

Getting Well

INTRO - Good evening, family! It is good to be with you. (Point to the Screen with the photo of you and Sienna.) Did you know that I am a grandpa! And that makes Joan a grandma! And, we absolutely love our new job.

It was July last year when our youngest daughter Angela and her husband Shawn called from Denver and announced that we would be grandparents for the first time. This call forever changed my life. My bride of 35 years hung up the phone and with a steely eyed glint says “I was born to be a grandma.” Now men --- doesn’t that sound expensive? --- well it is. Joan immediately called Steph and my mom to formulate a plan to systematically use our financial assets to address Sienna’s immediate needs. I wouldn’t be doing my job as a grandpa if I didn’t show you some photos.

Funny photos of Joan; feeding Sienna, playing with her, “leaving Denver (Joanie running with the stroller; Joan in Fort Collins (mug shot) It is tough when your kids have to turn you in.

Jpg 004 and jpg 018

Use a flip chart

Well, many of you know that I have officially retired from the Staff of Harvest Church. I just couldn’t handle the guys not tucking in their shirts. No! Just kidding. But, I have three reasons why I am retiring from Harvest:

1. These folks here work very hard and very long – I have been having trouble keeping up (and besides I have grandkids to disciple)
2. In the early years of Harvest, you needed someone to fill in for Vern when he needed a day off or some time to study. (22 times in the first 3 years I mustered my courage to fill in for our pastor. Thank you for coming back the following weekends. But, you now have some excellent teachers in Tim, Giff, George, Eric, Adam, etc.

And you needed someone to help with those in conflict and emotional distress. You now have a staff that is better at that Fire Suppression Work than I have ever been (show photo of staff)

3. And, finally, I believe that a focus life is the most productive life. When I retired from Streeter Brothers Ins. 7 years ago, my passion was discipleship (the raising up of fully committed Christ followers --- it is time for me to get back to that passion.

If you have a Bible, lets turn to Eph 2:1-10

Eph 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

THE BIG IDEA: As completely committed Christ followers, we understand that we are not saved by *good works* but that good works are the natural result of the gratitude we have for being saved from hell and from a self-center existence.

Pray

Let's unpack this great passage a bit by reviewing the 4 key *terms*. The great Bible teacher, Howard Hendricks teaches how important it is to look for key terms and define them.

It says "we".

We need to identify the "we." It appears that the group of people Paul is addressing fall into a specific category: They were all at one time dead in sin; They were selfish and addicted to sensual cravings. They followed the ways of this world and its ruler, Satan. In fact Paul indicates that this group of people actually had the devils evil nature dwelling in them. The people in this group were so wicked that they existed under God's wrath. Thankfully, it teaches that because of God's great love and mercy for this wretched band, He saved them from the worst of all fates --- separation from Him – now and in eternity. His agent of salvation is "grace" producing faith in all those who yield there lives to His perfect son, Jesus. Who is the "we?" Anyone who received this rich gift of kindness from God --- I believe that many in this room fall into that category.

Now for "workmanship"

poiema (poy'-ay-mah); from NT:4160; a product, i.e. **fabric** (literally or figuratively):
We are God's fabric; His tapestry; I like it.

"good works"

Good = NT:18 agathos, agathee, agathon

In general it denotes excelling in any respect, distinguished, good.

Works = NT:2041 ergon, ergou, to,

1. business, employment, that with which anyone is occupied: Mark 13:34
2. any product whatever, anything accomplished by hand, art, industry, mind 1 Cor 3:13-15
3. an act, deed, thing done: James 1:25; Titus 1:16

VIP denotes every activity undertaken for Christ's sake

A number of years ago I spent a summer recording the commands that came directly from Jesus in the 4 Gospels. By my count I found 127 commands – 101 of them had to do with our personal relationship with God (we might call these the getting saved and getting and staying well commands). 26 of Jesus' commands appear to be calls to activity for his sake (we could call those commands to Kingdom Service) As I meditated on those commands they fell into three natural categories.

We might say that these are:

What are we called to do after we get save and get well?

- **Help the poor**

Matt 25:34-36 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

- **Carry the burdens of others**

Gal 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- **Make Disciples**

Matt 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

“Do all the good you can for all the people you can.”

The book Search for Significance by McGee is a tremendous discipleship course about 2 key areas : our need for love and forgiveness and our need to do something of eternal value

Kingdom Service Sermon Brainstorms

I would like to be grandpa to you today and talked to you about being happy: happiness and self-centered are mutually exclusive.

Paul – making disciples; Barnabas – feeding the poor; Tabitha – bearing burdens

Marge coe story (use Discipleship formula and/or Discipleship Flow)

There can be overlap in the 3 good works

We become what the significant people in our lives encourage us to become.

127 commands; 101 Personal Holiness (getting saved and getting well) 26 Kingdom Service

Kingdom Service – Good works /Do all the good you can for all the people you can.

Feed the hungry (Gal 2:10); bear burdens (Gal 6:2); make disciples (Matt 28:28-29; 2 Tim 2:2)

Global Rich list

According to an analysis released in April 2008, divorce and unwed childbearing costs American taxpayers \$112 billion every year. A 1% decline in the divorce rate would save \$1.1 billion.
---*The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing*

Matt 28:19-20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

(from New International Version)

Poor

NT:4434

ptochos, ptochee, ptochon

1. in classical Greek from Homer (900 B.C.?) down, reduced to beggary, begging, mendicant, asking alms: Luke 14:13,21

(from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 2000 by BibleSoft)

BURDEN, BURDENED, BURDENSOME

1. baros NT:922 denotes "a weight, anything pressing on one physically," Matt 20:12, or "that makes a demand on one's resources," whether material, 1 Thess 2:6 (to be burdensome), or spiritual, Gal 6:2; Rev 2:24, or religious, Acts 15:28. In one place it metaphorically describes the future state of believers as "an eternal weight of glory," 2 Cor 4:17. See WEIGHT.

(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright (c)1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

Help the materially poor –

Help the emotionally poor

Help the spiritually poor

The Mission – a movie

If you are not saved – let Jesus save you

If you are not well – let Jesus heal you

If you are not “going” – let Jesus direct you to your life’s purpose

Steve Fourstar on “not attacking his wife while she is being attacked.”

Verses on giving a cup of water; visiting prisons Terry Tronson and Cliff Potts

Buzz and his buddy and the Water Purifying truck; shooting with Buzz and Chris Forrest

World Vision; Sodoms Great sin was a lack of justice Ex 16:49

Mummers; I am looking for things like passion, character, and wisdom; hatred of one’s own sin

Clapham Group and Amazing Grace

Billy Graham – forgiveness and goodness

Search for Significance – security and significance

Dallas Willard – goodness and blessedness

Personal holiness and Kingdom Service do not save us --- they are symptoms that we are saved

VIP So we need to become saved; then intentionally and with discipline get well; the with intentionality get to work.

Logos, Pathos, Ethos

Front Sight on a Handgun

Federer and Sampras - they waste no motion!

Jews today say do no harm; Jesus agrees and adds do lots of good

1 Cor 9:24-27

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

(from New International Version)

Col 1:28-29

28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. 29 To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

(from New International Version)

Ezek 16:49-50

49 "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. 50 They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.

(from New International Version)

Gal 2:8-10

8 For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. 9 James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. 10 All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

(from New International Version)

Good deeds

According to an analysis released in April 2008, divorce and unwed childbearing costs American taxpayers \$112 billion every year. A 1% decline in the divorce rate would save \$1.1 billion.

---The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing

Nehemiah 6:19

19 Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

(from New International Version)

Matthew 5:16

16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

(from New International Version)

1 Timothy 2:10

10 but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

(from New International Version)

1 Timothy 5:10

10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

(from New International Version)

1 Timothy 5:10

10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

(from New International Version)

1 Timothy 5:25

25 In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden.

(from New International Version)

1 Timothy 6:18

18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. (from New International Version)

Hebrews 10:24

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (from New International Version)

1 Peter 2:12

12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (from New International Version)

- Help the poor

Matt 25:34-36 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

- Carry the burdens of others

Gal 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

• Make Disciples

Matt 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Rabbinic discipleship – mettheros/talmid were chosen; they were taught for three years before they were required to make disciples while still being in relationship with their rabbi;

Doc's comment about: that would have been a "h—I" of an idea

I am looking for: Character, passion, wisdom, and focus

discipleshipformula

Matt 28:19 - 20 NLT

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Why Jesus Commanded Us to "Make Disciples?"

Example #1: Jane at age 34 introduces two friends to Christ and devotes her life to them. She diligently teaches them Jesus' commandments and models His character to them through her own behavior. She prays for her students fervently. At the end of three years they are *both* able to introduce two new friends to our Lord and begin this powerful process. Jane does the same. This geometric progression continues until Jane joins the Lord in Heaven at age 70. How many people will she have influenced significantly for Christ at the time of her death?

1. Number of People Discipled Per Session $\left(\frac{\text{Number of Years Total}}{\text{Number of Years per Session}} \right) = \text{Total Number Discipled}$
2. 2 people per session, 36 years total, 3 years per session
3. 2 raised to the 12th power (or on an HP12 C calculator --- 2 enter 12 yx)
 $=$ **4096**

Example #2: Imagine the same scenario above except John begins at age 26 and serves the Lord until his death at age 80. He is blessed to disciple 4 at a time, but it takes 6 years before they are able to disciple others. How many souls would he influence? **262,144**
(*if one of the original 4 fails to become a disciple maker, this number is reduced by 65,536 souls)

Example #3: Bill, age 54, lives to be 78. Because he is retired, he is able to spend time with 6 friends and co-labor with God in discipling them so that in 3 years they are able to do the same for 6 friends each. How many people will Bill influence in his "winter" years if he continues this process? **1,679,616**

2 Tim 2:2 NLT

You have heard me teach many things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others.