

IF GOD IS SO GOOD . . .

The relationship of Love, Freedom, and Risk and their implications on Divine Capability

John 9.2, 3—His disciples asked him, “Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parents’ sin?” Jesus answered, ‘Neither did this man’s sin nor his parents’, rather, let the works of God be manifested in him.” [Imperative]*

Luke 13.1-5—At that time some people were there who told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices to God. Jesus answered them, “Because those Galileans were killed in that way, do you think it proves that they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No indeed! . . . What about those eighteen people in Siloam who were killed when the tower fell on them? Do you suppose this proves that they were worse than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No indeed! . . .

* The Greek simply has hina with the aorist subjunctive passive of phaneroo (“to manifest”) and can readily be translated as, “But let the works of God be manifested.” As is certainly the case in Mark 5:23, Ephesians 5:33, 2 Corinthians 8:7; as is likely the case in Mark 2:10, 5:12, 10:51 and a host of other passages; and as is frequently the case in the Septuagint and later postapostolic writings, the hina here should be taken as forming an imperative, not a purposive, clause. (See *Biblical Greek*, M. Zerwick, pp 141-142; *An Idiom-Book of New Testament Greek* 2nd ed. pp 144-145; *Grammatical insights into the New Testament*, pp 145.)

Matthew 6.10—Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Luke 7:30 (NKJV)—But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

Luke 13.34—Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

Love vs. Control

Luke 4.5-6—The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.

Psalms 115.16—The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to humankind.

1John 5.19—We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

Acts 10.38—How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Mark 8.22-25—They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man’s eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, “Do you see anything? He looked up and said, “I see people; they look like trees walking around.” Once more Jesus put his hands on the man’s eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Matthew 13.53—When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue . . . And they took offense at him . . . And he did not do many miracles there . . .

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”— John 10.10

*All texts quoted from the TNIV unless otherwise noted.

Daniel 10.12-14—Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future.”

Mark 9.29—He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

Freedom and Divine Capability

Titus 1:2 (NASB)—In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.

Hebrews 6:18— . . . by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie . . .

Ecclesiastes 9.11—I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.

Isaiah 5.20—Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put [substitute - NASB] bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

John 16.33—I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

Revelation 21.4—He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Matthew 25.40—The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Romans 8.28 (NASB)—And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Genesis 50.20 (NJB)—The evil you planned to do me has by God’s design been turned to good, to bring about the present result: the survival of a numerous people.



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