

# The Goodness & Sovereignty of God

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## Topical Sermon

### Introduction:

- As finite beings, there are some things beyond our comprehension
- Jerry Bridges: “The first thing we need to keep in mind is that God is infinite in His ways as well as His being. A finite mind simply cannot comprehend an infinite being beyond what He has expressly revealed to us. Because of this, some things about God will forever remain a mystery.”
- Basil Manly: “The Scriptures do not undertake to explain mysteries. They leave them unexplained. There is a difference between difficulties and mysteries – difficulties may be removed; mysteries cannot, without a new revelation, or the bestowment of a higher intellect.”

### Mystery #1: The Goodness & Sovereignty of God

#### I. How could this be true in light of trials and suffering?

- A. Trials and suffering are the result of the Fall (Gen. 3)
- B. Trials and suffering are within God’s control (Isa. 46:9-11; Dan. 4:34-35; Eccl. 7:14)
- C. Trials and suffering do not compromise the character of God
  - a. God is not the author of evil (James 1:13; Acts 2:23)
  - b. God permits or ordains evil (Lam. 3:37-38)

#### II. What are God’s purposes in trials and suffering?

- A. Trials and suffering are intended to bring God glory (John 9; 2 Cor. 12)
- B. Trials and suffering are intended to bring us much good (Rom. 8:28)

What good can come from trials?

1. They can make us grow in Christ-like character
2. They can cause us to depend more on God (2 Cor. 1:8)
3. They can make us more useful in service

#### III. How should a Christian respond to trials and suffering?

- A. By trusting in God (Prov. 3:5-6)
- B. By staying in the Game (Heb. 12:1-2)