WALKING IN GOODNESS

**DATE: 2/3/2016**

**TEXT: Galatians 5:22, 23**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Ephesians 5:8-10 …**

Goodness speaks of *the honesty and integrity of heart that not only despises evil, but refrains from doing it*

It is a heart condition that produces a good lifestyle

It is conviction with action

In the Gospel of **Matthew** (**19**) we are told about a time Jesus met up with a Rich Young man

Before this young man asked Jesus a question, he addressed Him as ***“Good Master”***

And Jesus responded by saying in **v.17 – *“Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God:”***

This Goodness is a characteristic of God

David said, (**Psalm 27:13**) ***“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living”***

This same Goodness can be reproduced in the Christian's life as he yields to the Holy Spirit

It is a virtue that we need in dealing with others

**Galatians 6:10 – *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith”***

There are various ways people interpret the word *Good*

**1.** To some, goodness revolves around anything that increases their pleasure

However, we know that even non-pleasurable times can be good for us

**2.** Some say that knowledge brings Goodness

They say if we can increase our knowledge of Good

There will be no more evil

But just because someone knows what is Good, does not guarantee that they will do it

**3.** Some equate Goodness with *Doing* or *Not Doing* certain things

For example: *“I was good because I said Thank you”* or *“I was good because I did not curse”* etc.

**4.** Ultimately Jesus Demonstrated the Goodness of God

**Acts 10:38 *– “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him”***

Goodness is Supernatural

It is not something that we can work up

It must be the Fruit of the Holy Spirit within us

So, how does this virtue of God Develop in our Lives?

Let’s stand **(**out of respect for God’s Word) and read together **Galatians 5:22, 23 …** (And find out)

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, we need to …

**I. “REALIZE”**

… Realize our Inability to Produce God’s Goodness

Why? …

**A. Because of our Old Nature**

When we got saved our old nature did not disappear

There are those who want to believe that man is inherently Good

I don’t believe that for one minute

Know why? (2 reasons)

**1.** Because I believe the Bible

**2.** Because I’m a Parent / Pastor

Scripture paints a very Different picture of our Old Nature then the one many like to believe

**Romans 5:12 –** ***“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”***

I once hear a secular humanist say that his belief was in the complete, inherent goodness of man

I was wondering what planet he was on

**Romans 3:12 –*“They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one”***

Then …

**B. Because of our Flesh**

Because we have our old Nature we still have to deal with the Flesh (The Old Nature uses the Flesh)

When you got saved your Flesh didn’t get saved

Your Soul & Spirit got saved, but not your Flesh

That’s how Paul could say …

**Romans 7:18 – “*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not”***

**“REALIZE”**

Then we need to …

**II. “RELY”**

… Rely on the Holy Spirit for Goodness

Self-reliance isn’t going to work

It never really worked in the first place, you just thought it did (or you still think it does)

First,

**A. We Need to be Born Again**

The New Birth is a Spiritual Process

**John 3:5-7 …**

Goodness can only come about by the Holy Spirit through a process call Regeneration

**Titus 3:5 –** ***“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”***

The Bible describes Barnabas like this …

**Acts 11:24 –** ***“For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord”***

And when we got saved …

**B. We Received a Divine Nature**

**II Peter 1:3, 4 –“*According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:” “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”***

**II Corinthians 5:17 *– “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

Then …

**C. We Must Walk in the Spirit**

**Galatians 5:16 – *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”***

Believers have the Spirit of Christ, the hope of glory within them

**Colossians 1:27 *– “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:”***

Those who are genuinely saved will show forth a daily walk with God

This is brought about by consciously choosing by faith

… to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us in thought, word, and deed

**Romans 6:11-14 …**

Failure to rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance will result in a believer not living up to the calling and standing that salvation provides

**Philippians 1:27 –** ***“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;”***

We can know that we are walking in the Spirit if our lives are showing forth the fruit of the Spirit

Being filled, under the influence of, walking with the Spirit, is allowing the Word of Christ (the Bible) to richly dwell in us

**Colossians 3:16 *– “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”***

**James 1:22 *– “But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves”***
The result is thankfulness, joy, confidence

Children of God will be led by the Spirit of God

**Romans 8:14 *– “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God”***

When Christians ignore the command to walk in the Spirit …

They sin and grieve God

**Ephesians 4:30 *– “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”***

**I John 1:9 …**

To “walk in the Spirit” is to follow the Spirit’s leading

It is essentially to “walk with” the Spirit

Allowing Him to guide you through what you have been taught in the Word of God

Just as we have received Christ by faith,

So by faith He asks us to walk with Him,

Until, one day we are taken home to heaven

**“REALIZE”**

**“RELY”**

Then, we are to …

**III. “REVEAL”**

… Reveal the Goodness of God to a Lost World

*Being* Good is what we are on the inside

*Doing* Good is what people see on the outside

There are 3 ways we can reveal God’s Goodness

**A. Goodness is Found in the Word of God**

We can’t know what is Good by our own Feelings

**Micah 6:8 *– “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”***

We Cannot be what we need to be for others apart from Faith in the Word of God

Again - **James 1:22 *– “But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves”***

**B. Goodness is Cultivated through Godly Fellowship**

**Hebrews 10:24 *– “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:”***

**Quote:** Charles Wesley said – *“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can and as long as you can”*

**C. Goodness is Revealed through our Walk with Christ**

**Ephesians 2:10 – *“For we are His workmanship, …***

***… created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”***

**1.** The Good Work of Witnessing

**Matthew 5:16 *– “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”***

**2.** The Good Work of Serving

-- In our Home

-- At Work

-- In Church

**CONCLUSION**

If, as Christians, we are going to Influence our Communities, our Families, our Churches

Then we must **Realize** our inability to produce God’s Goodness on our own

We must then **Rely** on the Holy Spirit to Produce the Goodness through us

To **Reveal** the Goodness of God to a Lost and Dying World