he's like, you will find out that he is good. We should note that this Psalm was written after one of the lowest points of David's life. He was on the run, fearing for his life. He had run to enemy territory to keep an unbalanced King Saul from killing him, but now he was among people who knew him as a great leader of their enemy, Israel. He had to act like he was insane. It was the only thing that saved his life. And in response to that terrible situation he wrote, "taste and see that the Lord is good"!

This was not an assertion coming from a man who had been given everything and had walked through life on a bed of roses. He knew hardship, deprivation, betrayal, injustice and fear. Despite some of the lowest times of his life he insisted that the Lord is good.

Perhaps you're aware of the fact that the origin of the Saxon word "God" is "the good." Originally when you talked about good, you were talking about God, who is the origin and definition of it. But in what ways is God good? What does that mean?

HOW IS GOD GOOD?

He is morally good

Psalm 119:68 says to God, "You are good, and what you do is good." That first statement, "you are good," means that he is morally good and pure, sort of like what we would mean when we someone is a good person. Only with God it is absolutely true whereas with any human being it is only relatively true. Deuteronomy 32:4 says, "He is the Rock, his works are perfect and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he." He does no wrong. In fact, Habakkuk 1:13 says to God, "your eyes are too pure to look on evil." There is exactly zero evil in God.

I once noticed on the front of a cranberry juice bottle it said "100% juice." But when I looked on the back and read the ingredients it said they included grape juice. So it was 100% juice, it just wasn't

100% cranberry juice. I thought it odd they didn't label it cranberry grape juice, even though it had grape juice in it. Here's the thing, God's label could read 100% good. But when you read the list of ingredients it will just say "good." He is 100% good with not even a trace amount of anything but good.

There is a somewhat odd exchange between Jesus and a questioner that is recorded in Luke 18:18-19. A wealthy individual asked Jesus, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" This was not one of the opponents of Jesus who was trying to trip him up or trap him. This man genuinely wanted to know. Jesus' response to him seems kind of odd. At first he ignored the man's question and said, "Why do you call me good? Jesus answered. No one is good, except God alone."

Jesus answered that way because he wanted to force the guy to think about who he really was. Jesus was much more than just a "good man." That was his point. He was "The Good," meaning God. But what I want to emphasize here is that last statement. "No one is good, except God alone." Some human beings are certainly better than others. We all know people that are really good people. But Jesus contended that no human being is really good as God is good.

Maybe you've had the experience of being up in the mountains and coming upon a mountain stream. That water might look inviting. It is crystal clear and cool as it tumbles over rocks down its winding bed. It appears to be what all the bottled water companies want us to envision when they put their labels on their bottles. But the truth is that pure mountain water can make you very ill. There quite likely are all kinds of organisms in that water. That's because animals live in the woods and they're not particular about relieving themselves of bodily wastes often next to or even into the stream. And it is likely that some human has been there before you and might well have relieved himself or herself close to the stream.

My point is the water looks crystal clear and pure, but there can be some things hidden in there that can be quite nasty. And that's what every human being is like. Yes, some are obviously disgusting, polluted rivers full of all kinds of waste. Some are brown and muddy and uninviting. But even those who seem fresh and pure and clean in fact contain some hidden contaminants that are quite dangerous. It's true of every single one of us. But this is not true of God. The reason we can trust him is that he is pure, unadulterated good. There is nothing in him that would cause any alarm or fear for anyone. He is absolute good.

He does good

This is not hard to understand. If you have a spring of pure water, what flows out of it? Pure water. If you have a spring of absolute good what is going to come out of it? Absolute good. A. W. Tozer wrote in his book, *Knowledge of the Holy*. "The goodness of God is that which disposes him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men...By his nature he is inclined to bestow blessedness and he takes total pleasure in the happiness of his people."

That's quite a statement. God takes pleasure in the happiness of his people. He is so good that he gets a kick out of doing good to people. Does that mean that God cares about us being happy? Yes, it does.

That's easy to understand. If a person is good then they don't want other people to be sad, miserable and unhappy. Their desire is to see others experience good. They want them to be happy. That same is true of God.

But we have to be careful here. God wants us to be truly happy in the lasting sense. Our problem is that we want God to give us what we think will make us happy right this minute. Often he knows that what we think will make us happy will not. So he must forego what might give us temporary happiness to pursue what will truly bring us joy.

