

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - GOODNESS

LESSON 6

I. GOODNESS DEFINED:

A. The word "good" (AKATHOS) describes the "excellence" of many things:

1. a gift (Matt. 7:11)
2. a tree (Matt. 7:17)
3. a man (Matt.12:35)
4. a man's conscience (Acts 23:1)
5. the hope of the Christian (2 Thess.2:16)
6. The Christian's works (Eph.2:10)

B. In the LXX , the noun "goodness" (AKATHOSUNE) points to the idea of "benefit" and "generosity"

1. Depriving ones soul of "good" - one's own benefit (Eccl. 4:8)
2. Delighted in the abundance of God's "goodness" - generosity (Neh.9:25).
3. Contrasted with "evil eye " or grudging spirit (cf. Deut.28:54, Matt.20:15)

C. "Goodness" distinguished from "kindness"

1. Trench sees Jesus displaying his zeal for "goodness" in rebuking, correcting and chastising (Matt.21:13, Matt.23), and "kindness" in his gentle reception of the penitent woman (Lk.7:37-50).
2. Goodness offers benefit which can be more stern and austere , while kindness is more gentle.
3. Barclay in his book, FLESH AND SPIRIT sees goodness as generosity that springs from a heart that is kind (p. 107).

II. GOODNESS MANIFESTED IN THE CHRISTIAN (Gal.5:22)

A. Beneficent action toward all men, especially fellow-believers (Gal.6:10).

B. At home with righteousness and truth (Eph.5:9)

1. Benefit to others by standing for truth - reproofs works of darkness (v.10-11).

2. Jehoiada's Example of benefit (2 Chron. 23:1-11, 24:4-14, 16).

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C. Accompanies knowledge to manifest proper admonition (Rom.15:14).

D. A desire connected with the Christian's work of faith which is essential to being worthy of God's calling (2 Thess. 1:11).

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of character should be understood when things or people are described as good?
2. What **TWO** thoughts do we see expressed in the word "good" from the Greek Septuagint Version of the Old Testament?
3. What proper distinction can we make between the word "goodness" and the word "kindness" in the list of the fruit of the Spirit?
4. What is the only limitation upon doing good unto others?
5. How does goodness manifest itself in the company of righteousness and truth?
6. How qualities of goodness do you see for the Christian that is manifested in the life of Jehoiada in the Old Testament?
7. What elements did Paul acknowledge to be current in the Christians' at Rome that produce godly and cordial relationships?
8. While doing good for others is necessary action, goodness is also a _____ in the Christian's worthy walk.
9. List some ways you have shown the character of goodness this past week?