

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

September 13, 2020

Why Doing Good Matters

Prelude Kristin Jones, Director of Music

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Eric Hoey

- Happy Grandparents Day, celebrated the first Sunday after Labor Day. I hope you are all able to spend some time with your grandchildren. I am told it will make you live longer.
- There is an online resource called the Legacy Coalition. The purpose of this program is to help grandparents have a greater spiritual impact upon their families. This weekend, they are offering a free online event for grandparents. The online event is 3 hours in length and can be accessed anytime during the four days Sept. 17-20. Topics include: Helping Our Grandchildren Navigate the Cultural Forces, Grand-parenting Through a Pandemic, Finding Hope When Doors Are Being Slammed Shut, Restoring Family Relationships, and Focusing on Hope Through Difficult Circumstances. See <https://legacycoalition.com/finding-hope-online-event/>
- Presbyterian Women Yearbooks are now available to be picked up at the church office.

Call to Worship

Give praise to God! Praise the Lord, for it is God who saves.... It is God who forgives.... It is God who delivers.... Give thanks and praise to the Lord!

Hymn "Hymn for Streamed Worship"

R.G.Huff - 3/17/2020 [Permission granted for use]

1 In our homes, we meet to worship
far away from sacred space.
By the Spirit, Christ is with us,
Making this a holy place.
In these days of social distance,
We are called to meet apart.
Still we pray for one another,
Hold each other in our heart.

2 If this time indeed is holy,
We must keep it truly so.
Even in our isolation,
God's rich blessings overflow.
We avoid the world's distractions,
set our minds on things above:
Patience, kindness, goodness, mercy,
Faith, joy peace, abiding love.

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins to God who forgives and saves.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Gracious and loving God,
you lived for us—we have not lived for you. You have forgiven us—we
have not forgiven others. You have loved us—we have not loved
ourselves nor have we loved one another. Take pity on us and forgive
us, God. Help us to forgive. Help us to live for you. Help us to love
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

People of God, our sins are forgiven. God is merciful and gracious and is Lord of us all. Reconciled to the God who loves us, let us live and love through Christ our Lord.

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 Wayne and Kristin's friend Austin Glover

"Austin Glover, of Vincennes, IN, is a recent graduate of Oakland City University. Prior to that, he studied vocal performance and music at the University of Evansville. He has toured as a background vocalist with the Annie Moses band, and is pursuing music jobs in the Nashville area. Austin recently released a CD of Christian favorites, old and new! We want to thank him for contributing to our worship this morning with this beautiful medley of Gospel hymns."

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, your Word is strong and leads our feet to your holy dwelling place. Strengthen and guide us with your Word through the power of your Holy Spirit; in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Reading Exodus 14:19-31 Sarah Hardy

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Second Reading Romans 14:1-12 Bill Fidler

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Children's Sermon Pastor Eric

- Romans 14:1 "Welcome those who are weak in faith"

SERMON "Why Doing Good Matters"

Titus 1:1-4

September 13, 2020

- When you think about doing good, what come to your mind?
 - Is it letting someone change lanes in front of you?
 - Holding the door?
 - Picking up trash at the park?
 - Does doing good really matter?
- Doing good has the ability to change a culture.
- Doing good has the ability to change the course of people's lives and ourselves as we do good to others.
- Today we are beginning a new series on the Book of Titus.
- It is one of the shorter books of the Bible with only three chapters.
- It is part of a series of three books written by the Apostle Paul what scholars call the Pastoral epistles.
- In the pastoral letters, Paul an older leader writes to his successor his concerns about their situation as a young pastor.

- This book of Titus is dedicated to calling young Titus to understand the “why” and “what” of doing good, and “how” of doing good.
- It is filled with lots of practical suggestions on how to do good.
- I believe Titus is a sadly one of the most overlooked books in the Bible.
- In fact, the Revised Common Lectionary only uses Titus 3:4-7 (three verses) as the only portion of the text to be used in preaching and worship.
- I tried to do some research as to why sections are skipped, but my finds are inconclusive.
- My best guess is that some of the content was too dry, too puzzling, contained too much violence, or too controversial because it upset people if used in the early church.
- HOWEVER, the more I study this little book, the more, I am convinced it needs to be studied today.
- As we look upon our moral, religious, and political climate of our society, we watch so much infighting and basically lying, there needs to be some kind of grounding, a standard that rises above all the noise.
- *Titus 3:8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to **doing what is good**. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.*
- This is why the title of this series is called, “Why doing good matters.”
- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, ““You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.” (Matthew 5:14)
- Goodness is the moral standard that screams in the face of all the noise going on today.
- The closer we move into November, the rhetoric and the noise will only ramp up to excruciating levels.
- I believe if more Christians heed to these words and “devote themselves to doing what is good,” the church today can bring a certain light into the world.
- I hope you will pull out your bibles and study this tiny book with me as we explore “Why Doing Good Matters”
- I have coordinated our Sunday messages with the RightNow Media series on Titus by Chip Ingram.
- The idea is to hear the text preached on Sunday, and on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm, we will have a Zoom gathering to the Chip Ingram video and discuss the application of the text.
- Everyone is welcome to join us.
- There is a link to our new Zoom gathering in the email that was sent out on Sunday.

