

MARKET STREET



"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)

MESSENGER

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume IV

July 15, 2012

No. 29

What Does It Mean To Be "Good"?

Mark W. White

To accurately distinguish the fruit of the Spirit is quite a task, indeed, for they are all intertwined to describe the characteristics of the man or woman who is *"led by the Spirit."* This is especially true when trying to identify this fruit called *"goodness."* The idea is closely related to the fruit of *"kindness."* Yet, the Holy Spirit saw fit to reveal two distinct words through Paul's pen.

I am convinced that our modern usage of the word "goodness" or "good" is much too casual. We carelessly describe so many things as being "good" when they are not "good" in the true sense of the term. Often, we say that "He is such a 'good' fellow" without ever giving any thought as to whether the man possesses the fruit called "goodness". Barnabas was described as a *"good man"* in Acts 11:24, *"full of the Holy Spirit and of faith..."* If Luke, by inspiration, described Barnabas as a "good man", we may rest assured that it was so.

What is this quality of "goodness"? We could simply define it as "that which, being good in its character or constitution, is beneficial in its effect." (W.E. Vine) But that leaves me a little more confused than I was at the beginning! Someone will have to define that definition for me! The Scriptures are prone to define terms by demonstrating them. And that is what the fruit of the Spirit is all about - a clear demonstration of a life leading not after the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Jesus Shows Us

If Christ is our example in everything we are to do as Christians (1 Peter 2:21) surely He is our pattern in demonstrating "goodness." Peter preached to Cornelius that Jesus *"...went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him"* (Acts 10:38). That helps me to know that "goodness" is not just an attitude of heart, but that it is a quality which demands that I **do something** for others. The idea of the original word for "goodness" (*agathosune*) suggest **generosity**, the quality which is out to do for a man what he may not

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223
Stuart Wilson.....(256) 233-6291

Evangelist

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
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Visit Us On The Web
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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

be able to do for himself. “Doing good”, then, means that we go far beyond just giving our fellow-man what he is due. Jesus did just that! He was generous with Himself, giving His very life for us. He did not give us what we deserved, but He did give us what we needed. He was “good” to us!

R.C. Trench says that “goodness” can include the sterner qualities by which doing good to others is not necessarily by gentle means. Again, Jesus illustrates this when he cleansed the temple (Matthew 21:12,13). He gave the merchandisers a stern rebuke and cast them out of His Father’s house - something they needed, but did not necessarily want. Overturning their tables and driving them out was Jesus “*doing good*”, because He was teaching these people a valuable lesson that would benefit them spiritually. Jesus shows us that “goodness” is not always “sweetness.” There may be times when our care for the souls of others will cause us to “do good” to them even if they do not like it, nor appreciate it.

The Brethren at Rome

Paul had never met the Christians at Rome. But their good reputation preceded them. Their faith had been spoken of world-wide (Romans 1:8). A particularly excellent commentary on that faith was written by Paul in Romans 15:14. The apostle remarked that he was confident that these brethren were, among other things, “...*full of goodness*...” I think I understand Paul’s idea. Goodness has been described as the opposite of “meanness”. When I was growing up, I would hear adults describe a certain group of boys as being “full of meanness”. They were the ones who made a hobby out of bashing in the neighbor’s mailboxes; spray painting or stealing traffic signs; or “sugaring” some poor guy’s gas tank. They were not just being “boys” - they were being “mean”! A mean person isn’t a good human being, much less one who is “*led by the Spirit*” (Galatians 5:18). Developing and nurturing the fruit of goodness in our lives demands that we rid our hearts of the mean and the ugly. Our brethren in Rome were completely possessed of this goodness that no doubt led them to be generous and fair with fellow Christians, and with all others.

There is no law against “*goodness*” (Galatians 5:23). Wherever men dwell, this fruit is absolutely necessary for right living. More importantly, it is absolutely necessary for those of us who wish to “*inherit the kingdom of God*.”

~via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama

Seeking Wisdom

Shane Williams

Solomon was a young man charged with the responsibility of being the ruler of one of the most prosperous kingdoms in ancient times. Israel was a significant power then, her borders extending from the Euphrates River all the way to Egypt (1 Kings 4:21). Being responsible for so much, Solomon knew he needed help. So when God asked Solomon what He could do for him, Solomon did not ask to live forever or to have all the money in the world. He asked to be wise.

1 Kings 3:9, “Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?”

This request pleased the Lord. 1 Kings 3:11-12, “Then God said to him: “Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice. behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.”

The word translated “understanding” in Solomon’s request (v.9) actually means “hearing.” God gave Solomon a “hearing heart” so he could judge the people, and “discern between good and evil.”

