



Word Study on "Goodness"

Goodness - moral excellence; virtue; pleasant, excellent, useful, honorable

Please read the following passages and answer the associated questions.

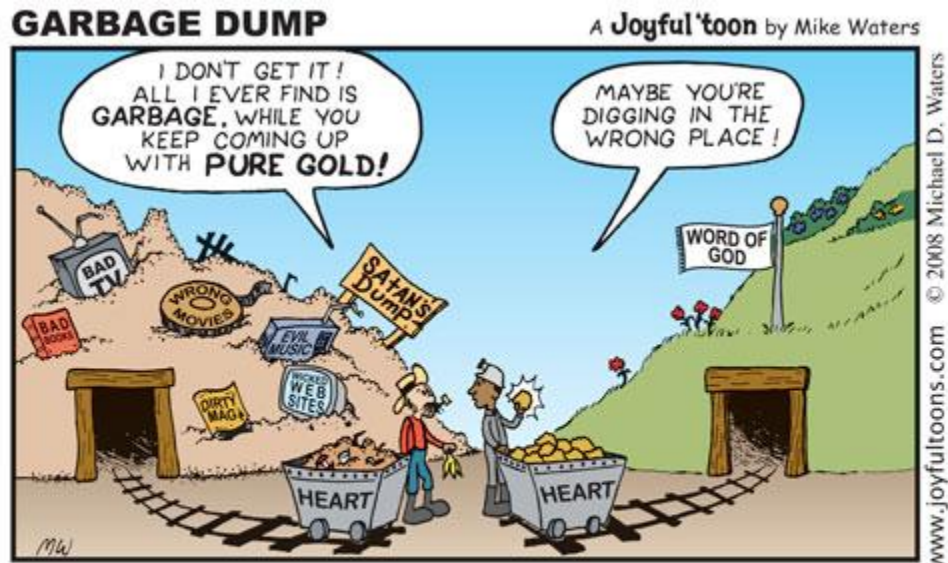
[A] In Matthew 13:3-9, 13:18-23; what is the difference between the good soil and the other soils? _____

[B] In Matthew 13:24-30, 13:36-43 what happens to the tares crop? _____
(Tares were a useless, fruitless plant that looked similar to wheat)

[C] In Galatians 6:7-10 are we to treat Christians differently? _____

[D] In Luke 6:27 what are we to do for those who hate us? _____

[E] In Luke 6:43-45 what is the same about trees and people? _____



The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.
- LUKE 6:45 NIV

[F] In John 10:11-18 what does a good shepherd do? _____

[G] In Hebrews 13:16 what does the writer call sharing and doing good? _____

[H] In 1 Timothy 6:12-19 the word "good" is used six times. Does it always mean the same thing? Explain.

Think & Pray _____

-----"GOODNESS" ANSWERS -----

- [A] In Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23; what is the difference between the good soil and the other soils?
The good soil grows an abundant crop which matures to fruitfulness. Mt 13:8 & 23.
- [B] In Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43 what happens to the tares crop? It is burned Mt 13:30, 41-42
- [C] In Galatians 6:7-10 are we to treat Christians differently? Yes, extra good Gal 6:10
- [D] In Luke 6:27 what are we to do for those who hate us? Good
- [E] In Luke 6:43-45 what is the same about trees and people?
Good comes from good, bad comes from bad.
- [F] In John 10:11-18 what does a good shepherd do? He lays down his life for the sheep (Verses 11, 15, 17-18)
- [G] IN Hebrews 13:16 what does the writer call sharing and doing good? Sacrifices

[H] A lot of this is a matter of opinion. Her are my opinions:

1 Timothy 6:12. "Good fight of faith" means to live in righteousness

1 Timothy 6:12 & 13 "Good confession" means to tell the truth.

1 Timothy 6:18 "Do good" means to be righteous and moral in behavior.

1 Timothy 6:18 "Good works" means to be kind and charitable to others in concrete ways.

1 Timothy 6:19 "Storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future" means transferring their earthly riches into heavenly riches by spending their earthly wealth on showing the love of God to others.

The Greek word translated "goodness" in Galatians 5:22 has the same ambiguity as the corresponding English term. Sometimes it means "moral righteousness" and sometimes it means "the right thing for some purpose, useful, reliable, beneficial" Since the context in Galatians 5 is a list, it is very difficult to say for sure which is meant in this case. In my opinion, because the preceding term had to do with doing useful things for the benefit of others, I take "goodness" here to mean "moral righteousness", since "usefulness" was covered to some extent in the previous term. On the other hand, Greek had a more concise term for righteousness, which Paul could have used if the distinction was important.

For further thought:

(i) Mark 10:18 and Luke 18:19 both say, "And Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.'" What does this mean?

(j) What can you add to this list of "good" deeds?

Doing your duty

Doing what is right, especially when it would be more convenient to do wrong

Obeying His word to the best of your understanding

Always telling the truth

Which of these do you do? What is your plan for doing good in the future?

(k) What does Romans 7:12-25 mean?

(l) Compare Ephesians 5:1-21 with Galatians 5:16-26. What is the same? What is different?

(m) Is the "goodness" in Galatians 5:22 and the "goodness" in Jeremiah 31:14 and Hosea 3:5 the same thing, or not? Why?

(n) Use a concordance to look up and discuss passages containing the word "good". "Good", or some form of the word "good", appears over 650 times in the Bible. However, you need to be aware that sometimes it means good as in "useful" or "good for something," and sometimes it means good as in "moral" or "righteous." Sometimes it may mean both.