

**Romans 15:14** *“Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.”* Most commentators believe Paul ends the doctrinal parenthesis and restarts the personal aspect of his letter to the Romans here in verse 14. The apostle Paul complimented the Roman church in the *chapter one* by saying: 8 *“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.”* Paul said they had a worldwide reputation for their faith in Jesus Christ. Now, in chapter 15, Paul continues this personal compliment to the Christians in Rome by giving them an evaluation inspired by the Holy Spirit. This healthy church was (1) full of goodness, (2) filled with all knowledge, and (3) they were able to admonish one another. In this verse, Paul has given us a means of evaluating our church and ourselves. Are we (1) full of goodness, (2) filled with all knowledge, and (3) able to admonish our brothers and sisters in Christ?

### **I. FULL OF GOODNESS**

**A. Goodness = Agathosune** = *“uprightness of heart and life, goodness, kindness”* *“It refers to moral goodness as well as kindness, gentleness and thoughtfulness toward others.”*

**B. Lost people who are without Jesus Christ in their hearts are not good:** **Romans 3:12b-18** *“They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; **There is none who does good, no, not one.**’ 13 *“Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit; ‘The poison of asps is under their lips;’ 14 ‘Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.’ 15 ‘Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known.’ 18 ‘There is no fear of God before their eyes.’* Someone addressed Jesus as good master *“And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.”* (**Mark 10:18**)*

**C. Yet, it is the characteristic of the healthy Christian that he/she is full of goodness.**

**D. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is goodness:** **Galatians 5:22-23** *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”*

**E. As Christians, we were created by God to do good works:** **Ephesians 2:10** *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**F. As Christians, we are taught by God’s Spirit to be zealous for good works** **Titus 2:14** *“who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”*

**G. As Christians, we are to be a pattern of good works:** **Titus 2:7-8** *in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.”*

**H. As Christians, we are to adorn the gospel with good works:** **Titus 2:10** *“not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.”*

**II. FILLED WITH ALL KNOWLEDGE** A second consequence of the Holy Spirit’s presence in the midst of a church and the heart of a believer is a complete knowledge. This is not speaking of academic knowledge, but of the transformation that comes from having a renewed mind (**Romans 12:2**). It also speaks of the knowledge that Jesus referred to in the Sermon on the Mount when He said, *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock”* (**Matt.7:24**). In scripture, knowledge isn’t knowledge until it results in a change in behavior and one’s character. This fullness of knowledge, or complete knowledge is the intimate knowledge of Jesus and our Heavenly Father that Jesus referred to when He said, *“Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you.”* We can’t do what Jesus commanded us to do in our own strength. The only way we can obey is for us to be abiding in Jesus and for Jesus to be abiding in us. Like the converts at Pentecost who continued in the Apostles’ doctrine and all new Christians who are born-again with an infant’s “sucking reflex” that enables him/her to feed upon the milk of God’s Word, Christians who walk in the Spirit are truly transformed as their minds are renewed.

### **III. ABLE TO ADMONISH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST** **Colossians 1:28**

*“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus”* **Colossians 3:16** *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*

**A. Admonish = Noutheteo** = *“to admonish, warn, exhort”* As Christians, our job is to warn, encourage and assist other Christians toward their goal of becoming perfect in Christ Jesus. A good friend is one who comforts and shows empathy/kindness, but also, a good friend is one who gives warning and loving rebuke when its needed.

**B. Illustration of the pit crew that supports a race car:** What if the member of a pit-crew said to the driver who came in for a pit-stop, I’m sorry, I can’t replace your bad tire because I took it for my own car. Or what if the pit-crew member poked holes in the gas tank rather than filling it with petrol? As friends, we can be (1) takers, (2) destroyers, or (3) supporters who are willing to admonish, encourage our brothers/sisters to finish the race --- to win the race.

**C. Illustration of my mother admonishing my aunt at my grandfather’s funeral.** My aunt was grieving and weeping as one who had no hope. I listened as my mother admonished my aunt with the truth of the resurrection of the dead in Christ Jesus.