
CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES



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FEBRUARY 15, 2026
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

I.

SERMON RECAP

This week, Pastor Gary walked us through the fruit of the Spirit called goodness. From creation in Genesis onward, we saw that God Himself defines what is good. Over and over, Scripture says, “God saw that it was good.” Goodness is not vague positivity; it is what is pleasant, right, appropriate, becoming, and upright in the eyes of God. Pastor [Name] reminded us that in Christ our filthy-rag righteousness is exchanged for His righteousness, and by the Spirit we are enabled to become good men and good women—simple, faithful, steady people whose lives shine like light in a dark world.

We also heard that true goodness cannot ignore evil. In Ephesians 5, goodness, as “fruit of the light,” not only refuses to participate in darkness but actively exposes it. Pastor [Name] applied this to the horrific realities of abuse and exploitation in our world, calling the church to stop looking away and to step into its biblical role: speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves, refusing to tolerate wickedness, and seeking justice not as a political project but as an act of obedience to Christ. He warned that secrets keep both people and nations sick, and that the love of money is at the root of much of the evil we see.

Finally, the sermon turned toward Lent, confession, and repentance. Like Daniel and Nehemiah, the church is called to confess not only personal sin but also the sins of our people and our nation. Pastor [Name] challenged us to ask whether we are spiritually groggy, apathetic, and in danger of forsaking our first love. The call was simple and profound: let the Spirit plow the ground of our hearts, bring hidden things into the light, and participate in the brokenness and self-giving pictured at the Lord’s Table. A good man or woman, he said, is one who will sacrifice on behalf of others—even on behalf of their nation—through prayer, repentance, and courageous goodness.

May you walk this week as a child of light, letting your light so shine before others that they see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. May the Spirit give you both tenderness and courage: tenderness to repent, and courage to expose darkness with the light of Christ.

Suggested “Chapters” of the Message

- **“Let Your Light Shine” – Everyday Goodness**
- **“And God Saw That It Was Good” – Goodness in Creation**
- **Defining Goodness vs. Greatness**
- **Children of Light – Exposing Darkness**
- **Modern Darkness: Exposing Evil in Our Day**

- **Secrets Keep Us Sick – Personal Confession**
- **Lent, Sackcloth, and Ashes – Confessing for a People**
- **The Lord’s Table and the Cost of Goodness**

II.

STUDY GUIDE

Key Points

- **Goodness is rooted in God Himself.**
God repeatedly calls His creation “good.” Goodness is whatever aligns with His character and design, not just what feels pleasant to us.
- **Goodness needs community.**
“It is not good that the man should be alone.” We need others to share God’s goodness with, to serve, to love, and to walk with in holiness.
- **The fruit of the Spirit includes goodness.**
In Christ, by the Spirit, believers move from filthy-rag righteousness to true, Spirit-empowered goodness—uprightness of heart and life.
- **Chasing greatness can bypass goodness.**
A hunger for recognition, influence, or “platform” often causes people to compromise basic goodness—humility, honesty, and kindness.
- **Goodness stays under the radar.**
Following Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, good men and women practice hidden faithfulness, quiet generosity, and humble prayer.
- **Children of light must expose darkness.**
Ephesians 5 teaches that light not only avoids darkness but exposes it. Ignoring systemic evil is incompatible with biblical goodness.
- **The love of money drives deep evil.**
The love of money is “a root of all kinds of evils,” including exploitation of the vulnerable. Goodness requires we confront this idolatry.
- **God is no respecter of persons.**
No status, title, or office exempts a person from accountability. Biblical goodness demands equal scales and honest judgment.
- **Secrets keep us sick.**
Hidden, cyclical sin rots the soul. Confession and prayer with trusted believers are God’s pathway to healing.

- **Lent calls us to corporate repentance.**
Following Daniel and Nehemiah, the church is invited to confess not only personal sins but also the sins of the people and the nation.
- **Goodness is sacrificial.**
Truly good men and women are willing to sacrifice comfort, reputation, and even safety on behalf of others, grounded in the cross of Christ.

