



*My
Goodness!*

WHY CAN'T WE ALL AGREE ON WHAT IS “GOOD?”

People base their notion of
good on MANY DIFFERENT
factors!

In the New Testament:

kalos = good (of form) i.e.
beauty [good to look at]

agathos = good (of function)
i.e. *character* [good in
characteristics of its nature]

Jesus said, “Only GOD is good.”
(Mark 10:13)

God's will is good (*Romans 12:2*)

God's work is good. (*Phil. 1:6*)

God's will works out all
circumstances for our good.
(*Romans 8:28*)

God's will **PLANS** good (*sovereignty*)

God's character **PERFORMS** good
(*example*)

God's instruction **DEFINES** good
(*authority*)

God's presence **ENABLES** good
(*power*)

God's Orders Our Delight

Scripture says that at God's judgment, no person will be able to determine or designate which were their "good" works. Only God will decide. And some things which we felt were good will not make the cut! WHY?

(1 Cor. 3:12-15)

GOD defines good by **motive**,
rather than effort, expense,
achievement, or praise.

Deeds done to exalt **self** will not survive, even though human good may have come from them. God refers to them as “wood, hay, or straw.”





EXAMPLE

Pharisees (*Mt. 23*) Good deeds >
self-promotion **CONDEMNATION**

“sheep” (*Mt. 25*) Good deeds >
no self-awareness **REWARD**

True GOODNESS is unconscious of **itself** or its **merits**! It is the outflow of God's nature within, the overflow of a heart of love.

Genuine goodness (from an inner
life given completely to God)
simply reacts unconsciously
in the same way God would act.

Real goodness is not
glancing sideways to see
who is looking. It is not trying
to meet a standard. It is not
motivated by praise.

“A good tree bears good fruit... thus
by their fruit you will know”

(Mt. 7:17,20) i.e. the fruit has no
choice but to be of the same type
as the tree!

Sometimes “doing good” is
easy and fun, while sometimes
it is excruciatingly difficult!

(Mt. 19:16-24)

Sometimes “good deeds” are
twisted, criticized, or even
punished!

(John 10:31-32)

A Christian should move
beyond simply being willing
to do good and actually seek
to initiate “good!

willing

- if opportunity arises
- if prompted
- if necessary

want

- search for opportunity
- excited and self-motivated
- if possible

“Jesus went about DOING GOOD”
(*ACTS 10:38*)