

The Fruit of the Spirit

(Lesson 7)

Introduction:

1. "The fruit of the Spirit" consists of 9 characteristics listed in Galatians 5:22-23.
2. "Goodness" is the sixth of these special characteristics.
3. "Goodness" is generally defined as "uprightness of heart and life."
4. "Goodness" involves:
 - a. abstaining from evil activities such as those listed in Galatians 5:19-21
 - 1) We must purge ourselves of evil so we can be sanctified and "*prepared unto every good work*" (2 Timothy 2:19-21).
 - 2) We are to "*eschew evil, and do good*" (1 Peter 3:10-11).
 - 3) We must not follow that which is evil, but that which is good (3 John 11).
 - b. doing that which is good.
 - 1) Two Bible characters known for their goodness were Dorcas (Acts 9:36-39) and Barnabas (Acts 11:22-24).
 - 2) They were imitating Christ "*who went about doing good*" (Acts 10:38).

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE TEACHES CHRISTIANS TO DO GOOD
 - A. Galatians 6:10
 - B. Ephesians 2:10
 - C. Titus 2:14; 3:1, 8, 14
- II. THE BIBLE ALSO CONTAINS INFORMATION THAT WILL HELP CHRISTIANS TO DO GOOD
 - A. We must have good hearts because our hearts will determine what we do (Luke 6:45).
 - B. We must develop and practice "discernment" (Hebrews 5:14).
 - C. Discernment will allow us to follow the instructions given in 1 Thessalonians 5:21.
 - D. We must allow the Scriptures to completely equip us unto good works (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 - E. Remembering certain principles will motivate us to do good works.
 1. Our good works will influence others (Matthew 5:16).
 2. Doing good will be important at the judgment (John 5:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:10).
 3. God will bless those who do well (Galatians 6:9).