

**"Always Good"**  
**Ecclesiastes 6:1-7:14**

Intro: We are going to pick up where Pastor Eric left off last Sunday. As we do here is what we notice, Solomon is cycling back through his teaching on wisdom and foolishness. We are now somewhat familiar with the content of the cycle of wisdom. But if we are careful readers, what we notice is that he is unpacking what he introduced in Ecclesiastes 1.

The Preacher continually reminds us that there are problems with life under the sun. In our text this morning, we will see that God has given some people wonderful gifts in this life BUT He has not given them the ability to enjoy those gifts. We will also see that wisdom and foolishness are in competition with one another and not only that, foolishness tries to pass itself off as wisdom. Our culture tells us that success and prosperity look like feasting and success but this is not wisdom at all. Then what happens is that as we live life we realize, something is broken. Both the Christian and the non-Christian realize something is wrong.

Illst: Rapper Daniel Caesar<sup>1</sup>, "*Death and Taxes*"

*Surely my sins have found me out  
God rest my soul, but show me out  
Surely my sins have found me out  
Spit on my grave, but kiss my mouth*

*Surely we'll live to see the day  
When all of our problems, they fade away*

*I see your heartbreak and I feel your pain  
It's funny how heaven and hell are the same  
Come walk with me, I don't play those games  
I live in the real world; I've lost my faith<sup>2</sup>*

Illst: But it is not just rappers like Daniel Craig you hear lament the problems with life under the sun. Look at Tom Brady, a larger than life quarterback for the New England Patriots. He is considered the GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) the greatest quarterback in the history of the NFL. Brady is married to a super-model and has three beautiful kids, all the money he will ever need, all the status and honor and even a bright future after sports but in an interview, after his last Super Bowl win he said, "*Is this all there is?*" Brady knew there is a problem with life under the sun.

Friends, there is a problem with life under the sun and it affects everyone, Christian and non-Christian alike. Here it is—the curse is real! Yet, does that mean life is hopeless? God has not abandoned sinful man to his own devices. There is still enjoyment of life and it is a gift of God. There are still pleasures to be enjoyed, they are a gift of God. There is still purpose in life and it is a gift of God.

God has not left mankind to the ravages of the curse. He has given us His word and Himself in Jesus Christ. The problem is that there are mixed messages in the world.<sup>3</sup> Two Sundays ago saw how the wealthy oppress the poor instead of giving comfort; there is injustice in the places where there should be justice and unrighteousness where there should be righteousness. Last Sunday

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<sup>1</sup> Daniel Caesar grew up in a family that believed in Jesus but he walked away from his faith. He had real questions that were not being answered. For some reason, his family's faith did not get passed along to him. Yet he knew enough to recognize that something was not right in the world and eventually he came back to his faith.

<sup>2</sup> Writer(s): Ashton Simmonds, Matthew Burnett, Tommy Beesley, Jordan Evans, Ian Culley, <https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/danielcaesar/deathtaxes.html>.

<sup>3</sup> At this point, I must give credit to two theologians who have greatly influenced me as I have studied Ecclesiastes: Zack Eswine and Jeffery Meyers. Eswine's *Recovering Eden, The Gospel According to Ecclesiastes* is an excellent resource. As well as Meyer's *A Table in the Mist, Ecclesiastes Through New Eyes*. I highly recommend these books for study. It will be impossible for me to cite every instance where I mention one of their ideas so let me give them credit as I begin this sermon.

Pastor Eric showed us that there is even oppression in the church, the one place where justice and righteousness should reign. Life seems upside down.

This morning we are going to see that wealth and prosperity is not an indicator of God's favor on a person. Even when a person has all he wants if God does not give him the gift of enjoyment of it he is cursed. We will also see the Preacher come back to the topic of death but this time the Preacher will extol the wisdom found in sorrow, mourning, and death. It all sounds morbid but there is wisdom to be mined in these proverbs.

Main Point: *The wise person desires God and to enjoy the ordinary gifts of God but the foolish person is consumed by his desires.*

#### 1. Ecclesiastes 6:1-2: Cursed is the man who cannot enjoy God's good gifts.

This is a very straightforward piece of wisdom. However, it will make your mind begin to jam gears when you think about it. God gave wealth, possession and honor to a person but not the gift of enjoyment. This person has it all. Anything his heart desired he had but he lacks one gift—the ability to enjoy them. Wow! How can this be?