Parents know that they must not be guided by what a child thinks will bring them happiness right now, but by what they know will bring them real happiness. I think about what I have at times wished God would give me, things that I thought would have made me happy. For instance, when I was young I wished that God would have given me the physical size and athletic ability to be a professional athlete. I thought that would make me happy, and the lack of that ability has been a disappointment to me. It has not made me happy. But I was considering that recently and asked, "what if God had given me what I believed would make me happy?" Suppose that I had become a professional athlete. I would have made a lot of money and had some small element of fame. But had I been given that path in life I would never have met Laurie. I realize there are lots of permutations of what could happen, but it's hard to see how our paths would have crossed had it not been for the particular set of circumstances that led to an intersection of our lives. There is one thing I'm absolutely clear about. I wouldn't trade being married to Laurie for anything. I mean that literally. Being married to her has created happiness that I never dreamed of because I didn't even understand that it existed. So God didn't give me what I thought would make me happy, but what he gave me was way better and actually has made me happy to a level I never imagined.

In his book, *God As He Longs For You To See Him*, Chip Ingram wrote, "Have you ever thought of God looking at you and your life with all your baggage, your junk, and your ups and downs, and then saying, 'I want to be generous to you. I long to give you just what would make you happy'?...If you pictured God leaning toward you with a smile of anticipation over all he longs to do in you and through you, it would be a lot easier to pray, wouldn't it?"

WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE OF GOD'S GOODNESS?

God's Providence

James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." That verse asserts that every good thing we have ever received is actually a gift from God. There are two things we should notice in that verse. The first is that all good is from God. He is the source of everything good. In his classic book, *The Existence And Attributes Of God*, Stephen Charnock wrote, "All created goodness is a rivulet from this fountain."

Our breakfast table is in our kitchen situated right next to the slider that leads out to our backyard patio. The back of our house faces south. So often in the morning if we don't have marine layer the

sunlight slanting in through that slider can be blinding. Laurie will often close the curtain we have on one side to shade her from that light because it is so bright and she doesn't want to wear sunglasses in the house. But sometimes an interesting thing happens. Our kitchen juts out beyond the wall of the living room that has a lot of windows. At times the sun's rays will hit the windows of our living room and reflect off of them. There's a physics principle that states with light, the angle of incidence equals the angle of reflection. That angle is just right so it sends a beam of light that is just as blinding as the sunlight Laurie needed protection from right through the other side of the slider, directly into my eyes. Imagine someone saying, "Wow, there's another light source out there just as bright as the sun." Is that true? No, it's not. Take the sun away and is there any brilliant light beaming in from our living room windows? No, all that sunlight comes from the sun. There is no other source.

Years ago our son, Toby, spent much of a summer in Qingdao, China. 6,411 miles to the west. Though the sunlight there was often filtered through haze and smog, all of that light came from the same source our sunlight comes from. Some years later our son in law, Michael, spent the good part of a year deployed in Helmand Province in Afghanistan, 8,043 miles to the east. He saw a lot of sunshine there. All of that light came from the same sun. No matter where you go on this planet the sunlight comes from exactly one source. All of it. That's how it is with the goodness we experience. Sometimes it might, in a sense, be reflected, come to you through the agency of another person. But the source of it is still the same. Every bit of it comes from God. If it is good, the source of it is God.

Have you ever considered how much good we experience and take for granted? I suspect we all have been made aware of how much we take for granted recently. It wasn't very long ago that if we were short of a couple of grocery items I thought nothing of volunteering to make a quick trip to the grocery store to pick them up. Now it feels like if I dared do that I'd be venturing into dangerous territory, risking my life as an elderly person, to brave perilous waters to pick up a dozen eggs and some butter. Never before have I gone to the store knowing that if they had any flour and toilet paper it would be a miracle. Now I've remarkably grown used to seeing those aisles in the store completely, disappointingly bare. I've got to tell you I miss those old days of cavalierly going to a grocery store without another thought, knowing it was routine, safe and it was certain I would find what I needed there. My birthday was March 13. A few days before that our entire family got together for a celebration dinner. My mother, brother, all our kids and grandkids were there. On Laurie's birthday just two months later we couldn't do that. I took it for granted. The day of my birthday Laurie and I went out to a restaurant for dinner. We can't do that now either. I took that for granted.