Key Scriptural References

- Genesis 1:3-4
And God said Let there be light and there was light
And God saw that the light was good And God separated the light from the darkness
- Genesis 1:10
God called the dry land Earth and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas And God saw that it was good
- Genesis 1:12
The earth brought forth vegetation plants yielding seed according to their own kinds and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed each

III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

Day 1: The Foundation of Goodness: Genesis 1:1-31

Devotional: From the beginning, God established what is good. As He spoke creation into existence, He paused repeatedly to declare His work "good" and finally "very good." This divine assessment sets the standard for understanding goodness—it originates with God Himself. In a world that constantly redefines morality, we anchor ourselves to the unchanging character of our Creator. Today, reflect on God's original design for your life. You were created in His image, declared good, and given purpose. When you feel uncertain about what is right or true, return to this foundation: God is good, His creation reflects His goodness, and He desires goodness to flourish through you. Let this truth reshape how you see yourself and others today.

Day 2: Exposing Darkness with Light: Ephesians 5:8-14

Devotional: Paul's urgent call to the Ephesian church echoes powerfully today: "Live as children of light." Goodness isn't passive—it actively exposes darkness. We're called not merely to avoid evil but to shine light into secret places where wickedness hides. This requires courage and spiritual sensitivity. Consider what darkness exists in your personal life that needs exposure—not for shame, but for healing. Secrets keep us sick. Confession brings freedom. On a broader scale, the church must speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, addressing injustice with both truth and compassion. Ask God today: Where am I looking the other way? What darkness in my life or community needs the disinfecting light of truth? Awakening begins with seeing clearly.

Day 3: The Cost of True Patriotism: Nehemiah 1:1-11

Devotional: Nehemiah models a profound truth: loving your nation means confessing its sins before God. When he heard of Jerusalem's ruin, he didn't blame others or defend his people's reputation—he sat down, wept, fasted, and confessed. "We have acted very wickedly toward you," he prayed, including himself in the corporate guilt. True patriotism isn't blind loyalty or political posturing; it's bringing your nation's failures before the throne of grace. Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin brings reproach. As believers, we carry responsibility to intercede for our communities and country, acknowledging where we've failed God's standards. Today, practice Nehemiah's humility. Pray not "they need to change" but "we have sinned." This posture of godly sorrow opens the door for genuine restoration.

Day 4: Lent—A Season of Godly Sorrow: Daniel 9:1-19

Devotional: Lent invites us into uncomfortable but necessary spiritual territory: sackcloth and ashes, fasting and mourning, honest assessment of our condition before God. Daniel's prayer demonstrates how the righteous intercede—not from superiority but from identification with the sins of their people. We cannot have a spiritual buffet, selecting only pleasant experiences while avoiding repentance. The journey to resurrection Sunday begins at the cross, and the cross represents brokenness, sacrifice, and death to self. This week, as Ash Wednesday approaches, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas needing confession—personal sins, family patterns, cultural compromises. Don't rush past the discomfort. Godly sorrow produces repentance that leads to salvation. The ashes remind us: from dust we came, and without God's mercy, to dust we return.

Day 5: Good Men and Women Stand Up by Falling Down: James 5:13-16

Devotional: The measure of goodness isn't greatness, fame, or achievement—it's faithfulness, integrity, and the courage to confess. James reveals a powerful truth: confession and prayer bring healing. When we create safe spaces for vulnerability, when we trust others with our struggles, we break the power of secret sins. Good men and women don't seek the spotlight; they stay under the radar, serve quietly, and intercede fervently. They fall on their knees for others who don't know there's a battle being fought. Today, consider: Who in your life needs someone to pray them into the kingdom? What burden are you carrying alone that needs confession? The fruit of the Spirit includes goodness—not self-righteousness, but humble dependence on God's transforming power. Be kind, do good, stay under the radar, and watch God work.

Reflection Question for the Week: Has the Holy Spirit been given permission to change your "want-tos"—to transform not just your actions but your desires? Invite Him to cultivate the fruit of goodness in every area of your life.

IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Icebreaker Question: Share about someone you know who exemplifies "goodness" - someone whose light truly shines in practical ways. What makes them stand out?

