

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

September 20, 2020

Why Doing Good Matters Series

Ringing of the Bell

Piano Prelude Kristin Jones, Director of Music

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Eric Hoey

- The session of our church has recently decided to resume in person services beginning September 27 at 10:00am. We are well aware of the escalation of COVID cases in Henderson, but we trust those who do not feel comfortable in public to continue to view our online services streamed through our Facebook page and website.
- Sunday school will be continuing online classes with our bible study of current issues at 9:00am-9:40am. All are welcome. Contact me for more information.
- Join us on Wednesdays as we continue our online Bible study in Titus at 7:00pm. If you are interested, see me for the link.
- Marsha's Place Walk for Life 2020 goes virtual! During the week of September 19 - 26 you will choose your own walking location and walk for Marsha's Place! Go to marshasplaceprc.org for more information.

Call to Worship

O give thanks to the Lord! The Lord hears the cries of the people.

Give thanks to the Lord.

The works of the Lord are great. Remember what God has done.

Give thanks to the Lord.

God has done miracles, and the Lord always remembers God's covenant.

Give thanks to the Lord. Glory and praise is due to the Lord!

Hymn PH 341 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!"

1 Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
(Refrain)

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
(Refrain)

Call to Confession

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. We have not been gracious or grateful. We have failed to remember all that you have done. Forgive us and fill our hearts with

gratitude. Help us to share our gifts and strengthen our legs so that we can run after you, O God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

People of God, our sins are forgiven; we are reconciled to God. Let us therefore love one another with gratitude in our hearts and praise on our lips.

Passing the Peace

Please take a moment to text someone either now and in the future a word of encouragement, "The peace of Christ be with you!"

Special Music "God Be in My Waking" by Stuart Townend
Betty Norment and Wayne Jones, vocalists

Prayer for Illumination

Let the wisdom of your Word rain down on us like manna and feed us, that we may be strengthened to do the work to which we are called, for the glory and honor of your name. Amen.

First Reading 1 Kings 3:1-14 Molly Galloway

Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter. He brought her to the City of David until he finished building his palace and the temple of the LORD, and the wall around Jerusalem. The people, however, were still sacrificing at the high places, because a temple had not yet been built for the Name of the LORD. Solomon showed his love for the LORD by walking according to the instructions given him by his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

"Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways,

keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.”

Second Reading Titus 1:5-9 Martha Hodge

I left you behind in Crete for this reason, so that you should put in order what remained to be done, and should appoint elders in every town, as I directed you: someone who is blameless, married only once, whose children are believers, not accused of debauchery and not rebellious. For a bishop, as God’s steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain; but he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it.

Children’s Message Walt Dickinson

- Children please remember to do their bible lessons in their activity bags that were delivered to their home

SERMON “Doing Good in Church”

Titus 1:5-9

September 20, 2020

- ILL: As the home of Spider-Man, Captain America, and other iconic characters, Marvel has long been the comic-book world’s biggest player. But in the mid-1990s the comics market crashed, Marvel went broke, and there was no superpower strong enough to prevent bankruptcy. After restructuring, Marvel changed its approach, focusing on movies rather than paper and ink. Today, Iron Man, the Avengers, Spider-Man, and X-Men are all billion-dollar franchises, and the company’s master plan has turned it into one of pop culture’s most powerful brands.
- According to FastCompany, Marvel is a brand in the last 20 years who has been named one of the biggest comeback companies like Apple, GE, Delta, and Starbucks where everyone one of these companies had to redefine themselves in a changing culture.
- It was a **tall order** to completely change a reading dominated market of Marvel Comics to rework everything in an organization to a new reality of video.
- According to Merriam-Webster the definition of a “tall order” is something that is very difficult to do.
- As we move into our series on the Book of Titus, “Why Doing Good Matters,” Titus had a pretty tall order.
- He had to address the issues of his day and change the culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- So as we look into this series, today, we are talking about how doing good is important to the local church and its surrounding communities.
- Q: How is doing good important to the local church in communicating to the world the good news of Jesus Christ?
- It is everything, and it begins with finding good leaders to lead the church into influencing the world.