It bothers me that I am considered high risk for the corona virus that is ravaging our world. Honestly I have trouble believing it. I have no health conditions. When I see the doctor they always ask what medications I'm taking. They always seem surprised when I tell them I'm not taking any. But it's pretty hard to miss the message that just because of my age I'm corona bait. A lot of people my age have died from this disease. Every time we watch TV I see commercials from the CDC reminding me that I'm corona bait. My own son has taken pains to make clear to me the seriousness of my tenuous state. It has been kind of weird to think, "I could catch this thing and it could actually kill me." It made me reflect on the fact that I kind of take living for granted. There is nothing in God's word or

anywhere in this world that says I deserve to have one more day to live. I'm not owed having any more time to live, even though I kind of feel like I am.

James 1:17 said that everything good comes from God, but notice that all that good is described as a gift. That's what we so easily forget. God didn't have to make this world. He didn't have to give us life. He didn't have to make us able to see and hear. I really like bread. But what if God had made the world so that all there was to eat was white bread? No vegetables, no fruit, no meat, no butter for your bread, no jam, no cheese, no ice cream and no doughnuts. He gave us this abundant variety simply out of his goodness. We see that in so many ways in life. Just think of the many kinds of flowers, trees, birds and animals we see throughout our world. It's all because of God's goodness and provision.

God's Grace

Our estimation of how good God is tends to be informed by how good we deem our circumstances to be. At the end of 2018 it was a bit hard for us to see the goodness of God because our daughter, Carissa, and son-in-law, Michael, had been trying everything to start a family, and their last gasp resort had been a disaster. But then, early in the year, against all odds after years of trying, Carissa got pregnant the old fashioned way. God is good! Then just over halfway through the pregnancy Carissa was hospitalized because the doctors saw signs of early labor. She was in the hospital for two weeks, trying to see the goodness of God in a situation where their miracle child's life was in jeopardy before he was even born. But then in September he was born a month early, but healthy. God is good!

My point here is that the nature of life is it is going to feature good and bad for all of us. There will be ups and downs. Our belief in God's goodness will follow the path of a yo-yo. But there is powerful evidence of God's goodness that will never be affected by the uncertainties of life. That is the fact that when we were totally undeserving of it, God entered this world to make an inconceivable sacrifice in order to rescue us and give us the ultimate good.

Christian writer Sarah Frazier wrote, "In the last few years I've seen a lot of suffering, both mine and in others. Babies gone. Husbands leaving. Wives dying. It all seems unfair, and I wonder in the darkest hour...how can God be good? Then I look at the cross." Romans 5:8 says, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

It's helpful to remember Jesus on that cross. He was so horribly mistreated. It was all so unjust and so painful. There came a moment when he said, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" as he hung on that cross. And yet, at the end according to Luke 23:46 he said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." That means even in that darkest hour when he felt all alone, Jesus knew and trusted in the goodness of his Father.

WHAT ABOUT ALL THE SUFFERING?

The big objection to the goodness of God comes from all of the suffering in this world. What a year 2020 has been. It has been dominated by the new corona virus that has turned the world upside down. But it is also the year "murder hornets" have been discovered in the United States. And they are having a massive plague of locusts in Africa and the Middle East. Australia suffered massive

wildfires. Initially the pandemic felt like something from a movie. But lately what's been going on in the world has felt like the book of Revelation playing out before our eyes. And it has meant a lot of suffering. If God is good, why does this happen?

Laurie and I are actually dare devil types. We may not look like it, but the truth is we are true hair on fire risk takers. Since I'm in the "high risk" category we've been under house arrest. But a few weeks ago we decided to take a walk on the wild side. We dared go over to Michael, Carissa and Wesley's house to have dinner. Don't tell anyone. We don't want to get arrested for violating house arrest. Anyway, at their house they had the TV playing a weather station. They were following the story of violent thunderstorms and tornado warnings in the southeast. Michael is a bit of a weather junkie, but really they were following the story because all the action was taking place near an area where they lived for three years in Mississippi. At several points they recognized locations shown on TV from the city where they lived. Those tornadoes do terrible damage and kill a lot of people. If God is good, why does this happen?

