

## **Good Disciples Do Good**

Galatians 6:7-10

### ***Meeting the Challenge of Doing Good***

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#### **Introduction:**

With respect to doing good, attitudes within the body of Christ vary from member to member and from one subgroup to another.

Everyone seems to understand that we all should be actively involved in doing good, but [the heart condition of some members] may not be conducive to doing good as fully as the Scriptures require.

Accordingly, we ask, what spiritual principles, when adopted, will motivate us to be active in the doing of good?

In answer to this timely question, we submit the following biblical principles.

#### **I. “Every good tree bears good fruit” (Matthew 7:15-18).**

False prophets seem to be harmless, but they will tear you apart.

They are predatory, robbers or swindlers.

From their fruits, understood as deeds, you will know them, Jesus said.

Good fruit like grapes and figs are not gathered from thorns or thistles which do not normally produce edible fruits anyway.

“So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit” (Matthew 7:17 and 18).

Our nature will be revealed by our fruit, in the way we live and the way we act.

Therefore, if a specific individual Christian is not bringing forth **any** good fruit, then this individual is not a good tree.

#### **II. The imposition of responsibility is clear (Matthew 25:14-30).**

In the parable of the talents, Jesus likens the Kingdom of Heaven to a man entrusting his property to three slaves before going away for a while.

Each man was blessed because of what he received.

The obligation laid on each man was for him to be responsible with his use of the blessing.

Any Christian blessed with spiritual blessings must put them to active use.

The one-talent man was condemned, not because he had one talent but because he did not actively use that with which he had been blessed.

“For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away” (Matthew 25:29).

We will each be accountable for how reliable we were with what we were responsible for.

#### **III. “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good” (Luke 6:45).**

It is neither enough nor satisfactory to the Lord for one to merely possess good treasure in one’s heart.

We must actively employ it so that we bring forth what is good.

A good person simply does good deeds because of the treasure stored in his heart.

#### **IV. The Lord approves of one choosing the good part (Luke 10:38-42).**

The Lord's statement suggests that there are proper spiritual priorities as we serve God.

Serve like Martha or sit at the feet of Jesus like Mary.

Choose the good part.

Let us arrange our lives so that biblical priorities are seen.

#### **V. The Lord will bless us if we continue in His kindness (Romans 11:19-22).**

Read with me, Romans 11:19-22, "You will say then, 'Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.' Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness (goodness); otherwise you also will be cut off."

In this passage, Paul uses an olive tree as an illustration of his point.

The roots of the tree are made up of Abraham and other godly Old Testament men (v. 16).

Some of the original branches have been broken off, referring to unbelieving Jews (v. 17a).

Now, some branches from a wild olive tree have been grafted in, referring to believing Gentiles (vv. 17b-23).

The once-removed original branches will someday be grafted back in, referring to future repentant Israel (v. 24).

If we desire to run the Christian race successfully, we must continue in God's kindness or goodness rather than setting aside our continuing spiritual obligations.

If we have departed from God's kindness or goodness repentance is necessary to return to God and be blessed by His kindness.

#### **VI. Individual gifts from the Lord must be put to use (Romans 12:6-8).**

Paul likens spiritual gifts to members of the human body.

Each gift serves a distinct purpose.

All gifts must work together for the complete and proper service of the body.

We should never accumulate gifts from the Lord with no intent of exercising those gifts.

We risk divine intervention that may result in the loss of such gifts.

#### **VII. The grace of God makes it possible to abound in every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8).**

Though stated in a context dealing with financial matters, the principle applies generally as well.

To sow bountifully is to reap bountifully.

To do good is to reap good.

Thus the more good that is done, the more good there is to be reaped.

May we, as we have been blessed by the grace of God, be thus influenced to abound in every good work.

#### **VIII. Each individual will bear his own burden of responsibility (Galatians 6:1-5).**

We cannot depend upon the faithfulness of others in the body of Christ to be considered for us, as if their goodness will be put to our account.

“Each one must examine his own work” (v. 4).

“For each one will bear his own load” (v. 5).

Salvation is a very personal matter, wherein each person will give an account of himself and his good deeds to God.

#### **IX. We must “not lose heart in doing good” or grow weary (Galatians 6:9-10).**

Though we may have served the Lord faithfully for many years, such service will not suffice on the Day of Judgment if we have ceased our labors prematurely.

While doing good, we must avoid losing interest and steer clear of becoming discouraged and circumvent relaxing our efforts.

We need to consider other options for serving, develop new ways to serve, and take note of our needs in the present to give guidance to our descendants.

“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” (v. 10).

#### **X. We have been created for good works (Ephesians 2:10).**

Yes, our spiritual purpose in [existing] is to be active in good works.

If we cease from such labors, we fail to fulfill our divinely assigned spiritual purpose.

“For we are [God’s] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

#### **XI. Walking in a manner worthy of the Lord demands that we be fruitful in every good work (Colossians 1:9-10).**

Based on Colossians 1:9 and 10, walking in a manner worthy of the Lord requires growing in the knowledge of God, pleasing God, bearing fruit for God, being strengthened by God, and expressing thankfulness to God.

If we are not fruitful in every good work, then our Christian walk is not worthy of the Lord.

#### **XII. We should be “prepared for every good work” (2 Timothy 2:20-21).**

“Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things (all the negative things that Timothy has been advised to avoid, especially in verses 14 and 16), he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.”

Should we be so prepared and yet never actively apply that preparation?

Yes, the preparation required should be followed with application.

#### **XIII. We have been redeemed and purified to be zealous for good works (Titus 2:14).**

The [redeeming] and purification that we enjoy in Christ are intended to motivate us to be active in the kingdom of the Lord.

“[Jesus] gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”

#### **XIV. We should stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).**

This is a purpose of our coming together today.

The assembling together and the encouragement provided through it should stimulate us to love one another and do good.

#### **Application:**

Do good.

Do good to those who hate you (Luke 6:27).

While [you] have opportunity...do good to all people (Galatians 6:10).

Paul charged Timothy to “instruct [the rich] to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share” (1 Timothy 6:18 and 19).

If you see good that needs to be done and you are not able (meaning lacking in strength, skill, resources, qualifications, or knowledge) let us know, so we can equip you or assist you.

Do not assume we know or accuse us of overlooking. The best method of approach is to always ask questions first. Lacking in knowledge, lacking in opportunity—time or availability, or lacking in resources is not equal to overlooking.

Doing good is everyone’s responsibility.

The principles shared this morning ought to motivate believers to do good.

Good disciples do good.

#### **Conclusion:**

As God planned before the foundation of the world, Christians have been brought into existence in Christ to do good works (Ephesians 2:10)!

Have you “put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth” (Ephesians 4:24)?

All who have been “baptized into Christ have clothed [them]selves with or put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27).

While living on the earth, we have a body, an earthly tent filled with groans and sighs, dying slowly, and unable to see Jesus face-to-face.

One day, believers will receive a new body, a heavenly building without groans or sighs, an eternal dwelling that is able to see Jesus face-to-face (2 Corinthians 5:1-8).

We need to determine to please God in both bodies.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed (get back; be paid back) for his deeds in the (first) body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Have you committed yourself and your life to doing good? You can commit today by submitting to God’s will and be baptized into Christ.

Are you actively involved in doing good? This is your purpose in living a life in Christ.

If you are not doing good works, good deeds on behalf of Christ, then you need to repent.

Answer God’s calling for you to come to Him through Christ Jesus His Son, as we sing to encourage any response.