1. The Challenge of Titus (v. 5)

*5 I left you behind in Crete for this reason, so that you should put in order what remained to be done, and should appoint **elders** in every town, as I directed you:*

- Paul left Titus in Crete to pick up where he left off and solve the problem of the false teaching in the newly formed house churches throughout the island.
- Paul wanted to influence the negative corrupt culture with leaders who had the ability to bring about change with doing good.
- So he leaves Titus behind to pick up where Paul left off in his evangelistic endeavors, and to appoint ELDERS in every town.
- Now when you see the word elder which in Greek is "*presbuteros*" where we get the word Presbyterian, do not get it confused with a word we will see later called, "bishop."
- Whether you see elder, bishop, overseer are all different words for the same position.
- Throughout Paul's writings he refers to what we understand as the pastor with various, different words.
- Paul was not asking Titus to create a church hierarchal structure, but to simply find pastors for each town.
- This means that Titus had to nurture and choose leaders to be part of a movement of influencing and advancing people who does good in a corrupt society.
- So Titus had to choose people with the caliber that would lead or have influence on the forces working against them.

2. The Qualifications for Church Leaders

- Before we get into the details, let me ask the question, are these details to the absolute standards for church leadership? If a person fails in one quality, are they disqualified from leadership?
- How this is interpreted is probably why this text is left out of the Revised Common Lectionary.
- If this were an absolute check list of Titus to work, I think his job would be much more difficult.
- Titus as well as us could easily fall into the legalistic patterns of what Jesus was condemning in the Pharisees where they would make rule upon rule to justify the "requirements of the law"
- EX: One of the qualities is being blameless. The pharisaical tendency would be to judge someone and render them unfit for ministry in the church because they have violated some standard. Who makes up the standards for blamelessness? What about reusing a postage stamp, cheating on your taxes, running a red light, going over the speed limit, or lying on your Facebook page?
- I believe what Paul was offering to young Titus was guidelines that would be helpful for him to accomplish the task of appointing leaders.
- It was up to Titus to determine in his heart if the person was a good candidate for for leadership.

- Before we look at the qualifications, do not write me off by saying I am not a leader.
- Friends, the reality is that we are all leaders

- Everyone is a leader because leadership is all about influence toward a common outcome.
- From church leaders, factory worker, janitor, entrepreneur, single parent or grandparents
- We are all leaders
- Parents and grandparents are leaders of children.
- The one who leads from the front is a leader.
- The one who sets an example is a leader.
- The one who walks the talk is a leader.
- The one who takes responsibility is a leader.
- The one who influences others is a leader.
- The one who makes a difference to others is a leader.
- Everyone is a leader regardless of hierarchical position
- So don't tune me out because this list does not apply to you.
- Leadership here in Titus 1 is all about influencing the world towards GOOD in a sea of negative and bad actors in our society.
- Whether you lead in the church, club, or in front of your grandchildren consider developing the following qualities:

a. **Respectable Home Life** (v. 6)

- Respectable means that key determining factor is "What do people say"
appoint elders in every town, as I directed you:
6 someone who is blameless, married only once, whose children are believers, not accused of debauchery and not rebellious.
- "Blameless" - above reproach. This is a recognition from others of the quality of their life and in this case their home life.
 - "Wow, that person is an excellent dad."
 - "Wow, that person have a great family"
 - "Wow, that person raised some pretty decent kids"
 - If you think about it, as Titus enters a new city, what others say about potential leaders, is he has to begin his work!
- "married only once" - most translations say, "husband of one wife" the literal translation is "one-woman/wife-man/husband." [click]
 - One woman man // don't sleep around
 - One woman husband // don't sleep around married
 - One wife husband // one wife at a time
 - One wife man // married only once
 - As you can see there are multiple interpretations. If infidelity was common, which it was, I translate it to mean "faithful to his wife."
- "whose children are believers" — literally means "children have faithful/reliable/trustworthy/stable." Better translated: believing children. Recognition that you have good kids. Because of their faith they are not—
- "not accused of debauchery and not rebellious" - not recognized as not lax in morals, unruly, or disobedient
- Again, it is easy to become legalistic here.
- Everybody who has raised children knows about the rebellious periods of their own children.
- If Titus were to be legalistic about this, no parent would qualify as a church leader.

- Notice the word “accused.”
- A good home life is about what others say.
- If people are saying bad things about a person’s home life, then it is not what Paul wanted in a leader.
- Leaders can be spotted and can be recognized by those around them.

a. Respectable Home Life

b. **Respectable Personality and Character** (vv. 7-8)

7 For a bishop, as God’s steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain; 8 but he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled.