It is the result of the Fall in the Garden of Eden. The word for *mankind* in the text is *Adam*. Solomon says there is an evil (curse) that lies heavy on *adam (mankind)*. This is not the person of Adam but the children of Adam. The reference takes us back to Eden. This evil was introduced in the garden. Genesis 3:17-19 says that man will work by the sweat of his brow and in this case, he is not always given the ability to enjoy the fruit of his labor. It is part of the curse.

Our rebellion against God is to desire God's good gifts and to strive to earn those gifts BUT then to seek to enjoy the gifts of God apart from God. Romans 1:21 says, *"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened."*

Translation: Apart from God you cannot enjoy God's good gifts. Being given your hearts desires is not an indicator of God's favor. It might be the curse at work.

Illst: I remember one time I attended a steak dinner but I had just gotten over the stomach bug. While I attended the meal and they sat a wonderful plate of food in front of me I could not eat it. There it was, my favorite meal sitting right in front of me and cooked to perfection but I could not enjoy it. I wanted it, I had it but I could not enjoy it.

The ability to enjoy God's good gifts ought to cause us to stop and think. Solomon has been telling us to enjoy our lot in life by enjoying the good gifts that God has given us: food, drink, and work. However, in Ecclesiastes 5:19 he begins to qualify the ability to enjoy those gifts. He says in Ecclesiastes 5:19, *"Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God."* When we read it we just assume that if you are given the gift then you are able to enjoy it. Not so fast says the Preacher because there are those who have been given the gifts but not that power to enjoy those gifts: *"Lord thank you for the steak dinner, I wished I could eat it."*

Application:

Here is the point: you can own the land, the feed store, the cattle, the butcher shop, the butcher works for you, you can own the restaurant that cooks the meal and the chef works for you but you will not enjoy that steak unless God removes the curse from your life. You can have anything you want but you cannot have it all—unless you have Jesus.

The curse is removed when we turn to Jesus and trust in Him as the One who removed the curse. If you have Jesus you have it all but it is not that He gives you everything you want. When you have Jesus it does not matter what wealth, possessions or

honor you have for you have been adopted by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and He is your Father. Jesus begins to rearrange your heart and over your lifetime<sup>4</sup> He leads you to contentment in Him.

## 2. Ecclesiastes 6:3-6: Cursed is the man who is never satisfied with God's gifts.

Verses 3-6 are rich with connections to many things Solomon has previously mentioned in Ecclesiastes: wealth and how death is better and there is no satisfaction in life. Yet as he cycles through wisdom he nuances his application just a bit.

These verses are startling! Solomon is making his point with an exaggeration. It would be amazing in any time period for a man to have 100 children but in that day to have that many kids would have meant you had lots of wealth and great status. You would have been popular beyond your wildest dreams and yet Solomon says this man was still unable to enjoy the good gift of God.

I like the way Zack Eswine handles this hard piece of wisdom. He says Solomon takes this painful, ugly experience of losing a child and puts it in a positive light. He says that the stillborn child is better off than the man who had it all (lots of kids and lots of money). He says the stillborn child is born in darkness and its name is covered. No one even knows the name of the child except for the parents. The child's name was never used in life. No one ever spoke of the child and yet the child finds *rest*. The child, in the vapor existence of his life, had more dignity and satisfaction because he was known, loved and enjoyed by his parents. This child has more meaning than the person who had it all.

As Eswine said, "*The poetic contrast is a child who died at birth is a sad situation but even sadder still is the man who had 100 children and wealth but could not enjoy the good gifts of God.*" Solomon has just turned life and wisdom upside down and this is what Jesus did when He taught. Jesus would say things like: the man who asks for forgiveness is accepted, give all that you have to the poor and you will have treasure, humble yourself and you will be exalted, and if you want to live then die to yourself.

The hearers of this in Solomon's day must have done a double take when they heard him say this. There they are drifting off to sleep in the synagogue. Then they hear this and all of the sudden they jerk to attention in disbelief when he says, "*It is an evil thing to have it all and yet not be able to enjoy life.*" You are better off to have not been born than having lots of kids and never satisfied. Translation: Your soul is curved in on itself and sin is your master. Status and wealth are not indicators of God's favor.

