

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, **goodness**, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Quote: Daily choose to “do all the good you can; to all the people you can; in all the ways you can; as often as you can; and as long as you can.” Charles Spurgeon

Goodness speaks of moral character that leads us “to *give* what we have and what we are to others by *doing* all the possible good that we can.”¹ Goodness in character seeks to please the Lord. “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for *the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth*), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.”² Christians are to “Test all things (and to) hold fast what is good.”³ They are to examine everything through the filter of the Bible.

Goodness in conduct keeps in mind the coming harvest from the good deeds that we sow. “And let us not grow weary while *doing good*, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us *do good to all*, especially to those who are of the *household of faith*.”⁴ Few things bring greater joy than doing something good for others without trying to be noticed. Good character does not lead to good conduct towards others only when it is convenient, or popular, or to our advantage. Whenever an opportunity arises, good character does good deeds for God’s glory and the eternal welfare of others. We must purpose to BE good by God’s grace in order that we might DO good for God’s glory. In writing to Roman believers about their liberty in Christ, Paul said, “Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are *full of goodness* [*“high moral character”*], filled with all *knowledge*, able also to admonish one

another.”⁵ Paul taught them of doctrine, of duty and of danger in the context of how they impacted others by unselfishly doing what was in the best interest of their souls. That included admonishing brothers or sisters in Christ in love and meekness. The key to being filled with goodness is found in the previous verse. “Now may the God of hope fill you with all *joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*.”⁵ Those whom God has filled with joy and peace, abound in hope and overflow with goodness!

Speaking of the judgment when He returns, Christ taught, “Then the King will say to those on His right hand (believers), ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then *the righteous* will answer

Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, *inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me*.’”⁶ Jesus then describes the frightening harvest that awaits those who offer no evidence of true conversion and no gratitude for grace that issues forth in meeting the needs of others in His name.⁷ Does the *grace* of a heart made new manifest itself in the grace of goodness to others for God’s glory in your life?⁸

The Spirit’s fruit, goodness

Psalm 107:8-9 “Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for *His goodness*, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness.”

1 W. Burkitt 2 Ephesians 5:8-13 3 I Thessalonians 5:21 4 Galatians 6:9-10 5 Romans 15:13-14 6 Matthew 25:34-40 7 Matthew 25:41-46 8 II Corinthians 9:6-8; Proverbs 11:24, 25; 28:27