



James 1:19-27 Hearing and Doing the Word Part 1: The Word of God is Good!

May 3, 2015

Text (for all of May ☺): James 1:19-27

1. Last week, Pastor Wilson's final point was, "God is supremely good and cannot change. By God's will and God's power we were raised from the dead. All of this was accomplished by God's Gospel that we would be God's perfect bride. Do not be tricked into thinking anything otherwise!"
 - In essence, the Lord is **Good!** ☺
2. The week before, Pastor White's final point was, "We were all born into Adam's physical family—the family line that leads to certain death. All of us have reaped the results of Adam's sin. We have inherited his guilt, the tendency to sin and God's punishment. But because of Jesus, we can trade judgment for forgiveness, and we trade our sin for Jesus' righteousness. Christ offers us the opportunity to be born into his spiritual family—the family line that begins with forgiveness and leads to eternal life. If we do nothing, we have death through Adam; but if we come to God by faith, we have life through Christ."
 - In essence, the Lord is **Good!** ☺
3. The week before that, Dr. Voddie Baucham taught on Titus 2:1-8, "*Tit 2:1-8 ESV But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. (2) Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. (3) Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, (4) and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, (5) to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. (6) Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. (7) Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, (8) and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.*"
 - He gave us a three-legged stool of discipleship in the church: 1) "Godly, mature men and women in the church" 2) "Godly, manly, elders in the church" and 3) "Biblically-functioning homes."
 - As challenging as that message was, in essence, what we can see is that what the Lord wants to do in His church and in our families is **Good!** ☺
4. And the week before that (Resurrection Sunday), my final thought was this: "*Eph 2:10 ESV For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*"
 - In essence, because God is so **Good**, we should go and do good! ☺
5. Today, as we begin a VERY important month of teaching and prayer for CRCC, I'd simply like to add to all this "goodness" that **The Word of God is Good!**

Personal thoughts on this text and "where we are:"

1. First, there is a lot of good in this text for this church RIGHT NOW. So much so, we will study it the entire month of May!
2. Today though, isn't about exegesis: it's about continuing to develop and build a **mindset** concerning God's amazing goodness.
3. So often, precious friends, whether we want to admit it or not, we fight the goodness of God as revealed in the Scriptures; we bristle at the commands of the Lord; we hesitate to be obedient...as if somehow we think that God's Word isn't good!
4. This has been the struggle of man from the beginning. God's Word to Adam and Eve concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was **GOOD**: don't eat its fruit or you will surely die! (Gen 1:17)

5. Friends, we are a church that has learned SO MUCH. I mean overwhelming amounts of teaching. The question before God for CRCC is, "Will we DO or will we be self-deceived?"
6. Will we work to see God's statutes and directives as **good** or allow ourselves to fall for the world's deception and see them as "restrictive," "old-fashioned," "out of touch," or even "evil?"
7. My goal today, by God's great mercy, is to simply let the **Goodness** of the Scriptures speak for itself. Grab your Bible...and let's read! ☺

The Public Reading of Scripture (1 Tim 4:13) ==> The Word of God is Good!

Note: As we read, note the passages that really minister to you for further study this week. ☺

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| 1. John 1:1-3, 14 | 6. Revelation 1:3 |
| 2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 | 7. Luke 11:27-28 |
| 3. Hebrews 4:11-13 | 8. Psalms 1:1-3 |
| 4. Romans 15:4-6 | 9. Psalms 19:7-11 |
| 5. Proverbs 13:13 | 10. Psalms 119 |

Closing Thoughts and Requests

1. **My prayer for the month of May is that we embrace the overwhelming goodness of God in Christ towards us; that we see and believe that His commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:3)!**
2. **Oh precious friends, if we would only follow Scripture! In how we talk to one another, forgive one another, love one another, correct one another, conduct our marriages and single lives and parenting and money and leadership! He's told us what to do, and it is good!**
3. God is GOOD! His precepts are GOOD! He isn't trying to hurt us by instructing us! He does so because He loves us!
4. I'm asking you to read your Bibles with more diligence in May. Breathe in the heart of God for lost souls and His church and our daily living. Read it **every day**.
5. Please do so with a heart of **humility**. Approach the Scriptures like a child...**humbly**. This will be the key to CRCC emerging from the place of tension and anxiety to peace and love in Jesus.

Amen.

Mother's Day next week: More thoughts on our text and some encouragement from Mary's wonderful statement: "Do whatever He tells you." (John 2:5) ☺