

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

“IT IS GOOD”

Nicolas Edwards

The phrase, “*It is good*” occurs 20 times in the KJV. We need to understand that we do not define that which is good. Often, individuals will be quick to say something is good. Maybe it is; maybe it isn’t! That depends on if God’s word allows it to be good. We must be careful about what we call good! We may be calling evil good. “*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter*” (Is. 5:20). The only way we can know what is good is by being taught the good way. “*...Teach them the good way wherein they should walk...*” (1 Ki. 8:36).

THE NAME OF THE LORD. “*I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O Lord; for it is good*” (Ps. 54:6). “*I will praise thee forever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints*” (Ps. 52:9).

TO SING PRAISES UNTO GOD. “*Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely*” (Ps. 147:1). May we say as the Psalmist, “*I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being*”

(Ps. 104:33). “*I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore*” (Ps. 86:12).

TO BE AFFLICTED. “*It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes*” (Ps. 119:71). Did you know that affliction is good? There is learning that can come from it, if you allow it! “*Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better*” (Eccl. 7:3).

TO ENJOY THE GOOD OF ALL YOUR LABOUR. “*Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion*” (Eccl. 5:18). This is good so long as we labour in that which God accepts (Eccl. 9:7). Remember: “*For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil*” (Eccl. 12:14).

FOR A MAN TO BEAR THE YOKE IN HIS YOUTH. “*It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth*” (Lam. 3:27). This has to do with work. It is good for a man, in his youth, to work! Are you a hard worker? Are we instilling within

our children “*a mind to work*” (Neh. 4:6)? Be sure you are working “*the thing which is good*” (Eph. 4:28).

FOR A MAN NOT TO TOUCH A WOMAN. “*Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: it is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband*” (1 Cor. 7:1-2).

TO BE ZEALOUSLY AFFECTED ALWAYS IN A GOOD THING. “*But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you*” (Gal. 4:18). The key words are, “*in a good thing*”. One can be zealous, but still be wrong. “*For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge*” (Rom. 10:2).

TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD. “*But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works*” (Ps. 73:28). We “*draw nigh unto God*” by the new covenant of Christ (Heb. 7:19). We are “*made nigh*” in Christ (Eph. 2:13).

**EVERY MEMBER
AT EVERY SERVICE!**

CONSISTENCY

John Edwards

Consistency is defined as “steadfast adherence”. One who is consistent is stable, steady, dependable and reliable. To be constant and regular in one’s diet and exercise program, for example, is to have consistency. To have a level of performance that varies greatly in quality over time, to change and deviate, to be up and down, on and off, is to lack consistency. Consistent or inconsistent: which are you?

IN KEEPING GOD’S COMMANDMENTS. We may keep some of God’s commandments some of the time, but consistency demands that we keep all His commandments always. *“O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always...”* (Dt. 5:29).

IN ATTENDANCE. Those who are present at every service of the church may be said to have consistency in their attendance. Others who are absent from time to time are marked by inconsistency in

attendance. When the doors are open, can you be counted on to be in attendance? *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another...”* (Heb. 10:25).

IN INVOLVEMENT. There are some who take an active part in the worship and work of the church, on all occasions. And there are those who you never know if or when they will participate. They may lead singing today (and really bellow it out), and not be heard from again for weeks! *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...”* (1 Cor. 15:58).

IN BEHAVIOR. One qualification of elders is *“of good behaviour”* (1 Tim. 3:2). Older women are to *“be in behaviour as becometh holiness”* (Titus 2:3). Is there consistency in your behavior? Were you good and holy yesterday? Will you be good and holy tomorrow? Are there times when you are not good and holy? Do you act the same way? Are you unchanging in nature?

IN THE HOME. For children to develop into stable and steady adults, they need to be brought up in an environment of consistency in the home. Do you treat your wife/husband in a consistently loving manner (Eph. 5:22-33; Titus 2:4; 1 Pet. 3:7)? Are you, as a mother/father, consistent in the application of rules, discipline and the like? *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (Prov. 22:6).

IN DRESS. The Bible teaches men and women to be modest in apparel. *“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety...”* (1 Tim. 2:9). Are you always adorned in modest apparel? One way we show reverence for God in the assembly of the saints is in dress (Ps. 89:7). Do you do your best to dress appropriately and respectfully at all times. Some may wear a nice suit or dress at one service, and then come in blue jeans at another. Why the difference? What has changed?

Let’s work on our consistency. Can you be more consistent?

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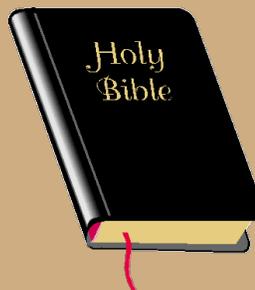
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