

The Lord Is Good!  
Psalm 100:5  
Charlie Brackett

The 100th Psalm is a poem of two stanzas. The first stanza, verses one to three, reminds us to shout and sing joyfully before the Lord, knowing that He is God. He made us; we belong to Him. We are His people, the sheep of His pasture; therefore, we ought to serve Him with gladness.

Then, the second stanza, verses four and five, invites us to approach Him with thanksgiving and praise. Give thanks to Him and bless His name, for, or because, verse five says, "the Lord is good;..".

In verse five, we see an interesting characteristic of Hebrew poetry called logical rhyming or parallelism. Early Hebrew poets did not use rhyming words as many of our poets do today. They used what is called logical or thought rhyming, a form of writing in which parallel methods of stating the thought or parts of the thought are used. Notice what the poet says in verse five. First, the reason for giving God thanks and blessing His name is given, "*For the Lord is good.*" Next, two equally important components of the Lord's goodness are stated in parallel form. "*His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness is to all generations.*" These two aspects of God's nature are probably repeated more throughout the Bible than any other.

God is certainly a God of creative power and justice; He is a God who is longsuffering, and He is a God of judgment upon all men. But of all that which might be said of God's nature, the two things that stand out, or perhaps, sum up all else are that He is a God of loving kindness and of faithfulness. These two characteristics of God are repeated so often we are given the clear impression that it is how God prefers that we think of Him. Even in the Old Testament where we may be prone to think of God as a God of quick judgement and terrible wrath, Jehovah is described in these terms. Listen as God describes Himself to Moses in Exodus 34:6.

*"The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,..."*

Truly, in the words of the Psalmist, the Lord *is* Good!