Application:

Illst: A Wonderful Life: [Mr. Potter (the old decrepit banker who could not enjoy life) vs. George Bailey; Clarence the Angel, "*You see George you really had a wonderful life.*"

Have you looked at someone else's life and thought you wanted their life because you are not satisfied with yours. You are not satisfied and like George Bailey standing on the bridge about to kill yourself you are thinking, "*It would have been better if I had never been born.*" Friend, I know how you feel. I have felt that way. Don't leave here today in this kind of misery. It is true what happens to the prosperous will happen to the *not-so-prosperous*: we all die. Satisfaction in this life is only found in Christ.

## 3. Ecclesiastes 6:7-9: The satisfied soul is better than the striving soul.

Solomon is still staying with the theme of contentment and satisfaction. But now he compares and contrasts it with our mouths, eating, and our appetites. We are consumption fools. We consume and consume and consume but Solomon is not simply talking about food. He is talking about stuff. He is talking about wealth.

The poor man who has wisdom is better off than the wealthy man whose mouth, eyes and heart are never satisfied with the good gifts of God. It is better to be wise and discern the good in your present life, give thanks for God for it than die because of your insatiable appetite.

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<sup>4</sup> I say "over your lifetime" because this is the process of sanctification. Sometimes contentment comes quickly and sometimes it is slow for others. Sometimes it comes quickly and then selfishness comes back with a vengeance and we must learn contentment again and again.

Illst: Captian Jack Sparrow on Pirates of the Caribbean had a compass that always pointed to what he most wanted. The problem was it was always changing directions. He was never satisfied. This is how we are.

Application:

You can have anything you want but you will never be satisfied. Just like the eye never gets tired of seeing and in this case we never lose our appetites.

Our appetites are like vapors. Have you ever held an appetite in your hand? No, you have not. You hold what your appetite desires but you cannot get your hands on your appetite. If you could you could control it but holding your appetite is like trying to hold smoke, it is impossible.

There is only One who has ever controlled His appetite and that is Christ and Christ is the only One who can take your wicked appetite and reign it in. He can give you a better sight for your eyes and fulfill your appetite so that you taste and see the One who is truly satisfying—God!

#### 4. Ecclesiastes 6:10-12: Only God knows what is good for you.

Now the Preacher drives his point home. Our appetites and cravings drive us to make decisions, plan our lives, set goals and cast vision. We make those choices and some of them work out and some do not. Most often we are striving after the wind hoping for wealth, status, prosperity, possessions and honor. We tell ourselves it is for our good, our family's good or some other altruistic motive BUT deep inside we are simply doing it for our own gain, our own advantage. We spread God over our dreams like a thin layer of mayonnaise on a sandwich hoping for God's blessing.

Then when things do not work out the way we hope we feel our dreams are crushed we get angry with God for not doing what we wanted. We feel our lives are off track and never seem to ever get back on track. We enjoy very little but analyze, criticize and evaluate everything and everyone else including God.

Still, we hope to make a name for ourselves in the name of Christ. We hope to make an impact on the world. We want to leave our mark and leave our legacy. After all, we know what is best for everyone. We want to impress our high school friends and our college friends so they will know we did amount to something. We want our in-laws to know that their child did not marry a loser. We learn again that it is better to enjoy the good gifts of God than leave our mark on the world for what we learn is that we do not leave a mark on the world. Instead, it leaves its mark on us.

Verses 10-12: These verses remind us that we do not know what is good for us. Only God knows what is good for us. Our little lives are like vapors. It is not that they are not important because they are. We are created in God's image so yes our lives are important. Yet if our lives are like a shadow then wouldn't it be best for the One who made the shadow to cast the right light on the life to make the most of that shadow?

Think about your life in the light of God this way: Only God knew what led up to the decision points in your life and He is the only One who knows what will follow. Perhaps the thing you wanted so badly, that guy or that girl or that job that you didn't get or that loan that fell through or that degree plan that didn't happen or getting into that school wasn't the best thing for you. You don't know what that decision was going to lead to. So instead of complaining or being disappointed with God about how He let you down perhaps you should trust His sovereign plan. The fundamental problem we have is that we are NOT given the ability to understand all of God's purposes He has planned for us. He has not shown us the future.

