

KINGDOM PEOPLE Church



WELCOME

No Perfect People Allowed!

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: THE TREE AND THE FRUIT;

(a). Ps.1.” How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! V.2.But his delight is in the law of the Lord.And in His law he meditates day and night.v.3.And he will be like a tree firmly planted by the streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.....ASB.



THE FRUIT AND THE TREE CNTD.

- Important to note in the above verses is how the Psalmist draws a parallel between the Godly man and a tree. If planted by water, the tree produces the fruit expected of it and at the proper time.
- ...If he delights in and meditates on God's Word, then a man will prosper in whatever he does.
- This however is in stark/sharp contrast with the case of the ungodly.
- Their character is like chaff.
- The figure of speech has changed and now alludes to the harvesting of wheat when He separates the worthless chaff by blowing it away.
- There is actually a radical difference between the two, and it is God's Word and man's reaction to it which makes the difference.
- **Matt.3:10**, "And the Axe is already laid at the root of the tree..." ASB.



THE FRUIT AND THE TREE CNTD.

- (b). Jeremiah 17:5-8. Jeremiah undoubtedly quotes from Ps. 1 and went on to enlarge upon the contrast in those verses. The law is not mentioned here as it was in Psalms 1:2, instead the contrast is between Trust in man and Trust in God. Trusting in man is departing from the Lord.
- The results of each kind of “trust” may be seen as follows:
- If the Israelite relies on man, he will not see good, will inhabit dry places.

FRUIT AND THE TREE CNTD.

- If the Israelite trusts in God, he will spread his roots to gain more strength for growth
- He has no cause for fear of drought since the brook will not dry up, and he will not cease yielding fruit.
- The Jeremiah passage also teaches that all men believe in and trust something or someone. Jeremiah says cursed is the man who trusts in man.....Blessed is the man who trusts in God.
- It is important to note that God has made man a believer, hence man cannot avoid believing and committing himself to something.

FRUIT AND THE TREE CNTD.

- The Unbeliever believes just as firmly and just as whole heartedly as the Believer. For example the priests of Baal at Carmel had as much faith in their god as Elijah did in the Lord God, **they only differed in the object of their faith,** (1 Kings 18). It is important then with regards to the above that men worship the true and soon coming Lord and Saviour.
- Put in simpler terms; a man who delights in and meditates on God's Word, the man who trusts in God, the man who has been enlightened by God shall always bear fruit. Jn 15:1-8... Jesus is the true vine and He is calling all man to come to Him.

FRUIT AND THE TREE CNTD.

The abiding that Jesus talks of in Jn 15 is not a passive thing, but involves activity of “working out”..Phil.2:13.It is an “exercise” of spiritual powers called into play by God’s providence, Heb.12:11.Continual abiding in Him makes any Christian bear fruits.You can never spend hours in prayer, reading His Word, or witnessing and remain the same old lukewarm/unenthusiastic Christian no,never!

2.THE FRUIT AND ITS CULTIVATION:

The cultivation of the fruit comes through;

- Reading of His Word every day...Rom.10:17
- Through the motivation from the fact that God loves you...Jn 1:12, 3:16.
- The fact that you will get Power motivates you... He gives you power to overcome sin, Jn.1:12, 1Cor.10:13
- Direction...His Word directs our feet and is a lamp thereof..Ps.132:17, 119:105, Lk.1:79, Ps.66:9, etc.

THE FRUIT AND ITS CULTIVATION CNTD.

- Opportunity...it is important for a Christian Believer to exercise his/her faith and putting into practice that fruit which he/she would have received from Him at any given moment-maximize every opportunity given by evangelizing, teaching His Word, serving in diff ministries,etc.
- do not forsake meeting together,(never miss a Worship Service or fellowship unnecessarily,Heb. 10:25.

3. THE FRUIT AND THE WEEDS, GAL 5:

- The Galatians at that time of Paul's visit had already imbibed or absorbed much of the Judaizers's poisonous doctrine, hence "WEEDS WERE APPEARING IN THE LORD'S GARDEN". Paul as their Pastor per se knew them quite well. Galatians 5:15,26 show some of the weeds which needed to be weeded out. ie..."Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another" ..v.26. "If you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another" ..V.15

FRUIT AND THE WEEDS, GAL 5 CNTD.

- He wanted the Galatians to see where they were headed to if they persisted in Judaizers's way
- He collected a horrendous catalog of weeds and dumped them onto the front lawn of the Galatians so that they could see for themselves. The list is however inexhaustive.

FRUIT AND THE WEEDS CNTD.

The Galatians could not attack the weeds by altering them, improve or make them to look a bit tolerable, or even permanently prevent them, nor could they accommodate them, engage in an armed truce, no! Paul told them that these weeds were self-destructive and had potential to destroy the good seed God had so far sown in the world, vs, 15 and 17, so he told them to crucify them, v.24, and this obviously happens to those already in Christ. Paul mentions the crucifixion on chapter 2:20.

