

2009 Summer Series - The Fruit of the Spirit**“Goodness”***Bob McCoy*

Introduction: ... some observations on the first 5 “tastes” of Spirit-induced “fruit”

Text: Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:9

Main Idea: God seeks to help us understand “goodness” in three ways:

I. The Language of Good(ness)

- A. The problem of “inflationary language” and Genesis 1
- B. The perspective of an infinite reference point – Who gets to define what is “good” vs. what is “not so good”...

II. The Learning of the Goodness of God

- A. In the lives of “His people”
 - 1. Realizing “goodness” in the face of evil - Genesis 50:19-21
 - Joseph’s encounter with the fractures of family
 - 2. Realizing “goodness” in the face of eternity – Exodus 33:19
 - Moses’ encounter with the “face” of God
 - selected other verses describing this same personal encounter
- B. In the law that He proclaims - Psalm 119:38-40; Romans 7:12

III. The Lifestyle of Goodness

- A. God’s goodness is both kind and strong – cf. Gk. *agathosune*
- B. God’s goodness is both immediate and long-term
- C. God’s goodness is not “safe” but “good”

Conclusion: The LORD’s character in us produces a character that is strong, sustained, not safe...but good.