



Date: October 8, 2023
Pastor: Mike Koot
Series: Everything We Need
Scripture: 2 Peter 1: 1-11
Message: Goodness

1. Sunday Summary:

This Sunday we began a new sermon series we're calling *Everything We Need*. It's a series about how we grow in grace, and we already have everything we need to do it. However, in spite of that we're called to add virtues to our lives, and when we do we'll really find the full life Jesus offers us. Over the next 7 weeks we'll see how putting on virtue is a bit like Spelunking, where you have to squeeze your body into the narrow cracks in the earth's crust. But, often times these narrow passages give way to vast caverns where an other-worldly beauty can be discovered, a beauty that we wouldn't have known if not for going into the narrowness. That's often how the virtues feel, narrow and tight, but they open us up to a vast and beautiful life - one we wouldn't have known if we hadn't added them to our lives. This week we looked generally at Christian growth and how it happens, and then turned our attention to adding the virtue of Goodness. We said that goodness is a virtue that's less about what we do, than who we are. In other words, it's intended to flow out of us. More specifically though it's about conforming to God's ideal, which we see manifested in lived in Jesus's life, death, and resurrection. In fact this is how we get goodness into us, by being connected to him.

2. Connecting Questions: (Interactive, life sharing, thought & feeling type stuff)

- When you hear the word virtue what's your reaction? What sorts of thoughts and feelings bubble to the surface?

- Does becoming more virtuous excite you? Why or why not? Discuss.

- Talk about a time you did something you didn't really want to do, but it ended up being a very valuable experience.

- When you think of someone you know who is good, who do you think about? What about them attracts you to them? What might “turn you off” about someone who is good?
- What from today’s message was most helpful for you?

3. Truth Questions: (What does the Bible say?)

- Read Genesis 1: 26-27 & 31 together. The passage tells us that we (humans) are a part of the creation that is called “very good.” What happened? Have we completely lost our goodness? How do we get it back?
- Read Mark 10:17-18. What does Jesus mean by “No one is good but God alone?” If that’s true, what’s the point of pursuing/adding goodness to our faith.

4. Formation Questions: (Taking it further, How does the Truth change the way I live?)

- What will you do to lean into the virtue of goodness this week? What actions will you take to drive the goodness of Jesus more into your life?
- How will adding goodness to your faith effect your prayer life this week?

5. Resources for Further Study:

1. Buchanan, Mark. *Hidden in Plain Sight: The Secret of More*. Thomas Nelson: Nashville, TN 2007