Application:

When I hit moments like these I preach Psalm 131 to my heart, "*O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.*"<sup>2</sup> *But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.*"<sup>3</sup> *O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forevermore.*"

Perhaps you have lifted your heart up too high. Perhaps you are occupying yourself with things God has not meant for you to occupy yourself with at this time. Ask God to calm and quiet your soul.

#### 5. Ecclesiastes 7:1-4: Death is a better instructor of the living than birth.

Now Solomon goes straight to proverbs in his sermon. He is doling out wisdom that is counterculture. The culture sends us all of these messages that proclaim how greatness, success, contentment, and satisfaction are found in life and happiness but Solomon, the wisest man in the world, says, "*Not so fast. This is not wisdom but vanity and striving after the wind. Let me show you where true wisdom is found.*"

It almost sounds like Solomon is contradicting himself in vv. 1-4. He has been telling us to enjoy God's ordinary gifts: food, drink and our work. Now all of the sudden he shifts gears and says there is no wisdom in all your laughter. He is not contradicting himself but keeping things in balance. The good Preachers not only teach us what things are but they also say what they are not. Solomon is saying to enjoy God's good gifts takes wisdom.

He is not being morbid in vv. 1-4. He is not saying life is bad and death is good.

- Look in v. 1: These two comparisons do not seem to be connected but they are. A precious ointment was rubbed on babies when they were born. That is a good thing but the precious ointment does not reveal the character of a person's life.

It is the obituary in the paper, not the birth announcement that reveals the person's character. New life is wonderful but it is better to have a good name at the end of your life. Death teaches us to number our days so that we may get a heart of wisdom (Ps. 90:12).

So Solomon is not saying it is better to die but to live with the end in mind. It is better to get a heart of wisdom from God and live your life in light of that.

- Verses 2-4: These three verses are an extension of v. 1. Solomon presses our noses into the wisdom found in the text. More wisdom gained when we consider death and sorrow. Solomon contrasts the wisdom gained in sorrow and mourning when a person dies with the person who continually seeks to be happy. Solomon basically says that more wisdom is gained by going to the funeral home than to the comedy club. There is more wisdom gained in sorrow than in laughter. It is the fool who continually seeks happiness and laughter but the wise know that full range of emotions are better for God is the One who turns our mourning to gladness.
- Illst: Matt Soderstrum
  - Matt used to work at a funeral home and he said he attended 2 funerals that changed his life.
  - The first funeral was of an older man. He said after preparing the body for the service he and the guys would gather in the office and drink coffee while waiting for the service to be over. One day their boss came in and told them to attend the service. They were perplexed because they never attended the funerals. Well, they walked in and the only people there were the daughter and son. The children had not seen their father in 20 years. Matt said he wondered why there was no one to attend the funeral and what had happened so that the kids had not seen their father in 20 years.

- The next week there was a funeral of a man about the same age and the place was packed. At this point, it struck him, "Who was this man and why would so many people attend his funeral and the other man who was the same age had no one."
- He decided right then that he wanted to live a life where people would want to attend his funeral. It was not that he wanted a big show but he wanted to leave behind a life that impacted people for Jesus.
- That is why there is more wisdom in death than in birth. Sure there is potential when a baby is born to make an impact but at death, it looks back on the life that has been lived.
- Think about your funeral right now: What will people say about you at your funeral? What do you want people to say about you at your funeral? (1) He was a shrewd businessman and made a lot of money or (2) he loved Jesus and lived his life for Christ, was generous with his money and loved his neighbor well.

#### 6. Ecclesiastes 7:5-6: Rebuke is better than empty praise.

Verses 5-6 complete his thoughts on the lack of wisdom found in laughter. This time Solomon nuances the application of his wisdom again as he contrasts the painful rebuke of the wise to the empty praises and laughter of those who just tell you what you want to hear.

Illst: I don't know if you build many fires but thorns are not usually used to build fires. Using thorns for a fire is like eating the cereal Rice Krispies. They go snap, crackle, and pop but they are not very filling. Thorns will burn and they make a lot of noise but they do not produce much heat nor do they last very long. Such is the company of fools. You may enjoy singing their songs and laughing at their jokes and feel good from their strokes but there is no gain from being with them.

