

## **Ancient Deceptions: Goodness of God**

### **Declaration and Description at Creation: It is good**

- God Himself speaks this —uses the word **good** to give value
- **Definition:** Benevolent goodness; a sacrificial benevolence for the sake of another.  
(When God declares that the creation is good—it is good for our sake. With each breath from His lips and word from His mouth—He had us in mind.)

### **Test at the Tree**

- Only one commandment—do not eat from wrong tree: Tree of the Knowledge of **Good** and **Evil**.
- Not just exposure to evil—but **deciding what is good—apart from God**.
- To gain good, apart from God—we gain information but forfeit wisdom
- We are called to bear His image and likeness—learning all from Him

### **A New False Pattern:**

- Gen 3:6—She took and ate
- Gen 6:2 daughters of men were beautiful (good)—took
- Gen16:6—Do what is good in your sight

### **How God reveals Himself:**

- Exodus 33:18-23 I will make all My goodness pass before you
- Our misunderstanding of God’s sovereignty —undermines His goodness

### **Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-23)**

- “Good Teacher”—no one is good except God alone
- “Teacher”—unwilling to put Good and God together
- Jesus invites Him to give all to the poor—Come follow Me—
- Called to offer sacrificial benevolence for the sake of another
- Young man walks away grieved.

### **Bad Tree Bears Bad Fruit**

- Putting God to the test in the midst of a trial—because we doubt His goodness
- We join with the world—with the question: How can God be good if \_\_\_\_\_?
- Tendency to walk from the soul/flesh—rather than by the leading of the Holy Spirit

### **Case Study: Dinah**

- Is God good?
- Trying to love and serve a God we do not trust
- We cannot talk someone into emotional health—they need a personal encounter with God
- “There is nothing more we can do”
- We are constrained by the limits of the authority to which we submit
- Ask!