FRUIT AND THE WEEDS CNTD.

. Faith then is the instrument that unites you and me to Christ. This and more is what Paul meant by “crucifixion”. It is important to mention here also that the Fruit of the Spirit does not initially take the form of outward deeds, or even of habits of life. The Spirit’s action is to “root out the weeds” and to water and fertilize the plants, and this was done once for all when we got born again and now it is being accomplished progressively in sanctification.

FRUIT AND THE WEEDS CNTD.

The fruit of the Spirit is a cluster of seeds which grow and appear at their appointed time. It is only after the sun has shined, the rain has fallen, the weeds have been pulled that the fruit becomes evident and can then be recognized as such, exercise then produces the fruit, Heb. 12:11, (...nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby).KJV

THE FRUIT AND THE WEEDS CNTD.

Satan's tactic is to give some people so light a case of Christianity that they will never get the real thing. This is however how you will discern true fruit from artificial fruit, and hence deliver ourselves and others from the judgment", **I never knew you.....**"Matt.7:23

THE FRUIT AND THE WEEDS CNTD.

The Weed

Hatred

Sorrow

Anxiety, strife

Impatience

Pride

Evil

Infidelity

Self-seeking

Lack of control

NB.The list is too long!

The Artificial Fruit

limited love

temporary joy

numbness, carelessness

laziness, insensitivity

manipulation by kindness

hypocrisy

half-heartedness

false modesty

choosing lesser goods

The Fruit of The Spirit

love

joy

peace

patience

kindness

goodness

faithfulness

meekness

self-control

THE GOODNESS OF GOD: LOOKING AT HIS NATURE

Our God is infinitely good, and more interestingly is that His goodness is directed personally to you and me. Goodness is the nature of God, it describes who He is.

Definition of God's Goodness: (3 Defins.)

1. A.W.Tozer writes, “The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men.”
2. A theological definition of the goodness of God is “the collective perfections of His nature and the benevolence of His acts.”
3. **The Psalmist** says, “thou art good and doest good....”KJV.(Ps. 119:68). I like what he says as it is a very good definition that describes the nature of God.

DEFINITION CNTD.

For me, it is a good definition of the goodness of God. “You are good, and you do good.” A working definition of the goodness of God is this: God is good by nature, and He is good at what He does. The very essence of God is that He is a good God. Not only that, He is also very, very good in everything that He does.

ILLUSTRATIONS;

A good and quick example is to look at our lives, had God not saved us, where would we be, may be dead, but we are here and are his children now by His grace. Point to note is that; when we affirm that God is good, we are declaring that He is all that He as God ought to be. The goodness required of us is that we should always strive to live as the members of God's family ought to live, with high moral standards and actively practicing good works. The basic content of the Christian's life is to be goodness.



GOD'S GOODNESS CNTD.

- God's goodness is not just reserved for the righteous, but for the unrighteous as well, Matthew 5:45.
- Job worshipped God in both prosperity and poverty, Job 13:15 he decreed "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face." He remains good even when we have just lost our jobs, loved ones, etc. Those bad things that happen—a mother killing her children, and all kinds of other bad things—are people problems. God remains God and forever good!
- misfortunes, or mishaps don't have anything to do with whether God is a good God or not.
- Psalms 34 sings of the goodness of God.
- God's goodness is also expressed in His attributes... Exodus 34:5-7

GOD'S GOODNESS CNTD.

- God's will and purposes for our lives are good, Ps. 84:11, Rom. 12:2
- God's message to people in Jesus Christ is good news... Rom. 10:15
- The work He does in Christians' lives at their new birth is a good work.. Phil. 1:6
- Even when God needs to discipline Christians, it is always for their good... Ps. 119:67, 71, Heb. 12:10.

GOD'S GOODNESS CNTD.

- There is no limit to God's goodness and the good He gives to His spiritual children in Christ...Rom.8:32,Eph.1:3
- Goodness finds its model and example in our Lord Jesus Christ...1Pet.2:19-24, the visible image of the invisible God..Col.1:15, who went around doing good...acts 10:38.
- The commandments and directions God gives are good...Ps119:39,Mk.3:4,Rom.7:12,Heb.6:5

GOD'S GOODNESS TEACHES US TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES:

- Goodness is the test of a person's life...Matt.7:15-20
- By nature no one consistently does good...Rom.3:12; evil things rather than good things are the more natural fruit of human lives...Matt.12:34
- The more we know ourselves the more we know that good does not naturally live in us..Rom.7:18
- Even though we may possess the desire to do good, we are not able to do it, instead of doing the good we want, we find ourselves doing the evil we do not want to do.Rom.7:18, 19.
- The call that God gives to salvation,therefore,is not based upon a person's goodness, but entirely upon God's grace...Rom.9:11-16,Eph.2:8
- God's goodness should make us continually thankful...Ps118:29
- God's goodness should motivate us to worship Him...Ps.107.
- Real goodness begins when we hear God's message of salvation, retain it in a good and obedient heart, and persist until fruit is born, Lk.8:8, 15, which includes GOODNESS.