The problem of suffering is the most difficult for any religious or philosophical system to handle. It is the central problem of the book of Job. We need to learn from that book. We'd all like a nice, clean, elegant answer to the problem of suffering. But that book cautions us that there isn't one that is accessible to finite minds. When Job's friends came up with the answer their theology and logic demanded they were absolutely and drastically wrong. In the end, God never gives Job an answer to the question, he merely tells him, "You're not God." In other words, you will not be able to understand unless you are eternal, infinite and all-knowing. Neither will we.

However, there are two things we can understand that should help us. The first is that the Scriptures tell us that every bit of the suffering we experience in this world goes back to one truth. God gave people the freedom to choose. That freedom meant they had to have an option between obeying God – glorifying him – or not obeying him. But not obeying him meant choosing that which is not God, meaning, that which is not good. So it meant choosing evil. In choosing evil they introduced it into this world, and the evil is the root of all suffering.

Why would God give people that option? It is because he is good. He loves us. And because he loves us he gave us freedom. We understand that. Every parent eventually faces that reality. The truth is that every mature, healthy parent knows more about life than their children. There comes a time in every child's life when a parent is faced with a stark and terrifying reality. They have to let go and give that child freedom to make his or her own choices. That is a delicate balancing act. But to love that child the parent has to give freedom. The child ultimately can only really love the parent back if the child has the possibility of not loving them.

So it is with us and our relationship to God. Would you feel like God was good and loved you if he did not give you the freedom to make choices? I wouldn't. So God gave that freedom, and people have abused it, used it for evil. And the evil is the true source of all our suffering. Ultimately then, all the

suffering we see and blame God for is actually a result of his goodness to us and human disregard for and abuse of his goodness.

The other thing we need to remember about God's goodness is that he has not abandoned us in our suffering. Quite the opposite. He has entered into our suffering and experienced it himself more than any of us ever will. Isaiah 53:4 says of him, "Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering."

The corona virus that has infected our world is still a mysterious disease in many ways. One of the mysteries has to do with why it has such a variety of impacts on people. It ranges all the way from causing no symptoms at all to killing people. We often hear that for people who don't have the severe symptoms that put people in hospitals it is a "mild" disease. But there again, mild means not life threatening. In some cases it is a truly fairly mild sickness, but in many it's like a bad case of flu. Which is to say it's not deadly, but it is miserable. Imagine that you got this disease and it is making you really sick. You are suffering and fear that maybe it might take a turn for the worse. Then, amazingly, Jesus shows up. Somehow he enters into your suffering. He takes the disease on himself so that he becomes as sick as you. Only not only does he become sick so he feels your misery, you discover that his being sick begins to heal you. In the end his suffering with you is the thing that saves you from the disease. That is what Jesus coming into this world did. He suffered the pain of the disease that we have. He took it upon himself. In the end, his suffering will heal us.

IMPLICATIONS

SEE LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF GOD'S GOODNESS

There is an old movie that has become a cult classic. It's called *The Sandlot*. It gave us the classic line, "You're killin' me, Smalls." Disney reportedly is developing a TV series that's a takeoff of the story for Disney Plus. It's the story of Scott Smalls, whose family moves to the LA area in 1962. Scott has trouble making friends, but finds a group of neighborhood boys who play baseball every day in an empty lot. He's a terrible baseball player, but he joins the group and gradually improves. He learns that one thing players at the sandlot must never do is hit a home run over the fence at the far end of the field. On the other side of that fence is the property of the mysterious Mr. Merkle and his massive, ferocious dog, whom the kids refer to as "the Beast." To try to go into that yard to retrieve a ball is to commit suicide. To make a long story short, it turns out that Mr. Merkle is a very kind man, who comes to Smalls' rescue after Scott is responsible for destroying his stepfather's baseball that had been autographed by Babe Ruth. And the Beast ends up being the group's mascot.

The kids did everything they could to avoid Mr. Merkle and his dog because they had an image of them as mean. When they found out that actually both man and dog were good and kind, everything changed. For us, there will be a total change in how we see the world, how we see life when we see God as good. When we think of God as longing for our happiness and anxious to shower us with good, our whole view of life will be different.

Imagine the confidence and peace it will give us when we know that God is good. You will be able to say what David wrote in Psalm 27:13, “I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.” That doesn’t mean you will get whatever you want. It doesn’t mean God will operate on your timeline. As verse 14 says, “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” It means that somehow in the long run you will see God’s goodness. You can be sure of it, so be patient.

