“To Know Me Is to Love Me: the Goodness and Independence of God”

Light and Life Class (March 3, 2019)

A strong recommendation: Please read Wayne Grudem, “The Influence of the Bible on My Life,” at [www.ps.edu/wayne-grudem-influence-bible-life](http://www.ps.edu/wayne-grudem-influence-bible-life).

A. God’s goodness means that all God is and all God does is morally perfect and this worthy of approval and praise.

1. Testimony of Scripture

a. Psalm 119:68

b. 1 Chronicles 17:34; Psalms 110:5; 106:1; 107:1; 136:1; etc.

c. Psalm 34:8

2. What comes from the good God is also good

a. Everything in the world that is good comes from God (James 1:17).

b. God will not only not withhold anything good from his people (Psalm 84:1), but he also promises to work all things—even bad things—together for our good (Romans 8:28).

3. How does the Bible call Christians to respond to the goodness of God?

a. to praise him for his goodness (see passages in 1(b) above)

b. to imitate him (Ephesians 5:1), by God’s grace, by living lives of goodness and doing good to others (Galatians 5:22-23; 6:10).

c. to seek God as our highest good (Psalm 16:11)

4. God’s word is sufficient to equip Christians “for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:17).

B. God’s independence means that he needs nothing outside himself.

1. Testimony of Scripture

a. Exodus 3:14; Acts 17:24-25 (cf. Psalm 50:8-12)

2. Yet God in his vast mercy commands my service, uses my service, delights in my service, and even will reward my service!

b. See Matthew 25:31-40.

3. In Christian theology we say that God’s independence is a function of his being “absolute.” You and I are contingent, which means we are dependent on someone else (God) for our existence and our continuing in existence. But God is absolute. No one brought him into existence. He is the Uncaused Cause of all other things in the universe.

4. Only of God can we say Psalm 115:3.

5. Fall in worship before this independent God!