Wise men and women hear God through His Word. One may read man’s books (his wisdom) but the wise will judge them all by the Word of God. There is no greater wisdom.

If you want wisdom, ask God for it. James said, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach and it will be given to him” (James 1:5).

However be sure you seek wisdom for the right reasons, as Solomon did. James also said (4:3), “You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

Let us seek to be wise, so we can do God’s Will. Let us seek wisdom, so we can help others serve God.

Are you wise enough to follow God?

~via *The Lilbourn Light* Lilbourn, Missouri

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“Once For All”

Billy Norris

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints...” (Jude 3).

The original Greek word hapax translated “once for all” means that it is “of perpetual validity not requiring repetition” (Vine, pg. 819). The faith delivered to the saints is of such quality that it is complete (“perfect” - James 1:25) and will not tolerate repetition or alteration. This means that any “revelations” since the faith was given “once for all” have not come from God but from the inventive minds of men. It further means that those who claim the “revelations” and those who believe them are condemned. The warning is clearly given, “Whoever transgresses (goes ahead) and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9).

We must recognize and respect the significance of this word translated “once for all.” Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many (Hebrew 9:28). His sacrifice was of such quality as never to need repetition.

~via *The Railroad Avenue Bulletin*, Antioch, California.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come and Join Us As We Study Together

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Albert Bowers	Gladys Johnson
Gilbert Hardy	Wynell Casteel
Yvonne Sherbert	Mary Ruth Gardner
Will Carl Sullivan	Betty Faye Holt
Ava Brooke Campbell	Jeffery Miller
Henry Hobbs	David Hartsell
Mary Holt	Reverie Barksdale
Matt Poff	Faye Cary
Leroy Davenport	Phillip Harwell
Una King Currier	Gladys Sandlin

In The Hospital:

Charles Burns; Crestwood Hosp. – rm. 318
Eli Williams; St. Jude’s Hospital; Memphis, Tenn.

Athens Convalescent Care:

Hazel Toone, rm. 10
Beulah Pope, rm. 100

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Norton, rm. 36 Frances Bowers, rm. 37
Bobbie Adcock, rm 113-A Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Huntsville Health & Rehab - Huntsville:

David Gardner, rm. 101-B

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home
Lola Colwell, at home
Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74
Ruby Davis, Valley View Health, Madison, rm. 51-A

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies’ Bible class meets each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. If you are a lady, and are able to meet with them, please join them in this study.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The *Jackson Drive church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday evening. Services Monday through Friday will be at 7:00p.m. *David Brewer of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania* is the speaker in this meeting... The *Jones Road church* east of Athens is beginning a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. Services Monday through Friday will be at 7:00 p.m. *Paul Earnhart of Louisville, Kentucky* is the speaker in this meeting... The *Westview church* in Hartselle is beginning a meeting

today and it will continue through Friday. Services Monday through Friday will be at 7:00 p.m. *Frank Walton of Madison* will be the speaker in this meeting.

SINGING: The *River Bend church* in Western Lauderdale county is having a singing on Friday night. the singing will begin at 7:00p.m.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Judy Vaughn and all the family* in the passing of Judy's niece, Lindsey Darnall, this past Friday morning in Kentucky.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Williams: Todd, Julie, Matthew and Phillip* have been on vacation in Florida... *The Vaughns: Wayne and Judy* are in Kentucky this weekend.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group two will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

THE RECORD: *For the Week of July 8th*

Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 130
Morning Worship 172
Evening Worship..... 113

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 104



Gospel Meeting

September 16-20, 2012

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:30 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday- 7:00 p.m.

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Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Kenneth Smith
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Wayne Vaughn
Assisting Bonnie Sutton
Serving Stuart Wilson Jonathan Keenon
..... Landon Adams Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer Steve Bradley

Evening Worship

Announcement..... Jerry McGlocklin
Song Leader Stefan Fudge
Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching Joel Hamm
Lord's Supper Wayne Vaughn
Closing Prayer Jordan Lovell

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 15th:

Usher Marcus Morris
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, July 18th:

Song Leader Todd Williams
Bible Reading..... Isaiah 45:8-13
..... Nathaniel Adams
Prayer Terry Andrews
Invitation David Cox
Closing Prayer Joel Hamm

Sunday, July 22nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Stuart Wilson
Prayer Larry Mitchell
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Marion Mitchell
Assisting Marty Adams
Serving Stefan Fudge Dwaine Allfrey
..... Harold Davis Will Chumbley
Closing Prayer Jordan Lovell

Evening Worship

Announcement..... Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Jonathan Keenon
Preaching Song Service
Lord's Supper Marion Mitchell
Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 22nd:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams