

# PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

December 11, 2022

## The Mission of the Church - Lesson 12: Benevolence

This morning we continue our series on *The Mission of the Church* and move to the third category of activities the Lord expects from His church: **Benevolence**.

**P**\_\_\_\_\_ - Last week we talked about the fact that God has equipped each of us with seeds of **Time, Talent, and Treasure** that can be sown for His Kingdom (**2 Cor 9:10; Eph 2:10**). Collectively, as His church, where should we utilize those resources? What should be the priority? We've already discussed how scripture clearly lays out commands and examples that the church should be involved in **Edification**, that is preaching, teaching, exhortation, and encouragement. Therefore, using our resources to facilitate edification is a worthy way to sow seed for His Kingdom. Consider that Paul clearly taught that an evangelist should make their living from preaching and teaching (**1 Cor 9:13-14; Gal 6:6-10**).

Today, we move to another area that should be a priority in the use of our resources as the Lord's church and is a way in which we can be active in working to bear fruit for God's Kingdom. This is **Benevolence**, which Webster's Dictionary defines as, "a disposition to do good, an act of kindness, or a generous gift."

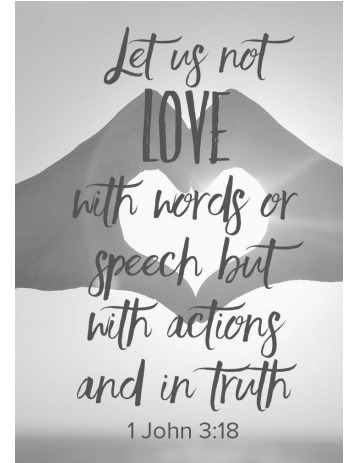
**P**\_\_\_\_\_ - Jesus and His disciples had a lot to say about benevolence in their teachings. Consider this small sampling:

**Lk 3:10-11** - Jesus instructs the crowd that if they have enough to share with others in need, then they should share what they have.

**Lk 10:25-37** - With the parable of "The Good Samaritan," Jesus leads a lawyer to truly understand that being a neighbor (**Lev 19:18**) involves the showing of mercy to one in need.

**Mt 25:31-46** - The distinguishing characteristic that separates "the sheep from the goats" is whether or not they demonstrated mercy toward those in need.

**Gal 6:6-10** - In reinforcing the concept of sowing and reaping, he concludes "let us do good to everyone..."



*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."*

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*A day of praise and worship time  
Is a day God has in mind  
When we get together then  
We let the praises then begin  
Praise God for love and health,  
and peace  
And the cures for bad disease  
Worship Him for His love and  
all  
The huge things and for all  
things small  
All the praises there to do  
God sends His blessings out to  
you*

**Jam 1:26-27** - James says that pure religion (not just going through the motions) includes “visit[ing] orphans and widows in their affliction...”

**1 Tim 5:1-8** - Paul instructs Timothy in how the church should care for widows if they do not have children or grandchildren to care for them.

**1 Jn 3:16-18** - John questions how anyone could claim God’s love if they do not show mercy to their brothers.

**P\_\_\_\_\_** - Not only do we have instructions, but we also have the privilege of seeing the example of the early church from the book of Acts, and the writings of the apostles. Again, consider this small sample:

**Acts 2:42-47** - From the very beginning, the church in Jerusalem was active in benevolence. Luke tells us that “they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”

**Acts 4:32-37** - This commitment to benevolence continues, and Luke tells us “There was not a needy person among them...”

**Acts 6:1-7** - When the apostles were no longer able to manage all the activities of the church in Jerusalem, they made provisions for the selection of seven men to “serve tables.”

**Acts 11:27-30** - When the church in Antioch of Syria learned of the upcoming famine, they determined to send relief to Christians in Judea by the hands of Paul and Barnabas.

**Gal 2:6-10** - Paul is recounting his encounter with James, Peter, and John in Jerusalem and how they “added nothing to me.” However, he does say that they encouraged him to “remember the poor...”

With all of this in mind, it seems clear that God expects His church to be involved in benevolence. Let us all be resolved to continue to make this a priority of how we use the resources God has blessed us with.

## PRAYER LIST

- **Peggy Wilkerson** expects to go home this week
- **Catherine Pennington** will have hernia surgery
- **Camille Brosky**, a family friend of the Agees, is in rehab recovering from a stroke
- **Judy Cook** is doing well at home
- **Mike Smith** will not need open heart surgery
- Elizabeth’s grandmother **Carol Saling** has cancer
- **Maria Hunter Harrington** has breast cancer
- **Forshia Pennington** has cancer.
- **Donna Rawls Head** is in hospice care
- Continue to pray for: **Chelsea Roaden**, those in **Ukraine**; the **Brown** family, **Kim Waller**, **Kristine Garrett**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes**, **Nick Phifer**, **Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**

## SERVING TODAY (December 11, 2022)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Read:** J. Walker  
**Prayer:** E. Walker

### WORSHIP

**Read:** J. Gupton  
**Wait On Table:** R. Mayo  
**Serve:** J. Buchanan, J. Demonbreun  
**Prayer:** L. Gregory