

Fruit of Goodness  
Eph.5:8-10; 2Thes.1:11  
3-07-2010

What do you think of when someone speaks of goodness? Was Jesus acting out of His goodness when he cleansed the temple? How about when Jesus scolded a disciple (Peter) for trying to talk Him out of going to Jerusalem? What I have come to learn about goodness is that it is a power to perform great things. Many of our hospitals came into place by the driving force of goodness. Many other things that are done receive their energy from this compelling force. The fight against abortion is a wonderful example of this. Imbedded in this quality is the strength for rebuke, correction, and instruction. When goodness sets its sights to a task, it can carry in its wake a tremendous inertia that cascades over many an obstacle.

Paul is the only one to use the word Goodness. (Rom.15:14; Gal.5:22; Eph.5:9; and 2Thes.1:11) From these passages we only see a hint of the word's imbedded power.

2Thes.1:11 gives a hint of what might be hidden within Paul's intent. In this passage goodness and work of faith seem both to be joined to the word "power." Paul's desire and prayer is that they may accomplish in power; their every good pleasure of goodness and their every work of faith. For the sake of clarity let's consult the rest of Holy Scripture for some understanding. The word that Paul uses shows up in several places of interest in the Septuagint version of the Old Testament. Psalm 52:3 (51:3 in LXX) and for our scrutiny Neh 9:25, 35 (God's Goodness) and 2Chron.24:16.

Jehoiada is a wonderful place to look for this quality of goodness to be portrayed for us. The context that must be

looked at is the window of this priest's life that scripture opens up for us from 2Chron.22:10 - 24:16 and 2Kings 11:4-12:16. I'll try to sum up the narrative:

Jehoiada is priest, his wife Jehosheba is the daughter of King Jehoram or Joram. She is also a sister to King Ahaziah. When he was killed Athalia began to kill every one of the other family members who had a claim to the throne which she herself usurped and ruled the kingdom from. Jehosheba rescued Joash the infant son of King Ahaziah from that destruction. She hid Joash, who was a year old or there about, for 6 years. At seven Jehoiada succeeded in making the necessary alliances and was able to bring Joash out of hiding and anoint and crown him King of Judah. This event brought about the death of queen Athaliah.

By the council of Jehoiada, the Priest, Joash restored much of the state of the Kingdom and the operations of the Temple back to the worship of God. 2Chron.24:2 and 14-16 give us the insight of Jehoiada's drive. Verse 16 from the LXX translates: "And they buried him (Jehoiada) in the city of David with the Kings because he worked goodness with Israel and with God and His house. ***Goodness is the energy that strives for right things!***

Goodness when exercised in a persons life looks for good and right and just things to be done and then sets out to accomplish what their faith prompts them to do for God and His people and His Kingdom and also the rest of the world.

*This is why we pray all the time for you, that you may be found worthy of our God's calling in order that you may with power fulfill every good pleasure of goodness and every work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. (2Thes.1:11-12)*