




GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

A person stands on a dark, silhouetted hill, looking up at a vast, starry night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the frame with a bright, colorful band of light. The stars are numerous and bright, creating a sense of awe and wonder.

KNOWING AND TRUSTING GOD'S HEART: A REVIEW OF GOD'S GOODNESS

GENESIS 15-16

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

I want to encourage your hearts in two courses of spiritual action in response to Genesis 15-16:

1. We need to actively encourage each other in a lifestyle of trusting the good heart of God Almighty.
2. We need to discourage each other from a lifestyle of trusting our own deceitful hearts.

This requires God's wisdom and understanding applied to everyday life.

Goodness is a moral attribute of God.

A moral attribute concerns an aspect of your character which serves as the basis for right attitudes and right actions.

“The goodness of God means that God is the final standard of good, and all that God is and does is worthy of approval.”

“There is no higher standard of goodness than God’s own character and His approval of whatever is consistent with that character.”
(Wayne Grudem)

*“As for God, His way is blameless;
The word of the Lord is tried;
He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.”*

(Psalm 18:30)

I. Object of Belief (Gen. 15:1)

In What and in Whom are we to believe?

The Word of the Lord

There are many competitors/counterfeits.

The Lord of the Word

This takes us back to Who it is that stands behind the promises being made to Abram.

I. Object of Belief

II. Enemies of Belief (Gen. 15:2-5)

What temptations — common to being human, common to you and I — worked against Abram's faith in God and His Word?

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What temptations — common to being human, common to you and I — worked against Abram's faith in God and His Word?

Darkness = lack of knowledge = fosters fear and anxiety

Doubt stems from a lack of trust in God's goodness and Scripture's sufficiency

Discouragement is the product of self-focus when you are not looking to the Lord from a heart of trusting obedience. Discouragement's more potent cousin, depression, is anger turned inward on yourself.

I. Object of Belief

II. Enemies of Belief

III. Blessings of Belief (Gen. 15:6)

What treasure did Abram gain from winning the battle of belief in God and His Word?

III. Blessings of Belief (Gen. 15:6)

What treasure did Abram gain from winning the battle of belief in God and His Word?

- Relationship
- Righteousness

“as it is written: “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE....” (Rom. 3:10)

“...and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith....” (Phil. 3:9)

I. Object of Belief

II. Enemies of Belief

III. Blessings of Belief

IV. Wisdom of Belief (Gen. 15:7-21; emphasis on 17-21)

What does the heavenly wisdom of belief in God, His Word, and His goodness to us establish in us for daily living on earth?

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Knowledge of God and His ways

This is the spiritual-life knowledge Peter so earnestly desired for his readers in 2 Peter 3:18: “...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

I. Wisdom of the World (Gen. 16:1-6)

The world's wisdom deceives our hearts/relationships (vs. 1-2)

The world's wisdom = how ungodly society thinks about and resolves the everyday issues of life. It is the futile reasoning and false wisdom of self, pride, and idols.

I. **Wisdom of the World** (Gen. 16:1-6)

The world's wisdom deceives our hearts/relationships (vs. 1-2)

The world's wisdom defiles our hearts/relationships (vs. 3-4)

Defile = to pollute, to corrupt

A sinfully deceived heart births sinful actions when left unchecked by God's truth.

I. **Wisdom of the World** (Gen. 16:1-6)

The world's wisdom deceives our hearts/relationships (vs. 1-2)

The world's wisdom defiles our hearts/relationships (vs. 3-4)

The world's wisdom demands our relational allegiance (vs. 5-6)

I. Wisdom of the World

II. Wisdom of the Lord

The Lord's wisdom enlightens

It leads you in the light and keeps you in the light.

I. Wisdom of the World

II. Wisdom of the Lord

The Lord's wisdom enlightens

The Lord's wisdom sanctifies

God's truth establishes you in a life-pattern of God-like, Jesus-pleasing thoughts, speech, and behavior.

I. Wisdom of the World

II. Wisdom of the Lord

The Lord's wisdom enlightens

The Lord's wisdom sanctifies

The Lord's wisdom serves

God's Word instructs us in His will for loving God and others through submission to God and by self-denial.

W

Watch for God's goodness.

A

Adorn God's truth.

I

Invest in God's people.

T

Thank God for His blessings.

I. God Seeks

Causes us to stop running away from Him.

I. God Seeks

II. God Speaks

Causes us to stop rebelling against Him.

- Searches our hearts. He knows us better than we know ourselves.
- Commands our hearts. He counters lies and leads us in what is true.
- Comforts our hearts. He went before us and suffered on our behalf.
- Hears our hearts. He heeds the cry of the brokenhearted and afflicted.

I. God Seeks

II. God Speaks

III. God Saves

Causes us to begin a new life with Him.

- Receive God's wisdom.
- Repent by God's wisdom.
- Replace with God's wisdom.
- Repeat using God's wisdom.

Realize God's goodness.

Receive God's goodness into your hearts.

Resolve to relate to God and others from that goodness that fills your soul
— whatever your circumstances.

A person stands on a dark rock in the foreground, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The text "GRACE CHURCH" is written in large, white, serif capital letters, and "WILLIAMSBURG" is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters below it.

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