GOODNESS IN US AS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: GAL. 5:22

- The word translated “goodness” in “the fruit of the Spirit”(Gal.5:22) conveys the idea of moral excellence and belongs with righteousness and truth to “the fruit of the light”,(Eph.5:9)
- The fruits of the Christian life are all fruits of goodness, Matt7:17-20.

THE FRUIT OF GOODNESS CNTD.

- When we get born again into God's family by His Spirit, we find within ourselves new desires for goodness, 2Thes 1:11, 'wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power'.
- Goodness is the reflection of our heavenly Father's character being reproduced in us, Matt.5:45; 3Jn4, 11.

THE FRUIT OF GOODNESS CNTD.

- Practical goodness is part of the transformation to be expected of converted men and women, Eph.4:28.
- We must be full of goodness, Rom.15:14, being wise about what is good, but innocent about what is evil, Rom.16:19.
- Goodness is essentially living and behaving in the world as true servants of God, 1Pet.2:15, 16.

THE FRUIT OF GOODNESS CNTD.

- The principal demonstration of goodness is submission to others, to civil authorities 1Pet.2:13-17, to employers, 1Pet.2:18-25, of wives to husbands, 1Pet.3:1-6, of children to parents, Eph.6:1-3, and to one another, Eph.5:21, 1Pet.3:8
- Goodness responds to opposition and suffering with patience, 1Pet.2:20, and does not allow anything to put it off from pursuing the right course, 1Pet.3:6, 2Cor.4:8-11.

THE FRUIT OF GOODNESS CNTD.

- Fruit of goodness in us as Christians is God's chosen answer to people's unjust opposition to Christian witness, 1Pet.2:15; 3:1-6.
- Our lives are meant to bear fruit in every good work, Col.1:10....bearing fruit in every good work.....ASB.

Finally because Goodness is not passive as a quality of character, it manifests itself in the form of good works. Matt.12:35. I will briefly talk about Goodness and Good works.**Col.2:6,7.**

GOODNESS AND GOOD WORKS:

- The worship of God and doing good works go together, Matt.5:16, 1Tim2:10.
- Good works however have no place in the obtaining of salvation,Eph.2:8,9,Titus 3:5,but are a principal evidence of our experience of salvation., James 2:17;We are born again to do good works God has prepared in advance for us to do,Eph.2:10.
- Works cannot be divorced from words, and goodness shows itself in speech, Matt.12:34, Lk.6:45, 2Thes.2:17, speech that builds others up, Eph.4:29 and avoids speaking evil, Tit.3:1, 2.
- Goodness never pays wrong for wrong, but always tries to be kind, 1Thes.5:15, not only to fellow Christians but to everyone, Gal.6:10.
- Goodness is displayed in all kinds of good deeds such as bringing up children well, showing hospitality, doing menial tasks for others and the Church, helping those in trouble, and being ready to do whatever is good whenever the opportunity presents itself,1Tim.5:10,Tit.3:1.
- Good works do not have to be forced upon goodness, rather they are spontaneous and willing, Philemon 14.
- God provides strength and encouragement to persevere in good works, 2Thes.2:16, 17, Heb.13:20, 21.
- Be eager therefore to do good, 1Pet.3:13.

CONCLUSION!

I will finish with the following story:

There was a man called George Washington Carver, who was born a slave. He struggled against tremendous odds to achieve an education. Finally, after years of abuse he finished his master's degree and was asked to accept a position with Iowa University as a Lecturer. It was a good job and no any other Negro had ever had such a high place. At last he could relax and enjoy the comforts of his society. People at the University loved him and sat eagerly in his lectures. A letter came from Booker T. Washington asking the young scientist to join him in a dream to educate Negroes of the South. He left his comfortable post at the University and travelled to the parched cotton lands of the South to live and work among his starving people. Years of sacrifice and insult followed, but slowly and surely this great soul saved his people from sure starvation and brought them a dignity that would raise them forever from the slave class.

When questioned about his brilliance, Carver always said the good Lord gave him everything. He refused to accept money for and of his discoveries, rather choosing to give them free to anyone who asked for them. Three presidents claimed him as a friend. Great Industries vied for his service and even a certain man named Thomas Edison offered him a beautiful new laboratory and a \$100,000 a year salary. When Carver turned it down critics commented, "If you had all this money you could help your people." Carver simply replied, "If I had all that money I might forget my people."

Waal, this George possessed special GOODNESS!!!

May God help us to love Him more and more and always desire to be fruitful in our Christian journey!

