

# GROWING TOGETHER AT CRISTA THROUGH GOD'S WORD

## **GOODNESS as a fruit of the light** (Read [Ephesians 5:3-14](#))

### **Reflection on the passage:**

One of the gifts I most treasure that my parents gave me is a love of goodness, nurtured in part by the stories they read to my brother, sister, and me. One of these books was the old Scottish novel *Sir Gibbie* by George MacDonald, a book often recommended by C.S. Lewis in his letters. I don't remember much about the plot after so many years, but I do remember being deeply moved by the book's hero, a mute orphan boy whose unfailing, spontaneous goodness was so beautiful! He went through some dark things at the hands of others, but the beauty of his character shone through. In our passage for this week from Ephesians 5, Paul reminds us that we are "children of light" and exhorts us to live into this rather than get stuck in dark, sinful behaviors. It is when we live in God's light that the fruits of goodness, righteousness, and truth are produced in us (5:8-9).

Paul gives serious warning about the fruitless deeds of darkness – everything counter to what is good, right, and true. He gives many examples including sexual immorality, greed, idolatry, obscenity, foolish talk, and coarse joking (5:3-5). He warns us not to listen to those who say that how we live doesn't matter (5:6), but instead to avoid these behaviors and expose them to the light (5:11).

Yet it is in this exposure to the light of goodness, righteousness, and truth that hope is found! Paul, in verse 13 writes, "But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light." That means that even the dark things can become light when we allow Christ's light to shine on them and transform them! This is the hope of the gospel – that Christ wakes us up from the sleep of death and transforms us in the light of His goodness (5:14).

May we, like the little orphan boy in MacDonald's novel, allow the light of Christ's goodness to shine through us into a dark world, drawing others into the hope we have in Christ!

### **Focus verses for prayerful reflection:**

*"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord."*  
(Ephesians 5:8-10).

1. As you read this verse begin by praising and thanking God for bringing you out of darkness and making you a child of light.
2. One way to define goodness is "what pleases the Lord." Take some time in prayer to allow Christ's light to shine on you and reveal any darkness in you that He wants to expose. Allow Him to bathe it in His glorious goodness, as you trust in His ongoing, loving work within you.

Grace & peace,

