



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday –August 31, 2025

To Know Christ...

The fruit of the Spirit is ... Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, and the next aspect of this spiritual fruit is Goodness. (Galatians 5:22) God is Good! (Mark 10:18) What is "goodness" in Scripture? It may not be what we typically think. We often think of good in opposition to what is evil. This, however, is *also* about morally good actions or deeds that are beneficial in their effect. **"Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great."** (Luke 8:8a) The "good" soil provides what is beneficial to the seed. Agriculturally, we understand the principle. The good soil provides mineral nutrients, retaining moisture, and even stability for roots to thrive. That goodness, provided by the soil, is entirely beneficial for the seed to mature and produce. Goodness looks far beyond itself.

With deeds that are spiritually beneficial to others, we also find peace in our service toward the Lord. Romans 2:9-10a, **"There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good."** What is the outcome of evil & self-centered deeds? Yet there is glory, honor, and peace to everyone who practices character that is morally good as well as beneficial to the Lord and others. Not because it is easy, not because it is convenient, but because it is GOOD! Jesus gave us many examples of goodness: the Samaritan woman at the well, the woman at Simon's house, Mary who anointed Jesus' feet, and even forgiving a paralyzed man. (Being only a small sample.) Who benefited? Will you put your reputation on the line for someone else's benefit? Barnabas did when bringing Saul (after his conversion) to the apostles. (**Acts 9:26-31**; Read the whole story ... notice the benefit it gave in the comfort of the Spirit!) It turned out beneficial to 1,000's, by one good deed. It is amazing what the Lord can do with "good" selfless people who will love under fire!

Have you discovered the goodness of Jesus? He offered His Good Life to God. A goodness that benefited sinners to be able to find peace through His death, eradicating the penalty of sin by

His Grace. The outcome of His goodness was rendered back to Him. He was given a name above every name! (Philippians 2:9) Was God faithful to His Son? Will He be faithful to those who practice goodness? ... **“With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.”** (Ephesians 6:7-8) What will be the outcome of walking by the Spirit to do good? It’s time to be thoughtful and intentional, no longer seeking a mere benefit for oneself. Expect it of yourself, not others. Everyone did not respond to Jesus’ goodness either! Is it time to change who and why we serve? Walk by the Spirit.

- Carey Terry