Key Scripture References

- Genesis 1 (God's creation and declaration of goodness)
- Galatians 5:22-23 (Fruit of the Spirit)
- Ephesians 5:8-14 (Living as children of light)
- Matthew 5:16 (Let your light shine)
- Mark 9:42 (Warning about harming children)
- 1 Timothy 6:10 (Love of money as root of evil)

Summary of Main Points

1. God's Definition of Goodness: Goodness is defined by God in creation - it means pleasant, agreeable, excellent, valuable, appropriate, and right.
2. Goodness vs. Greatness: Many pursue greatness while bypassing goodness. Good men and women live simple, faithful lives of integrity rather than seeking notoriety.
3. The Call to Expose Darkness: True goodness requires exposing evil, not tolerating wickedness, and bringing darkness into the light.
4. Personal and Corporate Responsibility: We must confess not only our personal sins but also intercede for our nation's sins.
5. The Season of Lent: A time for godly sorrow, repentance, and spiritual preparation leading to Easter.

Discussion Questions

Understanding Goodness

The pastor defined goodness using the Greek word "tov" (pleasant, agreeable, excellent, valuable, appropriate, becoming, right). Which aspect of this definition resonates most with you? Why?

6. How does understanding that "good has an antithesis (evil)" help us better appreciate goodness?
7. The sermon mentioned that "we need good in our life right now." Where do you see the greatest need for goodness in your personal sphere of influence?

Goodness vs. Greatness

The pastor said, "Many seek to be great men or great women... but they bypass goodness." Why do you think our culture emphasizes greatness over goodness?

8. What does it mean practically to "be kind, do good, and stay under the radar" in today's social media-driven world?
9. The pastor mentioned that the easiest funeral to conduct is for a "good man or good woman." What legacy of goodness do you want to leave behind?

Exposing Darkness

10. Ephesians 5:11 says to "take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them." What does it mean to expose darkness without becoming consumed by it?
11. The pastor stated, "Goodness exposes evil, period. It is not to be overlooked." How do we balance speaking truth about evil while maintaining grace and humility?
12. Why is it significant that the pastor emphasized this is "not a political issue" but a biblical mandate? How can we avoid making biblical issues partisan?
13. The phrase "secrets keep us sick" was mentioned regarding both personal and national sins. How have you seen this principle play out in your own life or community?

Personal and Corporate Confession

14. The sermon referenced Nehemiah and Daniel confessing the sins of their people. What does it mean for Christians today to confess the sins of our nation?
15. How comfortable are you with the concept of godly sorrow and corporate repentance? What obstacles prevent us from engaging in this practice?
16. The pastor asked, "Does the Spirit of God have permission to change our want-tos?" What would need to change in your life for you to answer "yes" more fully?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Goodness is active, not passive - It requires exposing darkness and standing for truth
- ✓ Humility over notoriety - Good people stay "under the radar" and serve without seeking recognition
- ✓ Confession brings freedom - "Secrets keep us sick" both personally and corporately
- ✓ We need each other - God designed us for community; goodness is expressed in relationship
- ✓ The church has a prophetic role - Speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves

✓ Lent is an opportunity - A season to practice godly sorrow and prepare our hearts

Practical Applications

This Week (Choose 1-2)

- Practice Anonymous Goodness: Do something good for someone without them knowing it was you
- Confess to Light: Share a personal struggle with a trusted believer to bring it into the light
- Examine Your "Want-Tos": Ask God to reveal where your desires need realignment with His
- Pray for Your Nation: Spend time confessing national sins and praying for righteousness to prevail
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During Lent (Ash Wednesday - Easter)

- Fast from Something: Give up something that has too much hold on you
- Add a Spiritual Discipline: Practice daily confession, Scripture reading, or intercessory prayer
- Study Goodness: Read through the Gospels noting every time Jesus demonstrated goodness
- Accountability Partner: Find someone to walk through Lent with you in mutual confession and prayer
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Long-Term Commitments

- Pursue Goodness Over Greatness: Evaluate your motivations - are you seeking recognition or faithfulness?
- Become a "Shine Award" Person: Live in such a way that your good deeds naturally point others to Christ
- Stand Against Injustice: Identify one area of darkness in your community and commit to exposing it through prayer, advocacy, or action
- Create Confession Rhythms: Establish regular patterns of personal and corporate confession in your spiritual life

Personal Reflection Questions:

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your pursuit of goodness vs. greatness?
- What secret is keeping you sick that needs to be brought into the light?
- What is one specific way you can let your light shine this week?