

THE BOTTOM LINE



“The bottom line describes the ultimate outcome of a situation or **the most important or fundamental facet of that situation**. When someone asks for the bottom line, he wants to cut out all superfluous details and focus on the primary problem or objective. The bottom line is an American phrase originally coined in the mid-1960s by corporate America to describe the physical bottom line of a profit and loss statement where the final numerical figure is placed, showing whether a company made a profit or took a loss. By the 1980s, the term the bottom line took on a figurative sense to mean the most important facet of a situation or the outcome of a situation. The bottom line is a noun, though increasingly it is being used as a verb as in bottom line me, a request to leave out the details of an explanation and skip to the important part.”

(grammarist.com)

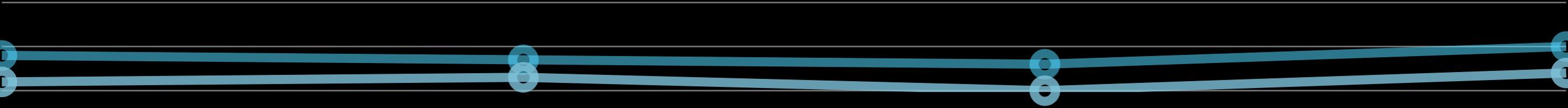






WHERE ARE YOU?

- High up on the mountain top?
- Low down in the valley?



WHERE ARE YOU?

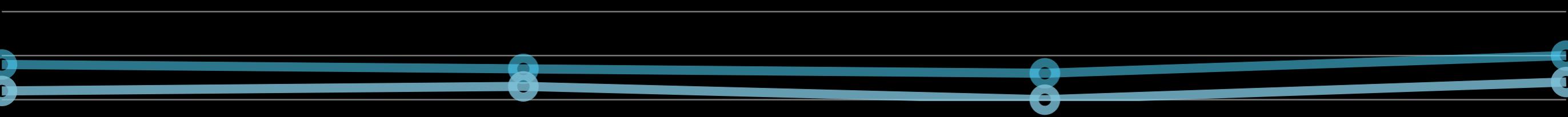
- Even though I walk through the darkest valley / the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)
- If you are in the lowest, darkest place spiritually, physically or emotionally you need to know that there is a bottom line that is still supporting you
- We need to know the bottom line

WHAT IS OUR BOTTOM LINE?



WHAT IS OUR BOTTOM LINE?

GOD IS GOOD



GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME ALL THE TIME GOD IS GOOD

- “When we come to the end of ourselves, we come to the beginning of God”
- He is GOOD when we are at the beginning of ourselves too - but sometimes we don't SEE it!
- God is there on the mountain top and we can find His love there, but we often find the depths of His grace at the bottom of the valley

OUR BOTTOM LINE

- “The bottom line describes the ultimate outcome of a situation or **the most important or fundamental facet of that situation.**”
- When you are in the midst of life’s ups and downs, the most important and fundamental facet of your situation is that **GOD IS GOOD**



G O D = G O O D

G O O D = G O D

- **God IS good - the personification of goodness**
- **Good IS God - all that is good emanates from Him**
- **GOD is the original definition of GOOD!**
- **You are good, and what you do is good (Psalm 119:68)**

GOOD LENSES

- Taste and SEE that the Lord is GOOD (Psalm 34:8)
- The key to living with the goodness of God as our bottom line is the revelation of this truth
- Expose yourself to the goodness of God:
 - Read it in scripture, meditate upon it in your mind, recite and declare in your words, sing it from your soul, seek it with the eyes of your heart

GOOD CALL

- "For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in loving kindness to all who call upon You." (Psalm 86:5)
- The Psalmist knows that God's abundant mercy and forgiveness are the His goodness to us - even more fully to us through Christ
- We must call upon Him

JESUS IS GOOD

- “As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. ‘Good teacher,’ he asked, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ ‘Why do you call me good?’ Jesus answered. ‘No one is good – except God alone.’” (Mark 10:17-18)
- Jesus is the personification of goodness of God
 - His birth, life, death and resurrection are our invitation to believe
- But the man in this story was dismayed because he would not trust in Him enough to give up his wealth

LED BY HIS GOODNESS

- "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" (Romans 2:4)
- It is His goodness that continually leads us to wake up and turn to Him
- He is ready to forgive and to lead us into the eternal fulness of His goodness

GOD IS GOOD FOR YOU

- "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)
- Even when we don't receive answers to all our questions - He is GOOD
- We may have to live with the mysteries of faith but we can know that He is good and that trusting in Him is good for us

PSALM 119

65 Do good to your servant according to your word, Lord.

66 Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands.

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

68 You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.

69 Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart.

70 Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law.

71 It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

GOOD

- “4 Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. 5 David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 6 And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.”
(1 Samuel 30)
- David knew the bottom line, and he strengthened himself in the knowledge of the Lord his God

FOLLOWED BY HIS GOODNESS

- “Surely your goodness and love (mercy) will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” (Psalm 23:6)
- He will pursue You with His goodness on the mountain top, in the darkest valley
- Trust in His goodness, dwell on His goodness, and He will bring you home safely through this rollercoaster of life to His eternal presence

WHAT IS OUR BOTTOM LINE?

GOD IS GOOD

