

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Goodness**

"There is no greatness where there is no simplicity, goodness and truth." – Leo Tolstoy

"Every good thing in my life exists because of God's goodness." – unknown

"Never let a bad person change your inner goodness." – Karen Salmansohn

"Good people bring out the good in other people." – unknown

"Goodness is love in action, love with its hand to the plow, love with the burden on its back, love following his footsteps who went about continually doing good." – James Hamilton

Merriam-Webster defines *good* as, "of a favorable character or tendency." There is an online dictionary that, in the noun form, defines it as, "That which is morally right; righteousness."

In our modern vernacular, we tend to speak of things that are opposites; good and evil, right and wrong, and light and darkness. We could, in fact, define goodness as the absence of evil.

Often people make comments such as, "She is a good person," or, "He is morally good." We tend to use it more in a descriptive sense.

The word "good" is used 699 times in Scripture. "Goodness" is used 45 times. Obviously, there is some importance attached to the concept.

From the Christian standpoint, we look upon this from a moral aspect. We try to avoid those things that are evil. Therefore, we strive to be morally good in our conduct, morally good in our speech, and yes, morally good in our appearance.

The Proverb writer states, "So you may walk in the way of goodness, and keep to the paths of righteousness. For the upright will dwell in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it" (Prov. 2:20-22).

Although the word "good" or "goodness" does not appear in the following text, the concept certainly does. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age" (Tit. 2:11-12).

How would the people of the world describe your life? Do you remember that the apostle Paul spoke of people seeing you for what you are? "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men" (2 Cor. 3:2). Many people gloss over the last part of that verse. Hear it again, "Known and read by all men!" Would it surprise you that you are supposed to be a living advertisement for Christ? How is your goodness?