

What Is Goodness?

Very often, when a man dies his friends will comment: “He had his faults, but he was a good man.” By and large we tend to look upon ourselves as good rather than evil. But are such comments and estimates of our lives valid? What is the standard by which we determine goodness?

When a certain man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” Jesus responded, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.” Jesus plainly declares that goodness is godliness, and godliness means conformity to God’s perfect law. The Savior’s reply was not intended to deny his own goodness, but to protest against a loose or light use of the word “good,” for to be good is to be like God himself.

How can men who love their own ways be brought to love God’s ways and thus become good? How can man’s imperfect and unstable obedience ever be turned into goodness?

The Savior who was able to make men think about what goodness is, also is able to make men good. He does not do it by setting them an example to follow, for they could do that only imperfectly. He does not do it by a display of his love to move their wills to obedience, for their wills are weak and controlled by their sin. No, he makes men good by *remaking* them.

Jesus Christ became the fountain of human goodness when he died in our place that our sin might be forgiven. And with our sin forgiven, we are given by his Holy Spirit the kind of nature that loves righteousness and no more seeks only its own way. Goodness is godliness and it springs from the fountain filled with blood.

*Not by works of
righteousness
which we have
done,
but according to
his mercy he
saved us...*

Titus 3:5

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor! We would like to keep in touch with you. Please use the QR code to tell us about yourself.



Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 76

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 32

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty, eternal God and Father, we confess and acknowledge unto thee that we were conceived in unrighteousness and are full of sin and transgression in all our life. We do not fully believe thy Word nor follow thy holy commandments. Remember thy goodness, we beseech thee, and for thy Name's sake be gracious unto us, and forgive us our iniquity which, alas, is great.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 103:10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Psalm 103:11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Psalm 103:12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 78

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 225

“Once in Royal David's City”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 41:8-13, pew Bible p. 601

Sermon

ISRAEL THE SERVANT OF THE LORD

*Hymn of Response # 203

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.

Sunday, November 16. The Berkeley Half Marathon will be run which will result in street closures and detours at various locations in the City of Berkeley. I-80 freeway exits for University Ave. will be closed from 6:00am-12:00pm. Please see the enclosed map for street closure and detour information.

Sundays, November 16 and 23. Thank Offering 2025-*Make Known His Deeds Among the Peoples*. Each year the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church sets a Worldwide Outreach budget for the following year which represents the denomination's commitment to missionary and educational work. Each year the denomination has a Thank Offering to help meet that budget. If you wish to designate your gift for the Thank Offering, you may simply mark your check “Thank Offering”.