

The Gift of God's Goodness

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Questions: How would finish this sentence: "All I want for Christmas is ..."? In a "normal" year, how would you answer it?

Read: Hebrews 13:8

Our faith is not in Christmas.

Our faith is in Christ Jesus.

The two big things you really need to know about God:

- God is great
- God is good

Read: Luke 18:18-19; Psalm 100:5; Psalm 106:1;
Psalm 86:5

Question: What other verses come to mind that speak of God's goodness?

Three things that set God apart from other "gods", especially the "gods" of ancient people:

1. God is One (there are not many gods)
2. God is separate from the cosmos, He created it
3. God is good.

Read: Genesis 3:1–5

Distrust of God's goodness is at the heart of our broken relationship with God.

- We doubt God's goodness when circumstances turn against us.

Read: Exodus 15:1, 11; Exodus 16:3

Questions: How do circumstances affect and influence people's view of God's goodness? What are some examples from your life that show how they affect your view, whether positive or negative?

Read: John 16:33; Hebrews 11

- We doubt God's goodness when we compare ourselves to others.

Read: Psalm 73

Questions: How does comparing ourselves to others affect people's view of the goodness of God? What are some examples from your life that show how they affect your view? In what ways does your theology of God's goodness differ from your experience?

"Faith is not merely believing certain things about God, nor is it acknowledging that God is good. Faith is trusting oneself to the goodness of God." Iain Provan