

The title of my message is “God is good, we are not.” Amen? Church I’m going to ask a question I believe most people here know the answer to and yes it does require a response, if you are watching online, you can type the answer in the chat box. The question is, if I were to say God is good, what would the correct response be? Amen! Let’s dive deeper in to why “God is Good, and we are not”. I’m going to be reading from ***Psalms 103:8-14 in the New International Version, which reads “8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. 9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; 10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; 14 for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.” ***PAUSE*** and slowly repeat Psalms 103:14 “for he knows how we are formed; he remembers that we are dust.”

This is the exact reason why we have a Christmas, to celebrate. But what is Christmas? If you break it down, the first part of Christmas is Christ, which in Greek means “the anointed one”. The second part of the word Christmas is “mas” which in Greek means “a big gathering of people.” When you put the two words together it means “a gathering of people for Christ”. Now have you heard the term Xmas? I feel like there are shivers in the building just thinking about the word. Let’s dive into this a little more. In Greek history, the word Christ is derived from the Greek word Christos also meaning the anointed one. The word Christos when spelled using the Greek alphabet starts with the letter Cha-hi (kai) which in English looks like the letter X. It is believed by many scholars that this X or kai was substituted in as an abbreviation for Christ in the word Christmas to create the abbreviated term X-mas. However, the general population has very little knowledge of Greek history and instead uses Xmas as a term to cancel Christ out of Christmas. * Pause* Have you ever made a mistake while writing something and then cancel it out? What do you do? You scratch it out or you write an X over it. I am currently in school, and I wrote a lot of exams recently and I literally wrote X’s over entire pages because some of my calculations were wrong. I crossed it out and cancelled what I wrote. That is essentially what atheists believe they have done with Christmas, they put an X in place of Christ to cancel him out. Creating a new meaning of “there is no gathering of Christ”. Now THAT does not make any sense because I know all of you didn’t come to see me preach. You came because you want to GATHER in church or online to CELEBRATE the birth of Christ. Which means there must be a Christmas. Let’s give glory to our good God for that.

Furthermore, I am sure it would be nice to know what Christmas is about. Or to rephrase that, what are we celebrating? I would try to explain it but there is no better way to explain it than the word of God, So I am going to reading from ***Matthew Chapter 1 verse 18-25*** which reads ***“ 18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David,

do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.” ***

Now, let us give the Lord a hand clap for that... As stated in verse twenty-one “He will save his people from their sins” Jesus did this by living a sinLESS life and yet, he became the sacrifice for our sins. We have a Christmas to celebrate because God gave us HIS son to save us from our sins, THAT’S A GOOD GOD

I know today is Christmas, but God wasn’t only good back then. Does anyone believe that God is good today? Great, now that everyone is awake pastor my 45 minute time limit starts now, right?

Another reason why God is Good, and we are not, is because the bible says so. In Mark chapter 10 verse 17,18 It says ***17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone” *** ...So if Jesus the son of God, is asking a man why he is calling him good. Then certainly we are not, but I can only speak on my own behalf, and I know that I am no better than anyone in the audience today. I am not holier than anyone. I do not consider myself more educated. I do not consider myself to be of a higher standing. To quote Ryan McKenzie from his message titled “all the lights” 7 years ago “I certainly don’t deserve to be here, I am totally underqualified for this pulpit in fact we are all under qualified, but we are saved by grace” and to top it off I certainly do not consider myself a more polished speaker than anyone here. About a month ago I was walking in church and Sis Green and I were speaking. I do not remember all the details because I have a horrible memory, but I do remember her telling me how my speaking skills have come a long way and that God is good. She then proceeded to tell me how she remembers how I had a lot of difficulty forming sentences when I was younger. This caught by surprise because I had forgotten this part of my life until this day. A lot of people do not know this but for many of my first years of life I stuttered badly.

My Stuttering Story

- I was a quiet kid
- Just saying the car is red was near impossible
- My mom brother and grandma took time off work to bring me to SickKids hospital every - Friday
- I know the doctors did their thing but it was God
- I shouldn’t be able to be on this platform on Christmas morning saying God is Good
- So yall don’t understand my story
- Excuse me if I get excited that I can say God is good

God isn't looking for a perfect vessel he is looking for a broken vessel he can use for his glory because God is Good. The last reason that I'm going to state as to why, "God is good, and we are not" is despite our sinful nature, he loves us and uses us just the same. You see, Saul Persecuted the Christians. God was still good to him. Jonah ran away from God. God was still good to him. Moses was a murderer. God was still good to him. David was an adulterer; God was still good. Peter denied Christ, God was still good. Sarah was barren, God was still good. Whether you are giving God the glory or not, he is still good. Whether you read your bible or not, he's still good. Whether you give him the glory for the great works he has done or not he's still good. Whether you come to church every Sunday or not he's still good. If you are only a Christian on Sunday and a sinner every other day of the week, he's still good. Whether your suit is ironed, or you came in off the street today, he's still good. Whether you are an Argentina or a France fan he's still good. It's a fact, it's a statement it's an irrefutable undeniable unshakeable, never-ending truth! No one can change it Psalms 103:10,11,12, ***10 He does not treat us as our sin deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth so great is his love for those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west so far has, he removed our transgressions from us. *** Now tell me why God can't use you? Our GOD IS GOOD.

I know it's Christmas and we are feeling good, but I got to tell you a little something about salvation before I go! There is a heaven and a hell and the only way to go to heaven is found in acts 2:38 "Repent and be baptized everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" I don't think yall heard me. "Repent and be baptized everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy spirit "and like brother Owen said last time he preached "We. Have. Water." Therefore, Christ had to be born, so he could die for our sins. If you want to know more about this story, I'll give you some homework read Matthew chapter 26,27,28 as well as Acts chapter 2. We celebrate Christmas because God gave his son to our souls. So, when I come off this platform, please don't tell me good job, tell me God is good. I'm going to close in prayer.

Psalms 145:9 *** "The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made." Thank you all for coming. I just want to say thank you again to Pastor Granville, I believe this will be his last Christmas as pastor of faith sanctuary so I was hoping we could all give him a gift. That gift is to come back one more time, and when you do that, we will ask you again to come back one more time and again and again. God is good and merry Christmas.