

The Old Hickory

Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.

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Let Us Do Good!

Perseverance in good works is a purpose that God has in mind for every Christian. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” (Eph. 2:10). Disciples do not gloat in self-glory by what they do, they honor God and His design for their lives. The “fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ” is for “the glory and praise of God.” (Phil. 1:11). As Christians “walk” ... “in Christ Jesus,” the light that is in them shines forth in a world of darkness (Matt. 5:14-16). This is God’s purpose and intention for His children.

Accordingly, as opportunity presents itself, people of God should fully use every occasion to serve the Lord by doing good. Jesus “went about doing good” (Acts 10:38). He is our Master. Paul admonished, “So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.” (Gal. 6:10).

The good that we do because God has been gracious to us is not stifled or halted because we undertake a consideration of someone's age, nationality, race, economic class, education, sex or anything else. Those considerations should not create boundaries for us, just as they did not for our Lord. If we let them, it is sin (Jas. 2:1-9). There is, however, a sphere of special concern in this passage: "those who are of the household of the faith." The concept is much like parents, whose first obligation is to their children, but not to exclusion of good works to their neighbors and to all.

There will always be people and circumstances that tempt us to cease good works, but Paul's admonition must be remembered: "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary." (Gal. 6:9). This persistence is needed when we "go the second mile" (Matt. 5:41), when our good works are snubbed (Matt. 5:44) or when we are mistreated (1 Pet. 2:12; 4:4; 3:9, 13). Perseverance is needed to return good for evil (Rom. 12:17, 21; 1 Thess. 5:15). Good works must be maintained (Titus 3:8, 14).

One day in life, an opportunity to do a good work will present itself to you, and this opportunity comes only once. We must cope with regrets of life that so many times we have been at the place to do something good and we did not do it. Maybe we felt timid or shy. Maybe it was awkward for us. Maybe we thought of someone else who would or should act. We failed – even in the most simple acts of goodness. We subdued the impulse to give someone something they needed, to bless someone with a gift that was good, to write someone a note or letter, and even to speak a special word of kindness, gratitude, thankfulness or encouragement.

We could add to our lives the regret and lament for allowing such opportunities to disappear by our inaction, or we could begin a new resolve to be more open-eyed and more responsive. Building lives characterized by good works will glorify our heavenly Father (Matt.

5:16). Dorcas “was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.” (Acts 9:36). “Women making a claim to godliness” are characterized by “good works.” (1 Tim. 2:10). Widows among God’s people were to have “a reputation for good works” (1 Tim. 5:10). The wealthy were “to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,” (1 Tim. 6:18). The man of God has been “equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:17). Young men are “to be an example of good deeds,” (Titus 2:6-7). All of the redeemed must be “zealous for good deeds.” (Titus 2:14). We must even “consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,” (Heb. 10:24).

Are you walking in good works? Are you persistent, looking for opportunities? Are you resolved to do good?

- GFS

Out of This Life

Out of this life I’m unable to take
Things of silver or gold I make.
All that I cherish and hoard away,
After I leave, on earth must stay.
All that I gather, and all that I keep,
I must leave behind when I fall asleep.

And I wonder often what I shall own,

In that other life, when I pass alone,
What shall they find and what shall they see
In the soul that answers the call for me?
Shall the great judge learn, when my task is through,
That my spirit has gathered some riches, too?
Or shall at the last it be mine to find,
That all that I'd worked for I'd left behind?

--Author Unknown

Manners

We say, "Thank you."
We say, "Please."
We don't interrupt or tease.
We don't argue. We don't fuss.
We listen when folks talk to us.
We share our toys and take our turn.
Good manners aren't too hard to learn.
It's really easy, when you find.
Good manners means
JUST BEING KIND!

- unknown

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- > "It is a selfish man who says it is nobody's business what he does."
 - > "A party spirit within the church murders God's truth and demonstrates that the party members are not truly devoted to the Lord."
 - > "Sometimes you can know which way you are headed by looking at the crowd you are traveling with."
 - > "Many receive advice, but only the wise profit from it."
 - > "The true disciple is obedient rather than ambitious, committed rather than competitive. For him, nothing is more important than pleasing the one who called him."
 - > "If there is no God then nothing really matters. But if there is a God, then nothing else really matters."

SUNDAY'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *"Selecting A Mate!"* (text: Eph. 5:22-33); Sunday evening: Jesus Christ: A Closer Look – *Preparing for the Feast!* (Mark 14:12-21).

SCHEDULE: Our Fall Gospel Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18-23, with Eric Reynolds.

