

Glad Tidings

"And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers..." (Acts 13:32)

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The Permeating Good

(by: Jerry Fite)

When "good" spreads or permeates throughout our day, we probably had profitable day. But "good" is a relative term. When a waitress or waiter asks, "Do you need anything else?" often the attendant will hear, "No, we're good," meaning, we are sufficient for the moment, thank you. Feeling sufficient might not be enough when rating things as "good – better - or best."

The New Testament Versions translate two Greek words, "*kalos*" and "*agathos*" as being "beautiful" in being and "beneficial" in effect. For example, in *I Thessalonians 5*, Paul exhorts brethren to not render evil for evil but follow after that which is "good," – or "beneficial" – toward all (v.15). He then commands Christians to prove all things and hold fast to that which is "good," – emphasizing the "beauty" of approved things (v. 21).

On the island of Crete, the apostle Paul left Titus to establish things that were lacking and set things in order. What is to permeate throughout the church is "good." – that which is beautiful in "being" and "beneficial" in effect.

Starting with the leadership, elders were selected to oversee

the local church. One of the essential characteristics of each elder was that they must be "*lovers of good*" (*Titus 1:5*). As Christians, these men had already turned from sin to live the life of the new man in Christ. As elders, they must exemplify "*self-control*" and not be "*soon angry*," or "*greedy for money*" (*Titus 1:7-8*). Each man revealed the character of a "good" family man: "*the husband of one wife*," and having "*believing children*" (*Titus 1:6*). Leading others, these men would promote "good" by their example, and closely manifest that which is "good" in man.

In the church, older women were to be "*teachers of that which is good*" (*Titus 2:3-4*). They are exhorted to teach the younger women to "*love their husbands and their children*" The good or beneficial effects of such teaching was creating a sense of "belonging" with each other in the family relationship. Wives being taught to be "*in subjection to their own husbands*," was beneficial not only for order in the family, but to keep the "*word of God*" from being "*blasphemed*," which demands such submission (*Titus 2:5*).

Titus was to be a solid, example or "*pattern of good works*" (*Titus 2:7*) As he teaches the

young men to be "*sober-minded*," he is to make sure his teaching manifests "*uncorruptness*," serious "*reverence or gravity*," making sure his "*speech*" cannot be condemned by adversaries, having "*no evil things to say of us*" (*Titus 2:8*).

Slaves, becoming Christians, were exhorted to *manifest "all good fidelity"* toward their masters (*Titus 2:10*). The masters were benefitted by knowing their Christian servants would not steal from them, and the cause of Christ progressed by the Christian servant adorning or beautifying "*the doctrine of God, our Saviour in all things*."

All Christians were exhorted to be "*careful to maintain good works*" (*Titus 3:8*). By working and obtaining their money honorably, they were to use their prosperity to help others, including the men who needed to be supported as they journeyed to preach the Gospel.

"Good" should permeate in our church. Throughout the membership, beginning with the eldership we should be "lovers of good," "teachers of good," manifest "good fidelity," make plain the "pattern of good works, while "maintaining good works." Let us make each day a "good day"!