1. The Writer’s Passion (vv. 1-3)

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God’s elect and the knowledge of the truth that is in accordance with godliness,

- In typical correspondence written in this period, it always begins with the author-who wrote it, next would be the recipient, and a statement or two of formal, traditional greeting.
- Paul uses this model, but here in Titus verse 1, he also adds phrases to expand his credibility in much detail.
- As he does this, it gives us a glimpse into why, and what motivates Paul in his ministry.

- Paul's passion comes gushing out the first verse like a spring of water that cannot be contained.
- In verse 1, he identifies himself as a servant of God and apostle of Jesus Christ.
- The word "servant" is the word for slave, emphasizing God's ownership of his life as a slave to God
- Paul also identifies himself as an "apostle."
- This is a title that only a few people have where the meaning declares that a person called, equipped, and sent forth as God authoritative messenger.
- As a vessel who is owned by God and sent by God, Paul's passion is expressed through the extra phrases that he uses to describe the theology of his passion, calling and purpose.
- For example, unlike a business card that briefly gives you the person's name, credentials, and position in the company, Paul's opening verses reveal much about himself.
- Look at the first phrase, "For the sake of God's elect" is Paul's language to describe the people whom Paul is called to minister.
- Paul's ministry is to work with Christians to guide them into mature and developing faith.
- Notice he says, "the knowledge of the truth that is in accordance with godliness"
- Two characteristics of people of faith are faith and knowledge or sometimes understood as faith and reason.
- Once a believer embraces faith through Jesus Christ, they are to grow in their knowledge of the truth which leads to godliness or God-centeredness.
- **This was at the heart and passion of Paul's ministry.**
- It was to lead people to faith and to help them grow into the knowledge of the truth.
- To produce this character of godliness — more on that later.
- As we will see, the false teachers were very popular in Crete, and what prompted Paul to write was to ask young Titus to raise up leaders who will understand up to the truth truth and confront false leaders who were corrupting the early church.

2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who never lies, promised before the ages began— 3 in due time he revealed his word through the proclamation with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior,

- Paul continues describing why he is so passionate about his calling
- What drives Paul is the idea of **hope**.
- Today we all need hope because without it we will be stuck in life.
- But what differentiates Christian hope from any other kind of hope is that it is rooted in God of truth who give us eternal life
- Hope is grounded on the promises of God
- In the next couple of phrases, there is a threefold guarantee by God:
 - *who never lies*—God does not lie. We human beings lie, the people on the island of Crete were notorious liars, but God does not lie. It is not in his character because God is truth
 - *promised before the ages began*—God promised this eternal life before the beginning of time. This is a part of God eternal purpose for His people

- *in due time he revealed his word through the proclamation with which I have been entrusted—God brought his word of promise to light through the preaching entrusted to Paul*
- All this to say, the promise and character of the gospel of God combine to guarantee the certainty of eternal life.
- This gospel of hope of eternal life offer to people is at the centrality of Paul's passion for ministry.
- God's plan for distribution of the gospel of God is through people like Paul, and Timothy, and even Titus.
- Paul was privileged to be used by God in this manner, and had a unstoppable passion to see the gospel correctly communicated.

