

Week of July 23, 2017

This Week's Focus: God displays his goodness and generosity toward us by the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ whose perfect life, atoning death, and resurrection from the grave purchased the salvation of all who believe.

This Week's Text: Galatians 5:22-23

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." **Ephesians 2:8-10**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- Goodness can be defined as "moral and spiritual excellence displayed by generosity." Who is the single source of goodness? Give some examples of how God displays his goodness. How has God been good and generous to you?
- Are humans naturally good? (Romans 3:10-12) Does practicing good deeds make us good? Does the fact that we are made in the image and likeness of God mean that we are good? What's your default method of working toward goodness?
- What is the gospel? (Ephesians 2:8-9) Discuss how the gospel (God's goodness displayed through his Son Jesus Christ) is the only way to be made good. What is the difference between a morally restrained heart relying on the law and a supernaturally renewed heart resting in the gospel?
- Is God's coming judgement toward unrepentant sinners at odds with his goodness? How will believers be judged on the final day? (2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Corinthians 3:12-15)
- As Christians, what does it mean that we have been "created in Christ Jesus for good works"? (Ephesians 2:10) What is the motivation behind our good works? (Matthew 5:16, 25:34-40)
- To whom are we called to love and express the goodness of God? (Colossians 3:17; Galatians 6:10) Discuss some practical ways we can express the goodness of God to our family (spouse, children, parents, etc.), friends, co-workers, the poor and needy, and our enemies

- How do we grow in goodness (and all of the elements of the Fruit of the Spirit) and overcome our fleshly desires?
- Discuss how this week's passage encourages you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence.