

Why Doing Good Pleases God

February 25, 2024 • Brad Manley

Doing good pleases God because it is _____. (Hebrews 13:15-16)

Doing good pleases God because it meets the _____ of others. (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Doing good pleases God because it seeks _____. (1 Timothy 2:1-14)

Hebrews 13:15-16

¹⁵ Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. (ESV)

1 Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. (ESV)

1 Timothy 2:1-4

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are some ways that you enjoy serving others?

Read & Discuss: Hebrews 13:15-16

1. What words or phrases in Hebrews 13:15-16 reflect the idea of worship? How can doing good works be an act of worship? (What are some ways that doing good works could be done in a way that would not be considered worship?) How does knowing that good works are pleasing to God affect your perspective on these activities?
2. The writer of Hebrews calls his readers to not neglect doing good and sharing (v. 15). What might cause us to be neglectful in this way? What might ensure that we regularly pursue these virtues?

Read & Discuss: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

3. As you read Paul's words in verse 17, do you see them as applying to yourself or mainly to other people? Explain. In what ways are we inclined to set our hopes on the "uncertainty of riches"? What are some things we can do to effectively resist this temptation?
4. How does practicing the activities of verse 18 store up treasure for "a good foundation for the future" (v. 19)? What do you think Paul means by taking "hold of that which is truly life" (v. 19)? How does verse 19 help us understand what it means to be "rich in good works" (v. 18)?

Read & Discuss: 1 Timothy 2:1-4

5. Paul urges that various kinds of prayer be made to God on behalf of all people (v. 1). Are there kinds of people you don't tend to pray for? Explain. How could you realign your prayers to better fit with God's heart for others?
6. Even though God desires people to be saved (v. 4), rather than calling us to pray for the salvation of leaders, here Paul encourages prayer that they will serve in a way that facilitates "peaceful and quiet" lives (v. 2). Why might this be pleasing to God?

Apply: What are some truths from these passages that move you to want to be "rich in good works"? What are some specific things you will do this week to offer up a "sacrifice of praise" through your deeds?

Pray: Ask God to increase our desire to be people who live in such a way that others are blessed and that God is praised by our choices and actions.