



“Queen Esther Approaching the Palace of Ahasuerus” by Claude Lorrain (né Claude Gellée ca. 1604–1682)

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Services @8:30 am & 10:45 am

Pastor David Rawley brings
the message:

“Goodness”

A BOOK OF ESTHER SERMON

@Otterbein Church

OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

146 Leitersburg St.

Greencastle, PA 17225-1346

Several different Sunday School
classes for children, teens, and adults
are offered: 9:50 am–10:35 am.

Still other seed fell on GOOD soil,
where it produced a crop... many
times what was sown.

The GOOD soil is the man who
hears the word and understands it.
He produces a crop... (*Mt. 13:8, 23*)

Goodness inherently contains
benefits and **value**.

Goodness **improves** conditions or provides **possibility** for future improvement.

Goodness **provides** favor, love, blessings,
unity, prosperity, generosity, confidence, ETC.

Goodness seeks **positive** outcomes,
peaceful relationships, and
practical achievements.

GOD. Moral perfection AND mercy
toward humans (who are not perfect).

WORKS of God. To us, they
reveal wisdom and power
beyond our comprehension!

GIFTS of God. Both material **creation** and human **relation**, benefit our existence.

Even you who are evil know how to give GOOD gifts to your children. Well, duh! Don't you think God will give GOOD gifts to those who ask him? *(Mt. 7:11, paraphrased!)*

Every GOOD and perfect gift comes down from above, from the Father... (*Jm. 1:17*)

Apart from you, O Lord, I have nothing GOOD!
(Ps. 16:2)

But Jesus has come as the high priest of
the GOOD things that are already here!

(Heb. 9:11)

GOD is the norm, standard, arbiter, and judge of goodness.

Why do you call me good? There is only one who is good. That is God. *(Mt. 10:18)*

Therefore, [morally] there is a difference between nice and good. People are GOOD only so far as they follow the purpose and accept the will of God.

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness. *(Is. 5:20)*

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man,
what is GOOD. And what does the Lord
God require of you? To show **justice**, to
love **mercy**, and to walk in **humility** with
your Lord.

Mordecai was highly regarded? **Why?**
(Esther 10)

- WORKED for good of the people (tob...
advantage, opportunity)
- SPOKE UP for the WELFARE (shalom...
well being) of the Jewish [disadvantaged]
people.

1. Work for good presupposes a heart of goodness.

But the seed on good soil stands for someone with a noble and good heart who hears the word, retains it, and perseveres until they produce a harvest. (*Luke 8:15*)

2. A heart of goodness is vigilant
to **recognize** and **avoid** evil.

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit... (*Mt. 7:15*)

Good works cannot earn salvation. *HOWEVER...*

Saved people are equipped and expected to do GOOD WORKS!

You are God's craftsmanship, created in Christ, to do good works (which God has already prepared for you to do!) (*Eph. 2:10*)

And God is able to make all grace
abound to you so that in all times and
places having all that you need, you
will abound in every GOOD WORK!

(11 Cor. 9:8)

Let your light so shine in the presence of men that they will see your GOOD WORKS and glorify your Father in heaven! *(Mt. 5:16)*

... a people that are his own, eager
to do GOOD WORKS... devoted to
doing good works. (*Titus 2, 3*)

[having to do with leadership and governing].

For he is God's servant to DO YOU GOOD!

(Rom. 13:4)