

“This Year I Will---Do All the Good I Can”
Galatians 6:1-10 (NIV)
January 13, 2019
Rev. Dave Baldrige
Palm Harbor United Methodist Church, Palm Harbor, Florida

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4e2_A_SrpK Donut Story

Who was doing the good? Oh, quite mistaken. Why would “that guy” be sharing and doing good; why he looked homeless. Oh, let’s not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think.

The man sharing didn’t look upset, in fact he did good---even sharing the last half of *his* donut. This year I will Do All the Good I Can.

Last week we talked of what we call 3 Simple Rules. Last we talked of “This Year I will---Do No Harm (**image**). Today we continue the resolution, this commitment for 2019 by saying “This Year I Will Do All the Good I Can.” (**logo slide**)

This is again something that sounds so easy. How hard can it be to do good?

¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

It is easy to do good to those seated around you. Now you may not really know that person across the aisle, but you are probably willing to be nice to them---I mean, after all they are in church and everything.

But notice in verse 10 it says “as we have opportunity, let us do good to ALL people.”

This is Methodism’s Second General Rule from back in 1739. The first was: Do No Harm, next week we will talk about the third. But today #2: “By doing good; ...doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all...”

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism in his 1799 work “Sermons on Several Occasions” contained a sermon on “The Law Established through Faith” with the following guidance. “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Neither is love content with barely working no evil to our neighbour. It continually incites us to do good: as we have time, and opportunity, to do good in every possible kind, and in every possible degree to all (men).”

Jesus was a servant. He served His disciples. He served His community. He served the world---by dying for the sins of the world.

This is the model for us. We are to serve His disciples, “those who belong to the family of believers,” serve the community in which we live (Our mission outreach), and serve the world (again mission outreach).

From John Wesley's journal (Journal from August 12, 1738, to November 1, 1739, in Works, Vol. 1: page 202) "His servant I am, and as such, am employed according to the plain direction of this word, "As I have opportunity, doing good unto all (men)" ...that I might singly attend on this very thing, "and go about doing good."

Reuben Job who wrote Three Simple Rules (A Wesleyan Way of Living, page 44-45) says in his book: "To singly attend to doing good is a simple rule, but it is also undeniably challenging. But wait a minute. What if I forget about myself? It is an incredible idea but one that Jesus seemed to like a lot. What if I really did think about and put God first in my life? What if I did thing of the needs of others first? What if I permitted what is good for the community to be my guide rather than my own personal needs? Would this bring me nearer to what Wesley had in mind? what Jesus had in mind? I have a feeling that it would." And I say, Amen. Amen? Xxxxx

There is a quote that often attributed to John Wesley. Wesleyan scholars say that they cannot find any actual source where he said the following. So, with that word of explanation, hear these profound words:

Do all the good you can, (how)

by all the means you can, (in what way)

in all the ways you can, (where)

in all the places you can, (when)

at all the times you can, (to whom)

to all the people you can, (for how long)

as long as ever you can.

Woo-hoo!!!!

Yet, we live in a climate and society of entitlement and caring simply about self. To most when asked the following the questions they would respond this way:

Who is the most important person in the world? (Me)

I need to take care of me first.

What I think is the best.

What I believe must be the truth.

Now beloved, will all due respect, it's not all about you. Yes, you are to love your neighbor as yourself, but don't forget to not just love yourself, but also your neighbor. Do no harm. Do all the good you can.

You don't need to wait to be asked to do good---DO IT!

Does doing good all the ways you can cost you----yes. It may cost you some time. It may cost you some money. It may even cost you a little pride and dignity.

But, but, but...what if I offer to do good and its is rejected and refused?

Through the years at churches I've served that had an assistance program to help those in need---we have from time to time got 'burned.' We have been taken advantage of.

Friends in doing all the good you can is not about you, or even about those your doing it to. You should be doing it for Jesus. You are responding to the call of Jesus. You should have the reward of knowing that you did God's will and it is right and pleasing to God. You do good, God has called you...how others receive it, or even if they misuse or take advantage you have done what God has called you to do.

But preacher...to ALL people. Well here's what Jesus says, **Luke 6:27 New Living Translation (NLT)** ²⁷ **"But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you.**

Say what? Xxxx (WHAT) Yep, Jesus says to do good to those who hate you. That radical. Beloved, it is radical. Why should I be nice to someone who is not nice to me. Really be nice to an enemy? Yes, that what Jesus says.

Kerry Kehl my Administrative Assistant uses a coffee mug that says this **(image)**. "Be nice. Jesus said so." Profound and simply stated.

Hebrews 13:16 New Living Translation (NLT) ¹⁶ **And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.**

Sarah has a shirt with that scripture on it. I think some of the ladies here gave it to her. The scripture reference is at the bottom of the shirt. Across the front it says.

**BE GOOD
DO GOOD
REPEAT**

There you go!

Do all the good you can. That command is universal and no one is exempt. I hope on your "To Do" list it simply says... Things to do today.... "To Do All the Good I can." Oh, what a difference that would make for the kingdom of God.

Here are 10 ways that we can do good.

1. **Our Communication (thank you, please, you're welcome, compliments)**
2. **Pick up litter**
3. **Hold doors open**

4. **Financially give to the church**
5. **Help someone in a practical way**
6. **Give of your time**
7. **Invest through missions**
8. **Listen then do.**
9. **Financially Support the church** (how did that make the list twice??? 😊)
10. **Do what you would want done to you.**

Going to put this to a practical application. Next week in the lobby and at the side door we are going to have a basket for you to anonymously put down some of the good you have done this week for the sake of Jesus. You can bring your list, or we will have paper and pencils for you to do this. Beloved let's hold one another accountable.

We do good because God is in GOoD. **(God is in GOoD)**

We serve a good God. How do we not do good---when we do harm?

This year I will---Do No Harm.

This year I will---Do All the Good I Can.

Now earlier we mentioned the quote that was attributed to John Wesley, although it may not be. Often our confirmation students say that together. So, I've changed the personal pronoun to I instead of you. If you are willing, and it comes from the heart will you join me in this saying.

I will,

Do all the good I can,

by all the means I can,

in all the ways I can,

in all the places I can,

at all the times I can,

to all the people I can,

as long as ever I can.

Amen? Xxxxxxx (Amen)