

Thoughts On Doing Good

"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."

Galatians 6:10

The gospel embraces three grand objects: God, ourselves, and our fellowmen. We are to seek the glory of God in all things; we are to give diligence to make our calling and election sure, and to the utmost of our ability, we are to *"do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*

The Christian may do good in a variety of ways. Matthew 5:16 tells us to *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* Never underestimate the power of your example to accomplish good for God's kingdom. Children of God can also do good by teaching the gospel to those who are lost in their sins (Matthew 28:19-20). People not only need good examples, but they must be taught as well. Christians can also do good by our prayers and supplications. Paul said in 1 Timothy 2:1, *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men."* Finally, Christians are to help those who are in need. James 1:27 says, *"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."*

Paul's exhortation concerning goodness extends to *"all men."* Every person regardless of class or color who is in need is to be helped. However, Paul did spell out a preference for those of the *"household of faith"* or those who are Christians. Our brethren must always have our unfeigned love and commitment to assist in times of need. Paul said in Romans 12:10, *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."* We must be ready and willing to help our brethren in Christ and those outside of Christ.

The Lord gave us a marvelous example while He was on the earth. Acts 10:38 says, *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."* Whenever the Lord had opportunity, He helped those in need. God has richly blessed each one of us with material blessings far beyond many people in the world. We all possess the ability to assist those who are struggling in physical or spiritual ways.

Society has brought on a very cold urbanization in members of the church. We live closer to each other in our neighborhoods, but yet we are farther apart in terms of "knowing each other." Christians must know one another in order to be the close family which God requires and we must also know our neighbors in order to help them if the need arises. There is no question that the "social gospel" concept is wrong, but let us not turn away from helping those truly in need.

We are certainly blessed to have not only our material prosperity, but also so many brethren with a heart of compassion to do good to others. If your life has been exemplary, then I commend you. If you feel as though you have neglected this vital area of service, then I challenge you to search the scriptures and see your obligation to your brethren in Christ and to all men everywhere.

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