

Christmas 2009: What Do You Know?

December 13, 2009

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A question for Christmas 2009: What do you know to be true these days? What's beyond a reasonable doubt in your mind these days?

I know with absolute surety that the God I serve is a good God.

God is intrinsically good.

God approaches a man names Abraham and he establishes a covenant of goodness.

Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT) Then the Lord told Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you. I will cause you to become the father of a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and I will make you a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you."

Later God again shows he is intrinsically good when he sends Jeremiah the prophet to the people and reminds them that despite their foolishness and their violence, God was still going to uphold his end of his covenant of goodness.

Jeremiah 33:19-21 (NLT) Then this message came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "If you can break my covenant with the day and the night so that they do not come on their usual schedule, only then will my covenant with David, my servant, be broken..."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

The same God is making the same promises to us. It comes right out of the goodness of his core.

Psalms 31:19 (NLT) Your goodness is so great! You have stored up great blessings for those who honor you. You have done so much for those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.

Psalms 100:5 (NIV) For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

What can we know for sure? That the God we worship and serve is a good God.

Christmas is the coming of a Savior-Redeemer who's going to demonstrate a kind of goodness that the world has never witnessed in the flesh before.

Luke 2:10-11 (NLT) ...the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news of great joy for everyone! The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David!"

God is so good that he'll work good in the most difficult circumstances of our lives.

Romans 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Psalm 23:6 (NLT) Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

We invite you to look over the verses in your sermon notes this week and ask and answer the following three questions (you are encouraged to get a notebook to record your thoughts):

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean?
3. What does the verse mean to me personally?