

Home Group Notes
Week of January 21, 2024
"You CAN Have it All" week #3 - Goodness



A FORBIDDEN WORD

My son was an English teacher that taught writing classes at a community college. One of the forbidden words to use in a paper was "good." In our culture, this word is overused and vague. When you were a 10-year-old, what did it mean to be "good?"

IN PURSUIT OF GOODNESS

But in our study for this week, "goodness" is a quality to be pursued. The apostle Peter wrote this, *"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and **goodness**. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith **goodness**."* (2 Peter 1:3-5)

The word translated as "goodness" (NIV), or "virtue" is the Greek word *aretē*. It can also mean "excellence." As Pastor Doug explained on Sunday, the root meaning of the word means 'to fulfill the purpose for which it was made.' For example, "virtue" can mean, "conformity to a standard of right." In this case, virtue could mean in our passage, the call to live out what is right before God. The idea of "excellence" describes the quality of being "eminently good." And "goodness" in our passage would mean to be "good" as God is "good," (verse three) to live as God intends.

To understand what Peter means by adding goodness, look up the specific applications found in chapter three of this letter. Read 2 Peter 3:1-16 and consider the questions.

What was Peter's purposes for writing this letter? (1-2) How are these purposes connected with "goodness" (fulfilling the purpose / conforming to being right)?

Reread the passage and consider what we learn about the character and actions of God. What actions remind us that God is "good."

Read 3:11-16 and consider these questions:

According to verse 12, how should we live to fulfill our purpose as followers of Jesus?

According to verse 13, how should we live to fulfill our purpose as followers of Jesus?

According to verse 14, how should we live to fulfill our purpose as followers of Jesus?

According to verse 17, how should we live to fulfill our purpose as followers of Jesus?

According to verse 18, how should we live to fulfill our purposes as followers of Jesus?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What should motivate us to add “goodness” to our faith? What shouldn’t be the reason?

According to chapter three, what is required of us to add goodness?

Is this not just being religious? Why or why not?

PLEASE PRAY

- God is doing amazing things in Micah House. Please pray for the team and the students.
- Pray for the search team as they consider candidates for our next Lead Pastor.
- Pray for the Global Partner Care Team as they travel to encourage our partners.
- Pray for the Ohana Team as they travel to support teams on the field.