Believing in God’s goodness is, at times, an act of faith. There will be moments when we don’t feel like we’re seeing it in our circumstances. Like David, drooling and acting like a mental case in a city full of enemies, we have to believe in God’s goodness when it feels like it is totally absent. But if we will do that, if we remind ourselves that God is good and that we will see his goodness worked out, it changes our whole perspective. We will always have hope. I think about the situation we are in right now. On the one hand we have this disease floating around and people tell us no matter what we do there will be a second wave late in the year and it might be worse than the first. On the other we have an economy that is imploding and we’re hearing the word “depression” being mentioned as a possible outcome. Depending on what you see as the greater threat it is easy to become almost panicky because we don’t control any of it. It feels like our fate is in the hands of others, and we may not trust them completely. Here is the one truth that can calm our agitated souls, one thing that can keep us from telling everyone what we need to do in the most strident terms. It is to say with David, “I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living,” and to believe it. If that’s true I can say, “I am concerned about what is going on, I don’t know what the answers are, but I know that whatever happens I will see the goodness of the Lord.”

We need to see how God’s goodness is poured out on us in so many ways. It is there in the beauty of nature all around us every day. It is there in the abundance that we are blessed with. It is there in life itself. It is there in our family and friends. There is so much that we take for granted when in fact we deserve none of it, but God showers us with it anyway. When we see God’s goodness, when we remember that God is good and that he is eager to give us good, we will enjoy being in his presence, and we can be content with what we have today and hopeful about tomorrow.

DON’T DOUBT IN THE DARK

It would be nice if the fact that God is good means nothing but good things, as you define them, will happen. That is not the case. Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble.” There will be times when you feel like the prophet Habakkuk. He wrote when things were hard, when the future looked dark. In Habakkuk 1:2 he wrote, “How long, O Lord, must I call for help but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, ‘violence!’ but you do not save?”

God’s reply to Habakkuk was that he should wait and trust him.” In his book, *The Holy Wild*, Mark Buchanan wrote that what God says in Habakkuk 2:4 is, “the key to the whole question of whether God is good. It’s the key, in fact, to the whole of life. ‘The righteous,’ he says, ‘will live by faith.’ At first blush, this seems cold comfort...An ice pack applied to a ruptured organ...But it’s infinitely more than that. It is, in fact, a truth utterly basic to life...Faith is finally this: resting so utterly in the character of God, the ultimate goodness of God, **that you trust him even when he seems**

untrustworthy.” The key to this is remembering what God did when his Son came to this world. That was an act, a sacrifice, of such profound goodness that it establishes forever the goodness of God.

Laurie and I don't like being cold. Ever. We have an electric blanket on our bed so that in the winter we can turn it on before we go to bed. Then at bed time we can crawl into nice warm sheets. But our current electric blanket has a funny little bit of history. Several years ago we had one that was dying and had become nearly useless. That Christmas my big present from Laurie was a new electric blanket. In my mind an electric blanket is a better Christmas present than say, socks, but it's kind of in a similar category. I've never gotten over being a kid, and so to this day I want Christmas presents to be fun. An electric blanket is useful, but it is not fun. It is also something she would use as much as me. Knowing all this Laurie tried to make it seem better. She pointed out this one has a remote control so I wouldn't have to bend over the side of the bed to turn it off. I have kidded her about that. To be honest, that wasn't the best Christmas present I have ever received. But I know Laurie's heart. I know she is good and that she longs to give good gifts to me. I know she deeply wants to do that and she gets frustrated when she can't come up with a gift that she knows will delight me. For my birthday this year she gave me a great gift. It was a new, beautiful guitar. I loved it. But I wasn't any more convinced of her goodness to me then than I was when she gave me an electric blanket, because I see her goodness every day of my life.

One of the things that can help us to not doubt during hard times is to humble ourselves, to remember that we do not know what will bring us the most joy and life. We think we do, but we are not much different than a little child who is certain that what will bring her permanent joy is to eat cake for dinner every day. Her good parents know that they must deny her this seemingly “good” thing because they want what is truly for her good. Once we accept that our understanding of what will be good for us is really about like that of a three-year-old, we will perhaps be more ready to trust in the goodness of God when we don't get the good thing we are certain that we need. In other words, it will help us to trust God, to wait on the Lord, certain we will see his goodness in the land of the living.