

God Essentials

G R E G H A S W E L L

IS GOD GOOD?

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The tyranny and trials of our perspectives

- Our perspective is the way we view our world. It informs our definition and understanding of reality.
- Our specific experiences and learnt behaviors inform our personal perspectives.
- As we each have different perspectives, we experience different realities.
- We can see less than 1% of the electromagnetic spectrum and we can hear less than 1% of the acoustic spectrum and according to Thomas Edison "We don't know a millionth of one percent about anything."
- All perspectives are limited and inevitably substantially ignorant because of our lack of all knowledge.

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The Bible Declares God is Good

Psalms 13:6 I will sing the Lord's praise, for **he has been good** to me.

Psalms 16:2 You are my Lord; apart from you **I have no good thing**.

Psalms 23:6 Surely **your goodness** and love will follow me

Psalms 25:7 according to your love remember me, **you, Lord, are good**.

Psalms 25:8 **Good** and upright is the Lord;

Psalms 34:8 Taste and see that **the Lord is good**;

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Defining Good

suitable for a function
beneficial
valid, genuine
sound, healthy
honorable
enjoyable, happy
complying with a set of rules
skilled
morally sound

a jeep is good for driving in mud
hot lunches are good for children
trust them they're as good as gold
he has good eyesight
she has a good name
I'm living the good life
her manners are good
that guy is a good singer
he is a good person

The Problem with Evil

1

God is all powerful and wise
(Sovereign)

2

God is perfectly good

3

Evil exists in our world

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What did Peter say?

9 **The Lord** is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but everyone to come to repentance.
10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

2 Peter 3:9-10

What did Jesus say?

13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is **the road that leads to destruction**, and **many enter through it**. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

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What did Jesus do?

7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.**

1 John 3:7-8

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What did Jesus do?

16 "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me." 17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." 18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Luke 10:16-20

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What did Jesus do?

8 Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, 9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 3:8-11

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What should we do in Jesus name?

6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you.

James 4:6-7

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What should we do in Jesus name?

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

1 Peter 5:8-10

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What should we do in Jesus name?

12 For **our struggle** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 **Therefore** put on the full armor of God, so that **when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Ephesians 6:12-13

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Jesus, God and man

“For whatever reason God chose to make man as he is— limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death—He had the honesty and the courage to take His own medicine. Whatever game He is playing with His creation, He has kept His own rules and played fair. He can exact nothing from man that He has not exacted from Himself. He has Himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair and death.

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Jesus, God and man

When He was a man, He played the man. He was born in poverty and died in disgrace and thought it well worthwhile”

(Dorothy Sayers, *Creed or Chaos?* New York, Harcourt Brace, 1949, p. 4).

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God as man on a mission

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; **and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

Isaiah 53:4-6



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