

He Hath Done All Things Well

By Ronnie Scherffius

There are incredible statements made about the life and character of various men and women in the Bible. Abraham is called “the Friend of God” (James 2:23). Moses was “very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth” (Num. 12:3). Paul identified David as “a man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22). And God himself said of the patriarch Job that “there is none like him in all the earth.” (Job 1:8)

Of the many things written of the life and work of Jesus, one of the more remarkable statements is in the book of Mark: “He hath done all things well.” (Mark 7:37) The word *well* carries the sense of “excellent, commendable, honorable.” Let us note four particulars in the life of Jesus Christ wherein we find this character demonstrated.

First, ***Jesus lived well.*** The Hebrews writing noted, “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; ***but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin***” (Heb. 4:15). Jesus was as much a man as He was deity. He would get hungry. (Lk. 4:2) He could marvel. (Mk. 6:6; Lk. 7:9) His body needed rest. (Mk. 4:38) He wept for man. (Jn. 11:35) He could become angry. (Mk. 3:5) He enjoyed the presence of children. (Lk. 18:16) Jesus could even be tempted to sin. (Lk. 4:2; Mt. 4:1) Nevertheless, Jesus, doing all things well, always lived “soberly, righteously, and godly. (Titus 2:12) Living soberly, Jesus practiced proper self-restraint of His passions. Living righteously, Jesus always conducted himself properly regarding the duties of His fellowman. Living godly, Jesus would say, “I do always those things that please him.” (John 8:29) Without contradiction, Jesus lived an excellent life.

Second, ***Jesus defended the truth well.*** When the Pharisees and the Herodians attempted to “catch Jesus in his words,” He so effectively defended the truth that His antagonists “marveled at him.” (Mk. 12:17) The Sadducees also came tempting

Jesus, but He straightly rebuked them and said, “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.” (Mt. 22:29) His defense of the truth was so strong that these intellectuals “were astonished at his doctrine.” (Mt. 22:33) With a single inquiry regarding the necessity of John’s baptism, Jesus so convincingly defended the truth that his opponents could not answer. (Lk. 20:7) Jesus defended the truth so forcefully that after a time, His enemies refused to “ask him anymore questions at all.” (Lk. 20:40) Jesus defended the truth with honor and dignity.

Third, ***Jesus prayed well.*** When Jesus prayed, He prayed reverently. His words struck a tone demonstrating great awe for God: “Hallowed be thy name...Thy kingdom...Thy will...Give us...forgive us...lead us...deliver us...For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.” (Mt. 6:9-13) Jesus also prayed regularly. He would arise early in the morning to pray (Mark 1:35) In times of stress and overwhelming circumstances because of His daily routine, He prayed. (Luke 5:15-16) When His friends were facing temptations of the adversary, He prayed. (Lk. 21:31, 32) Jesus prayed with such regularity, reverence, and reassurance that his disciples requested, “Lord, teach us to pray.” (Lk. 11:1) Jesus’ life of prayer was excellent.

Fourth, ***Jesus suffered well.*** Unlike those He came to save, when Jesus suffered at the hands of unjust men, He did not revile or seek revenge. Being reviled, He “reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.” (1 Pt. 2:23; cf. Isa. 53:7) Herein lies the key to Jesus’ life of “doing all things well.” He committed himself to God.

Brothers and sisters, let us strive to commit ourselves and our lives to God, that all we do in this life will be excellent, commendable, and honorable. Let us strive to do all things well before God and man.

Weak, Foolish, and Afraid

Selected

It's hard to miss the unique tone of 2 Corinthians, a letter full of self-disclosure and self-defense and written in such an intimate way. Paul's apostleship has been questioned and his extensive work with the Corinthians undermined. But, he was willing to "spend and be spent" for them (12:15). A man who has given so much for the cause of Christ chooses not to boast, but to humble himself in an effort to persuade and encourage these brethren in their spiritual progress.

