

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Galatians 5:16-25**.
- B. We continue our study of the attributes of the spiritual life. When a person leaves a life of the desires of the flesh, he will then be living a life after the spirit, or things spiritual.
- C. The fruit that comes from a life that is based on spiritual things are the nine attributes mentioned in Gal. 5:22-23.
- D. Tonight's lesson is on **goodness**. Goodness is a disposition to do good to others. It is kindness taken one step farther. Goodness has been defined as the act of showing charity.
- E. Goodness is an attribute that is admired among men (Rom. 5:7).
For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

I. GOD IS GOOD AND GIVES GOODNESS.

- A. The Psalms speaks of the great goodness of God. God is not mean, and does not have a "chip on His shoulder" type personality. He is good (Psa. 31:19).
How great is Thy goodness, Which Thou hast stored up for those who fear Thee, Which Thou hast wrought for those who take refuge in Thee, Before the sons of men!
- B. God desires that we be good and will fill all our desires to do good (2Th. 1:11).
To this end also we pray for you always that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power;
- C. There is a relationship between Psa. 107:8-9 and Mt. 5:6.
(Psa 107:8-9) Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men! 9 For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good. (Mt 5:6) "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- D. We are people that should rejoice in goodness. Think about it, what is it that makes you happy? Does sin make you happy, or does righteousness make you happy?
- E. Remember the great words of Psa. 23:6 and how that *"goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of one's life."*

II. JESUS CHRIST IS FULL OF GOODNESS (A GOOD KING).

- A. Even in prophecy the goodness of Jesus was told the Jews (Hos. 3:5).
Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.
- B. Jesus fulfilled Ezekiel's prophecy; He was the David to come (see Ezek. 34:24; 37:24-28). Luke records for us in his gospel and in Acts the fulfillment of these prophecies. Jesus is the David to come and the goodness of the last days (Lk. 1:31-33; see Ac. 2:29-36).
(Lk 1:31-33) "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."
- D. Jesus gives good things to those who are hungry (Lk. 1:53; Ac. 10:38).
(Lk. 1:53) "HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; AND SENT AWAY THE RICH EMPTY-HANDED. (Ac 10:38) "You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.

III. WE ARE TO BE FULL OF GOODNESS ALL THE TIME.

- A. Hosea warned the people of their very temporary attitude of goodness. This is not good, it is not God-like (Hos. 6:4).
What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? For your loyalty is like a morning cloud, And like the dew which goes away early.

- B. Paul, however, did tell the Romans that they were full of goodness (Rom. 15:14).
And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another.
- C. And in Ephesians, Paul told the brethren what walking in the light is all about (Eph. 5:7-10).
Therefore do not be partakers with them; **8** for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light **9** (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), **10** trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
- D. Some simple but powerful verses on doing good:
1. Matthew 5:16.
“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”
 2. Matthew 12:35.
“The good man out of his good treasure brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth what is evil.”
 3. Matthew 19:16-17.
And behold, one came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?” **17** And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”
 4. Luke 6:27, 33-35.
“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,... **33** “And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** “And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, in order to receive back the same amount. **35** “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.”
 5. Luke 10:39-42.
And she had a sister called Mary, who moreover was listening to the Lord’s word, seated at His feet. **40** But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.” **41** But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; **42** but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”
 6. John 5:28-29.
“Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, **29** and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.”
 7. Romans 12:9, 21
Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good... **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
 8. Romans 16:19.
For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good, and innocent in what is evil.
 9. 2Corinthians 9:8.
And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;
 10. Galatians 6:9-10.
And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary. **10** So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. God is a good God, wishing to bestow good upon His people.
- B. We, as Xians, are to be filled with goodness.
- C. Jesus is our example, because He is our good King.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.