On the other hand, the rebuke of the wise might sting and hurt but there is gain. It is like building a fire with red oak, there is lots of heat with that wood. If you will receive the rebuke of the wise you will become wise as well. Psalm 141:5 says, "*Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it.*"

#### 7. Ecclesiastes 7:7-10: The Good, the Bad and the Ugliness of Wisdom

Now Solomon walks through four verses and begins to leave the superlatives behind and just calls them as he sees them. After all, he is the wisest man in the world so he is like the Clint Eastwood of wisdom so he can identify the good, the bad and the ugly of wisdom.

- Verse 7: Blessing is better than oppression. Oppression is ugly. Oppression drives the wise crazy. But notice Solomon connects money to it by saying "*a bribe corrupts the heart*". Money and oppression are connected because most of the time oppression when it is occurring you can just follow the money.
  - For example, prior to the Civil War, the south would not give up slavery because of the money it made through human trafficking and forced labor. Slave owners did not own slaves because they simply loved oppressing people it was because of the money. The owners were slaves to their money so they enslaved people.
  - It still happens today. People who perform and support abortion know that is a baby in the womb but they will never admit it because of the money that is generated from killing babies in the womb. The government and Planned Parenthood make money from selling aborted baby parts. There is big money in their death machine. There is bribery to keep the machine running and in the process, they oppress those whose lives are destroyed by the abortion. Oppression is occurring under the guise of women's reproductive health.

- Modern slavery in the form of human trafficking is big money today. Boys, girls, and women are stolen from their families in our very nation and sold into the porn industry and prostitution industry.
- However, it is easy to target these modern forms of oppression but do we do it in our own lives? We silently deceive our own hearts. Bribery is not a big-time news report. We bribe ourselves (our own hearts) when we withhold money for ourselves when we should be paying or giving to others needs.

When you say to yourself, *"I can't afford to pay a fair wage. I can't afford to tip the waitress/waiter. I can't afford to give to the church."* You withhold God's good gift to you that is meant to be shared with others and keep it for yourself.

Our hearts are so curved in on themselves that we cannot say to our own hearts what we say to someone we would bribe. Then those whom God meant for you to bless cannot receive that blessing. They go without. It silently oppresses them and drives them into madness.

- Illst: Ignaz Semmelweis,<sup>5</sup> Hungarian physician who discovered germs in the early 1800's that if doctors used antiseptic to wash their hands and surgical instruments before delivering babies or surgeries their patient's had a better chance of survival. Ignaz was laughed at and ostracized by his peers. They ruined his reputation and practice. He was so crushed in spirit that eventually he was committed to an insane asylum and he died there. *Oppression drives the wise into madness.*
- Verse 8: Patience is better than Pride. It takes patience to finish a project. It takes perseverance to see it through to the end. Our tendency, if you are like me, is to start well and then get bored or things get hard and I want to quit. When suffering and adversity begin to show we all want to quit. The wise person anticipates adversity and presses on in order to see the job completed.

When you think about it, it was your pride that got you into the mess because you thought you were God's gift to that job. You were going to be the best and now the pride got you into the mess and is now being used to cause you to quit. You thought were going to ride in and save the day but then you realize that the adversity is too much. Then what do you say, *"I don't deserve to be treated this way so I quit."* Have you ever been there? I have.

Don't hear what I am not saying. I am not saying it is ever wrong to quit or change jobs. I am saying that wisdom seeks counsel about these things where you feel like you must quit or change jobs. Solomon has told us that a *cord of three is very valuable here*. Lean into the wisdom of the body of Christ and check your heart and if you are saying, *"I don't deserve this."* Beware that pride is your motive for quitting before you see the job completed.

- There are going to be days you want to quit your job. For some of you, there will be times when you want to quit your job or even your marriage. There are going to be days when you want to quit your faith in Christ. There will be days when you want to quit life. It is at these times you need that cord of three to speak into your life and let God use them to give you the strength you do not possess. You have fallen and you need to let them help you up. Don't let pride lead you to not finish the calling God has given you.
- Even Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane prayed, *"Father if it is possible let this cup pass from me never the less, not my will but your will be done."* But the Father did not allow it to pass but He did listen to His prayer, God sent the Spirit to give Jesus strength and sent angels to minister to Him.
- Verse 9: Peace is better than Anger. I am not telling you anything you have not heard before or is not obvious in the text or in other places in Scripture. Consistently in Scripture anger is portrayed as sinful and the characteristic of the fool.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://theologyforwomen.org/2013/05/the-sad-case-of-ignaz-semmelweis.html>.