WEAKNESS (12:7-10)

Due to the "surpassing greatness of the revelations" (7) Paul had received (1-6), he was given a "thorn in the flesh." It's useless to speculate about what this specific "thorn" was--poor eyesight, physical pain from being stoned at Lystra, some unspecified temptation, etc. Perhaps it is better for us, not knowing exactly what it was, since many of us as Christians may have to wrestle a thorn in our own flesh. It's interesting to note how Paul describes it: "humbling" (to keep me from exalting myself), "Satanic" (a messenger of Satan), "tormenting," "persistent" (8), "perfecting" (9), and "empowering" (10). Is there some physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual struggle in your life that you might describe in some or all of these ways? Perhaps we're quick to identify the negative aspects, but what about the potential positives that can come out of it? It can perfect and empower us to live a better Christian life and make us content with reverses suffered "for Christ's sake" and say, with Paul, "when I am weak, then I am strong" (10).

FOLLY (12:11-19)

Paul returns to a theme he has touched on several times throughout the letter (5:13; 11:16-19; 12:6). He resorted to defending his motives, position, decisions, and authority against the aforementioned charges. But, Paul points out that this was more for their "upbuilding" than for his own defense (19). He's not some insecure preacher or missionary whose feelings have been hurt by some perceived slight; he's fighting for the hearts and souls of relatively new Christians influenced by the culture and false teachers. He wants them to understand that

neither he or his co-workers, like Titus, have taken advantage of them. They have loved and served the Corinthians, willing to bear insults, condescension, and rejection in order to help them be saved. As preaching is called "foolishness" (1 Cor. 1:21), those who preach and teach it must be willing to be thought fools for Christ.

FEAR (12:20-21)

It's hard to find a man more courageous than Paul. What did he fear? First, he feared failure. The time and the teaching he had done would be wasted, if they were given over to "strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances" (20). Read through the two letters Paul wrote to them and notice how he addresses all these matters. Second, he feared emotional trauma (21). His mourning over their past sins would be compounded if they had not repented. Neither of these fears was irrational. Have you ever invested a lot of time, energy, and emotion into someone only to see them teetering on the ledge of apostasy and unfaithfulness?

God wants and needs faithful Christians who care about the church. He needs us to fully invest ourselves, to "spend and be spent" for others. The great news (and Paul not only understood this; He wrote about it) is that God gives strength for our weakness, wisdom for our folly, and courage for our fear. He will help pull us out of such figurative valleys as we hold onto His capable hands. Let us do our part and devote ourselves to one another.



Upcoming Events

TODAY!—Monthly Potluck luncheon after morning worship with a 1pm afternoon service. Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Nov. 14– Monthly Youth Devo after evening services at the home of Ron and Mary Jo White. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Nov. 14– Ladies Day Meeting at 4pm at the building.

Area Events—Schertz Lectures Nov. 14-17. More details are on the hallway bulletin board.

Registration for the Southwest Youth retreat at Camp Henzel has begun.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests

Richard Hill who is having health issues.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Scott DeDear, Ken and Sandra Marie, Mike McVey, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson, Sandy Malone.

Food Helpers for the month of November - Team A. There is a list of teams on the bulletin board. If you would like to be added to the list, please see Lupe.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Service Roster

Week of November 7, 2021

Sunday Morning

Announcements.....Jesse Moser
Scripture Reading..... Dan Fielder
Song LeaderJesse Moser

Opening Prayer..... Doug Jobes
Closing Prayer.....James Cammock

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ronnie Scherffius
Cup..... Ron White
Offering..... Lupe Escojido
Assist.....Fred Scherffius
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford
Assist..... Will Burleson

Sunday Evening

Announcements.....Jesse Moser
Song LeaderFred Scherffius

Opening Prayer.....Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer.....Kevin Sheeran

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Lupe Escojido & Clifton Rutherford

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Ronnie Scherffius
Song Leader Will Burleson
DevotionalJesse Moser

Other

Usher.....Allen Clifton
Prepare Communion Bass

Congregational News

Birthdays

Jim Hutt..... Nov. 9
Lupe Escojido, Jr. Nov. 10

Anniversaries

Darryl & Sherry Lynch..... Nov. 9
Dan & June Fielder..... Nov. 10

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ronnie Scherffius
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Ronnie Scherffius

Weekly Reading

*“A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger.”
Proverbs 15:1*

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of October 31, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....49
A.M. Worship.....65
P.M. Worship.....48
Wednesday Bible Class.....37
Offering week of October 31, 2021.....\$ 2,798

Supported Works

Mani Pagidipalli *India*
John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
Anthony Scherffius *Southwest School of Bible Studies*



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