



Date: August 16, 2020

Message: Character Qualities for Tough Times: Goodness

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Message-based Study

Video is available online at messages.visitccc.com

Connection

What is your idea of a good dessert, good playlist, or good vacation? Explain why.

Cheer and Challenge

How did your "I will..." statement go? Share your experience on doing your "I will..." statement from last week's study.

Did you have a chance to follow through on the B.L.E.S.S challenge from last week? If so, tell about your experience.

Content

- Read Galatians 5:22-23 - Share the verse from memory if you can.
- In life, how do people determine if something is "good"? In a biblical context, "Goodness" is defined as something that is worthy of approval by God.

FOUR THINGS ARE DEMONSTRATED WHEN YOU LIVE A LIFE OF GOODNESS:

Goodness Describes Your Intended Purpose

Write out Ephesians 2:10, thinking through each phrase as you write:

Now summarize each phrase from that verse, giving special consideration to how God's goodness relates to what is said in this scripture.

How does it make you feel to know that God has planned this out?

Goodness is a Shining Light

Read Matthew 5:16. When this verse says, "In the same way..." what is it pointing back to? What insight does that give you about the "good deeds" encouraged here?

Consider if there is anything holding you back from shining for God and doing good. How, especially in this dark time, might you shine God's goodness more with your friends, your family, at work, in your neighborhood, places where you shop, and on social media?

Goodness has a Reward

Read Galatians 6:9. In what area of your life is it hard to “not get tired of doing what is good”?

What “harvest of blessing” do you want to see in that area?

If you do give up, what is this verse implying will happen?

Goodness Overcomes Evil

Read Romans 12:21. In a broken world, we must take action doing good to get rid of evil. How did Jesus do this?

Read Isaiah 58:6-8 . Think of one example where you see evil in this world right now. What good can you do to combat this?

COMMITMENT

How will you live out the truth from these passages this week? Take time to create and “I will...” statement of something you can do this week to demonstrate goodness in your sphere of influence.

“I will _____.”



B.L.E.S.S – S– Serve – What is a good work you can do this week to bless a friend who doesn’t yet know Jesus? How could you share their burdens?

Close

Pray together and for each other.

Continue Digging Deeper

1. Write out Galatians 5:22-23 and practice memorizing it.
2. God's goodness is sprinkled all throughout Scripture. What do these verses tell you about God's goodness?

Genesis 1:31 -

Psalm 106:1 -

Psalm 119:68 -

Psalm 34:8 -

Psalm 84:11-

James 1:17 -

Every aspect of God's character is touched by His goodness. Follow the examples given below and consider how God's goodness permeates His interaction with man:

God's mercy – God's goodness shown to those who are in distress

God's grace – God's goodness shown to those deserving punishment

God's patience –

God's righteousness –

God's justice -

God's faithfulness –

3. Find a spot out in nature. Go for a walk, a run, a bike ride or simply find somewhere to sit and observe all that is around you. Read Psalm 100 and then think on it. Throughout your day, look for God's goodness in creation, in your circumstances and reflected in others.

4. Consider exploring a Bible reading plan for this week on the topic of, "God's goodness". There are several listed in the **You Version Bible App**. One example is entitled, "Taste and See: Exploring God's Goodness". Choose one and share with someone what you learn this week about God's goodness.

5. C.S. Lewis, from The Chronicles of Narnia

"Is he – quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion." "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver.

"Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe! But he's good. He's the king, I tell you."

Use the concordance in the back of your Bible or use an online resource to look up verses containing the word "good" or "goodness". What did you learn about God's goodness? For fun, watch one of the movies from the Chronicles of Narnia.