

## Life to the Fullest: I Choose Goodness

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Boca Raton Community Church, Boca Raton, FL

Many people go to church because they think it is good for them, not because they enjoy it or really understand it. They go because they believe it is a way to get “extra credit” with God.

What does the Bible teach about goodness?

The word *goodness* (*agathos*) means uprightness of heart and life.

### NO ONE IS GOOD ENOUGH TO GO TO HEAVEN

“Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?’ Mark 10:17

The law acts as a mirror to show us the lack of goodness in our lives.

“The worst of human badness is human goodness when it becomes a substitute for the new birth.” —Adrian Rogers

“If you want to be good, first believe that you are bad.” —Epictetus

“. . . There is none who does good, no, not one.” Romans 3:12b

Heaven is not based on a final “weigh down” on the scales of justice.

### EVERYONE KNOWS THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL

Every classic tale and fantasy is built on the tension between good and evil.

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21

There is a battle in this world and the Bible acknowledges our need to exercise goodness over evil.

In World War II during the Holocaust, there were painful experiments performed, intentional germ infestations, and furnaces built to burn millions of people. What? How? Why? Was it due to ignorance? Half of Hitler’s officers had master’s and doctor’s degrees.

We don’t have to look at history of society to see the evil in this world. We only need to look inside us.

“So I find this law at work: when I want to do good, evil is right there with me.” Romans 7:21

We are all weighted with a sinful nature anchor that goes against God. It creates a “tug of war” in our lives.

*Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here’s my heart, Lord, take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.*

## **GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO IS TRULY GOOD**

“No one is good but One, that is, God.” Mark 10:18b

The Bible extols the goodness of God. Let’s proclaim it!

**His plan.** “And God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.” Genesis 1:31

**His provision.** “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is not variation or shadow of turning.” James 1:7

Of all the provisions God has made, surely the provision of a payment for sin in Jesus Christ is the ultimate! In the Mark 10 passage, to call Jesus good was to call Him God. In His goodness, God became a man to provide Himself as a sacrifice for our sin.

**His promises.** “For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.” Psalm 100:5

“The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.” Nahum 1:7

**His purposes.** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed into this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1-2

“Being confident of this very thing, He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Phil. 1:6

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

*God is good all the time.  
All the time, God is good!*

## **GOD INVITES EACH OF US TO KNOW AND SHARE THE GOOD LIFE!**

The Christian life is the good life!

The Christian life is a life of **good works**.

“For by grace you are saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created by Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10

Good works can never take you to heaven, but the surest sign you are headed there is when your life begins to show good works.

“Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.” III John 11

The Christian life is a life of **good wealth**.

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a

good foundation for the future, so they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”

I Timothy 6:17-19

The Christian life is a life of **good witness**.

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

*You are writing a Gospel,  
a chapter each day.  
By the deeds that you do,  
by the words you say.  
Men see what you write,  
whether you're faithless or true.  
Say what is the Gospel according to you?*

Through the New Covenant, you are called to live the good life!

“In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He has loved us and sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another.” I John 4:9-11

This message was preached from the pulpit of Boca Raton Community Church, Boca Raton, Florida, on Sunday, May 27, 2001, by Dr. David H. McKinley, Senior Pastor. The complete message is available on audio cassette tape through the media ministry of Boca Raton Community Church. To order this message, simply email us at [tapes@bocacommunity.org](mailto:tapes@bocacommunity.org) and specify the message title, date, and billing information. (\$4 per tape including shipping and handling).