But here is what I want you to notice about v. 9. It comes on the heels of v. 8 and the proverb on patient vs. pride.

What is happening? There is a progression. When we cannot see a job through to the end and we exclaim, "*This is too hard. The adversity is too much and I do not deserve this so I quit.*" What is the next thing we do? We vent our anger. Our pride reaches its peak and our true colors are displayed. Pride has led to anger and angry outbursts. *Have you ever been there before? I have. Well, what is going on here? Look in v. 10.*

- Verse 10: Now think about v. 10 because Solomon is not simply giving a proverb but he says this is what you are saying. The proverb is addressing the foolishness of nostalgia.

What we are saying is that *living in the past was better than living in the present*. But . . . what Solomon says is *living in the present is better than living in the past*.

What we are really doing is whining. We could not see the project through, we get angry and in our pride, we quit and now we must justify ourselves so we whine. We say things like, "*Well, we have never done it that way before. Why can't we do this the way I have always done it.*" On and on we go talking about how great things used to be back in the day.

Wisdom says that patient hope is better than arrogant whining. Instead, we praise the past and whine about the present and cast doubt on the future. This is sin.

#### **8. Ecclesiastes 7:11-14: God's wisdom is always good.**

Let me draw this all together for us. Solomon is calling us to get God's wisdom because if you get God's wisdom from all of your hardships then wisdom is preserved and it like an inheritance you can pass it along to the next generation. It is an advantage to you. This is another way of saying it is *gain*.

In other words, after all you have gone through, what is left over is wisdom and this is gain. It is like saving money in your retirement account. You have gained many years of wisdom and although your life is a vapor you have gained something—wisdom.

So here is the question: What did we learn? What is the wisdom of Solomon? Verses 13-14: God ordained everything you just went through. You can do nothing about it because he ordained the straight and the crooked.

I like what Pastor Eric said this past week when thinking about these verses, "*The path of life leads through the shadow of death.*" He echoes what is said in Isaiah 43: *It is God who calls us into the deep waters with Him*. God sets limits on our day of adversity and because He designed the day of adversity He is with us in the day of adversity. He is actively bringing good from the distressing events in our lives. He does not ask us to just resign ourselves to suffering but He embraces us in our suffering.<sup>6</sup>

Brothers and sisters in Christ fear not if you belong to God. He has made your day of adversity as well as the day of prosperity. When things are going well rejoice but when things are hard and you want to quit—consider God. Think about what His plan might be; think about what wisdom you might need. Consider God and consider how sweet the joy will be when you are embraced by Christ.

In other words, consider Jesus who for the joy set before Him walked through the valley of the shadow of death and endured the day of adversity for you on the cross so you would not have to. Consider Him who resisted sin to the point of shedding His own blood so you can experience His joy now and for eternity. Here is the nail in the coffin of worldly wisdom—everything God has planned for His children is good.

**Conclusion:**

**"Always Good" by Andrew Peterson**

<sup>6</sup> David Powlison, *God's Grace in Your Suffering*, 61-75.

Do You remember how Mary was grieving?  
How You wept and she fell at Your feet?  
If it's true that You know what I'm feeling  
Could it be that You're weeping with me?

Arise, o Lord, and save me  
There's nowhere else to go

You're always good, always good  
Somehow this sorrow is shaping my heart like it should  
And You're always good, always good

Well it's so hard to know what You're doing  
Why won't You tell it all plain?  
But You said You'd come back on the third day  
And Peter missed it again and again

So maybe the answer surrounds us  
But we don't have eyes to see

That You're always good, always good  
This heartache is moving me closer than joy ever could  
And You're always good

My God, my God, be near me  
There's nowhere else to go  
And Lord, if You can hear me  
Please help Your child to know

That You're always good, always good  
As we try to believe what is not meant to be understood  
Will You help us to trust Your intentions for us are still good  
'Cause You laid down Your life  
And You suffered like I never could

You're always good, always good  
You're always good, always good<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://genius.com/Andrew-peterson-always-good-lyrics>.