2. The Recipient's Call (v. 4)

4 To Titus, my loyal child in the faith we share: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

- He was Greek by birth.
 - *Galatians 2:3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not compelled to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.*
- He was probably led to faith by Paul and where he accompanied him on his missionary journeys.
- In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, Titus is mentioned 9 times by name always in deep affection and confidence
- When Paul is expands his ministry in Crete, he leaves Titus there with the commission to appoint elders in every city.
- Titus probably knew the lay of the land to accomplish this task.
- When Paul calls Titus, "my loyal child in the faith" suggests that Titus was a very close associate of Paul.
- Proven to have great faith and a dependable co-worker.
- Titus was a trustworthy person who fulfilled many of Paul's ministry assignments by going into cities and bringing correspondence and back reports of the churches that Paul had started.
- The Greek Cultural Setting of Crete—
- The cultural climate of the island of Crete could best be described when Paul writes later in *Titus 1:12 It was one of them, their very own prophet, who said, "Cretans are always liars, vicious brutes, lazy gluttons."*
- Chip Ingram says Crete was like Las Vegas on Steroids
- The island had such a bad reputation, people coined the place in a derogatory manner to refer to the location and people as all things bad.
- I would imagine this was not an easy assignment for Titus
- He had to pick up from Paul's evangelistic work, and nurture and develop elders in every town on the island.
- The words "Grace and Peace" is typical of Paul's greetings.
- Where grace is God unmerited favor and peace is the calm experience when one is reconciled to God through Christ.
- Let me take a few moments to talk about grace.
- When we have grace living with our lives through faith in Jesus Christ, doing good is a natural outcome of that life of grace that comes from within the center of our beings

- This is what Paul was assigning Titus to establish on this morally corrupt island of Crete.
- Paul is saying, be good and raise up others to do the same.
- This is Paul's method to add hope to a society that is deeply rooted in corruption.

3. Titus Overview

- Chapter 1 — Doing Good in the Church
 - 1. Today is an introduction to Titus
 - 2. Titus' assignment and the qualifications for leaders (vv. 4-16)
- Chapter 2 — Doing Good in Relationships
 - 3. What doing good looks like in daily relationships (vv. 1-10)
 - 4. Theology of doing good (vv. 11-14)
- Chapter 3 — Doing Good in the World
 - 5. How to be good in our corrupt world (vv. 1-2)
 - 6. Theology of becoming good (vv. 3-15)

Closing Theme Verse

Titus 3:8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Illustration: On a frigid Fall evening, November 14, 2012, a modern day Good Samaritan story played out on the streets of New York City, as NYPD Officer Larry DePrimo came across a homeless man leaning against the wall near the entrance to a shoe store --the man was barefoot.

Rather than cite him for public nuisance or loitering, Officer DePrimo went into the shoe store and bought the man a pair of size 12 all weather boots and thermal socks. And rather than just giving the boots to man (all though that would have been enough an act of kindness in its own right), the officer knelt down and helped him put them on.

This officer doesn't sound like most any cop you've ever heard of, does he? Cops in general have a reputation for being cold (pardon the pun) and uncaring, harsh and harassing--more often characterized as "pigs" or "fuzz" than our "finest."

Incredulous? Well, the whole thing did play out just as stated above, as witnessed by Jennifer Foster, an out of town tourist who caught the gesture on her cell phone camera. "I have these size 12 boots for you, they are all-weather. Let's put them on and take care of you," she heard him say as she watched him help the man into his new boots.

Like the sudden clap of thunder that nearly knocks you off your seat, the unexpected has a way of grabbing our attention. So unexpected was this officer's gesture, that Ms. Foster's picture* and comments soon became an online viral sensation across the internet.

Being good can change a culture, one life at a time.

Offering

God is unfailing in blessing and love. With thankful hearts, let us offer up to God a portion of what God has given us.

*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

O God, we thank you for these gifts. Multiply them, and enable the work of love and the righteousness of your kingdom in the world. We thank and praise you. 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 this world God so loves, saying, God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, your unfailing love has been the source of our strength. It has led us through troubled waters and away from our enemies. In your infinite love, you have had pity on us and heard our cries. Because of your faithful love and mercy, we bring our concerns to you, O God.

For the universal church— that it would be an instrument of your love, forgiveness, and grace. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the global community— that we would learn to live for each other in peace and cooperation, and share collective responsibility. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our local community. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer in their minds, bodies, or souls— wrap your arms around them in love and help us, the church, be what they need. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the silent intentions we hold in our hearts. [A time of silence is kept.] God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glory be to the Father, and to Jesus Christ the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, 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 241 "Behold, the Goodness of Our Lord"

1 Behold the goodness of our Lord,
How blest it is to be
A company of God's beloved,
In holy unity.

It flows throughout our common bond,
Refreshing all of life.

2 Like precious oil upon the head,
A healing for our strife,

3 As dew on Zion's mountaintop
Brings freshness to its door,
Our Lord commands this in our midst
And brings life evermore.

Benediction

Postlude