- The bishop/elder/deacon was considered *God’s steward*.
- Titus had to look for people who had reputable home life and this in turn would lead to good leaders in a local church.
- Again, they had to be *blameless*.
- Where blamelessness became the litmus test of the quality of leader needed.
- In what areas? (vices)
 - “*Not arrogant*” - This word is often translated: self-willed. It is described as one who pleases himself [pride]
 - “*quick-tempered*” - This person does not have anger problem [temper]
 - Titus needed to find someone who was a servant, and not stubbornly self-willed, and if he was a visitor to the city, he had to rely upon the report of the everyone’s recommendations.
 - “*addicted to wine*” - Is the person known for public intoxication? [drink]
 - “*violent*” - this is someone who is a bully who desires to pick a fight [power]
 - “*greedy for gain*” - Here is one that speaks loudly to our culture. This is the person who pursues dishonest financial gain. Church leaders must be motivated by service rather than greed. [money]
- ▶ “*he must be hospitable*” - Paul then list some positive qualities, and the first one he mentions is hospitality. This is an important quality of the first century leader because hospitality of strangers is huge part of the Middle Eastern culture. Hospitality is meeting the needs of guests and welcoming others into their lives and homes.
- ▶ “*A lover of goodness*” - Again if the local church is to be an influencer of good throughout the region, its leaders must be lovers of good. They must be people who are devoted to the things that promote what is good.
 - If there is one virtue, we must apply in order to make a difference is that we become “lovers of goodness.”
 - This means we live, breathe, work and strive for the things that are good.
 - In the cesspool of world that is driven by personal interest, lovers of good need to rise above the mire and put on display to those around the things that are good.
- ▶ “*prudent*” - prudent is a person with a sound mind, temperate, discreet
- ▶ “*upright*” - this is a person who is just, equitable, and fair
- ▶ “*devout*” - a person who lives to serve God as is pious and devout. A person of faith who has a close relationship with God.
- ▶ “*self-controlled*” - this is the last item on Paul’s list which is actually the last fruit of the fruit of the spirit. This is person who has a disciplined lifestyle and clearly has the quality of self-mastery.

- The vices and virtues needed for leaders in order to do good within the church.
- These are Paul's standards for leadership for Titus to continue Paul's work in Crete.
- Q: What about us? Do we use these type of guidelines of church leadership?
- I think everyone of these vices and virtues would be a great spiritual challenge for each and every one of us.
- Why? Because this is what Paul says GOOD looks like!

c. **Devotion to God's Word** (v. 9)

9 He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it.

- Doing good in the church necessitates leaders who have a firm grasp of the Word of God.
- In Titus' situation, since the Word of God was not written, they had to rely on the "trustworthy message" passed on to them, and in Paul's case the other disciples/apostles
- Have you ever questions how Paul the outside convert who never met or walked with Jesus learned his sound teaching? From his time with the other disciples/ apostles
- *Acts 9:26-27* *When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But, Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how he had in Damascus preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.*
- So the same message and theology that the disciples or apostles had and passed to Paul, who in turn passed it on to Titus.
- Titus had the responsibility to find people with the same understanding of a "firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching."
- For what reason?

so that he may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it.

- So Titus had to find people who could preach and refute the false teaching prevalent among the various communities throughout the island of Crete.
- What does this mean for us?
- From a 30K foot level, devotion to God's Word for us means a hunger to learn and grow in the knowledge of God's Word whether you are a leader in the church or not.
- Friends, this is why we offer to you at no charge a free subscription to RightNow Media.
- We want you to have the tools to help you KNOW Jesus and GROW in your faith.

Offering

Great is God's mercy toward us. Let us offer a portion of what God has given with humble and grateful hearts.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessing flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise him above the heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Prayer of Dedication

Lord, giver of all good gifts, thank you for the resources gathered here. Use these gifts for the advancement of your kingdom; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith (Apostle's Creed)

Minister:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, what do you believe?

All:

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, who hears our cries and pities our groans, you are ever faithful. We come to you with our petitions for ourselves and our community...

For our church and its leaders— that they be of open mind and open heart ... that they might be the Christian leaders you have called them to be ... and that the church be an instrument of love, justice, and peace. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For our country and global community— that all may be peaceful, fair, and respectful of all peoples no matter the religion, color, gender, or kind of government. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

For our local community— [concerns of the community may be named]. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

For those who are overlooked in our society— the poor, the young, the old, the bereaved, and the oppressed— help us to see them and to be with them. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

For the special intentions that we hold in our hearts. [A time of silence is kept.] Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Gracious and loving God, we know that you hear us and are always with us, and we thank you in Jesus' name, and now, with confidence as children of God, let us pray:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

Hymn PH 2241 "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"

1 The spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.

2 We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free: where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.

3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed and all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.

4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the Gospel to proclaim. God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.

Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

The LORD lift up his countenance upon you,

and give you peace both now and evermore.

Piano Postlude Kristin Jones