

“O taste and see that the Lord is good”

Psalm 34.8.

The most predominant trait in the character of our Heavenly Father is love; this indeed is the essence of his Being, for we are told by St. John that God is love. From this glorious attribute of the Deity, we can trace his exuberant goodness among all his works, and in all places of his dominion. In our text it is declared

I That “the Lord is good”. This beautiful phrase frequently recurs in the book of Psalms, & embraces the leading subject of the scriptures both of the Old and New Testament. The truth of this declaration is confirmed by several important considerations.

1. In the first place, the creation of the world and its adaptation to the sustenance and happiness ~~of every class of~~ of his creatures furnishes the strongest proof of the divine goodness. There was a period in eternity when God alone existed; nor was he necessitated to spread out before his view the <sup>stupendous work of the visible universe</sup> ~~unnumbered worlds that float around his [Terre?]~~, but he was pleased to put forth his creative power, in order to communicate his infinite goodness. Hence when God had created the heavens and the earth, the flowers of the field, the fish of the sea, and the different orders and species of animal existence, “he saw every thing that he had mad & behold it was very good” And when we consider our allotment in the present life apart from the miseries of sin we have abundant reason to magnify the goodness of the Lord –(2 Saml. XII. 24. Ps 104.27. Luke XII 24).
2. The goodness of God is demonstrated furthermore, by the redemption of the world through the intervention of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ By the first act of disobedience which brought death into the world and all our woes, the human race were plunged in a gulf of deep despair\_\_ But did the Almighty leave his creatures in the wretched condition? No he did not\_ With pitying eye the Prince of grace, beheld our helpless grief: he was, and (O amazing love) he ran to our relief\_ God so loved the world &c\_\_
3. The goodness of God is farther established by the means of grace with which we are favored. The Almighty has given us a revelation of his will\_ The Saviour appointed a Christian ministry\_ By the exercise of prayer we may enjoy communion with God & with his Son Jesus Christ.
4. The goodness of God will finally be displayed in the kingdom of heaven.

II. It is implied in our text in the second place, that the goodness of the Lord may be tasted and seen. God has put it in the power of every man to know whether the religion of the Bible, be true or false. The promises of the gospel are the grand tests of a divine revelation\_ Let any man approach his Maker with deep repentance and true faith, and he will soon ascertain whether the doctrine of experiential religion be of God\_\_ He shall “taste and see that the Lord is good”\_ \_

To taste that the Lord is good implies the enjoyment of his favor\_ \_ We realize this blessed privilege

1. When the love of God is shed abroad in the heart\_ Hence we read of those who have “tasted of the heavenly gift [&c?]”

2. To see that the Lord is good, refers to the knowledge which we derive from the evangelical nature of our Christian experience\_ He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself\_

III. We are exhorted in the last place to partake of the divine goodness “& taste [&c?]” From this we learn

1. That there is something more in religion than a mere profession\_ The [meritive?] powers must be exercised, and our moral failings must be excited.
2. Those who enjoy personal piety are anxious that others sh.d realize the same enjoyment “& taste & see”\_
3. If the Lord is good, we sh? learn the great design of his goodness\_ it should lead us to repentance.
4. How wretched the condition of those who know nothing but animal gratification and sensual pleasure.

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