

“Doing Good”

By Jamey Hinds

Doing a word study I immediately found myself doing a *phrase* study. The phrase is, “Doing good.” The following passages are what I found, and in sharing them in this format I hope they will help us be *do-gooders*.

“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about **doing good** and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38).

God will render to each person according to his deeds: to those who by perseverance in **doing good** seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation” (Romans 2:6–8).

Let us not lose heart in **doing good**, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary” (Galatians 6:9).

“But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of **doing good**” (2 Thessalonians 3:13).

“And do not neglect **doing good** and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased” (Hebrews 13:16).



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THINGS ABOVE

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth”

— [Colossians 3:1–2] —

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Fellowship

By Buddy Johnson

Christians have been “called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:9). In order to maintain fellowship with Christ and with faithful Christians we must walk in the light of God’s revealed word (1 John 1:3–7). We must “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:8–11).

Part of the work of Elders is to watch over the souls of the congregation — “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and

not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:17). When Christians refuse to submit to the scriptural rule of the Elders, then discipline must follow. Jesus gave us instructions for discipline (Matthew 18:15–17). The apostle Paul through inspiration by the Holy Spirit instructed the church at Corinth in a particular case to “deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. . . . For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person” (1 Corinthians 5:5, 12–13). In verse 11 he provides for us a limited list, including fornication, covetousness, and drunkenness.

The same apostle Paul commands us to withdraw from every brother that walks disorderly (2 Thessalonians 3:6). And he also writes to withdraw from those who “consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness” (1 Timothy 6:3). For example, Paul delivered unto Satan Hymenaeus and Alexander for making shipwreck of their faith (1 Timothy 1:19–20).

Since the wages of sin are death (Romans 6:23), and since the seriousness of sin is that it separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2) is there really *any* sin that should be overlooked?

When someone refuses to assemble with other Christians to worship and serve God, they are guilty of willful sin — “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,

as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries” (Hebrews 10:24–27).

In doing so they have refused fellowship with the Lord first of all, then with other Christians; they have refused to partake of the Lord’s Supper; they have refused to give of their means; they have refused to join in prayers, supplication and giving of thanks; they have refused to teach and admonish in song; they have refused to grow and mature as Christians should. In other words, they have willingly refused for themselves to obey every command and instruction of God’s word that makes us acceptable to Him (Romans 12:1–2). There are other scriptures that teach us all the above and I am sure with a little more thought we can add to the list of sins that are involved in refusing to assemble ourselves at appointed times.

If involvement in such things does not make shipwreck of one’s faith and warrant discipline, I would like someone to teach me what does. Since we will be judged according to our works (Revelation 20:12–13), what will be the fate of the individual who refuses to work for the Lord?

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12).

