

A Good Man

Psalm 112:5-9 (NKJV)

5 A good man deals graciously and lends; he will guide his affairs with discretion.

6 Surely he will never be shaken; the righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.

7 He will not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

8 His heart is established; he will not be afraid, until he sees *his desire* upon his enemies.

9 He has dispersed abroad, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be exalted with honor.

Consider the qualities of a “good man” as laid down by the psalmist of old. The good man is gracious (Luke 6:35), discreet (Proverbs 19:11), stable and established (1 Corinthians 15:58), trusting (2 Corinthians 1:9), unafraid (2 Timothy 1:7), benevolent (Galatians 2:10; 6:10), and honored (1 Peter 1:7).

In the New Testament, Nicodemus was called a good man (Luke 23:50). He was both righteous and generous and he didn't let Jewish tradition, fear, or riches get in his way of following Jesus. Barnabas was also called a good man (Acts 11:24). He was both righteous and generous and he didn't let self get in his way of following Jesus.

Friend, read Psalm 112:5-9 again and ask yourself, “Do I bare the marks of a good man?” Let's be the “good man” this world so desperately needs. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- A gossip serves as a postman for Satan.
- Every minute we are angry, we lose one minute of happiness.
- The burden of sin is heavier than the yoke of Christ.
- It's not what we think or feel, but what God's word says, that will judge us in the last day.
- If revenge is so sweet, why does it leave such a bitter taste?

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Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

October 28, 2018



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Are You Living Like You Want to Die

Many people in our world today have the right attitude toward the life hereafter, but they don't have the right attitude toward the life here-and-now. They say, for example, "I want to die and go to heaven." But, they don't live now (according to God's word) like they want to go to heaven. In other words, they want to die and go to heaven (who doesn't?), but they don't want to live right by God's word now in order to go there when they die.

You see, it's easier to say you want to die and go to heaven than it is to actually live right now in order to go there. Like Balaam in the Old Testament, many people today "talk" right about the hereafter, but they don't "walk" right in the here-and-now. Balaam said, "Let me die the death of the righteous" (Numbers 23:10), but he didn't live the right way in order to be righteous. He was in fact an immoral person (Numbers 31:16; 2 Peter 2:15; Jude 11; Revelation 2:14). If you want die righteous, you have to live righteous. So, are you living like you want to die?

Do you want to die the death of the righteous (Numbers 23:10), but not live the life of the righteous now. We are supposed to live righteous lives. We are supposed to "live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12) and we are to "live unto righteousness" (1 Peter 2:24). Are you doing that?

Do you want to die unto the Lord

(Rom. 14:6-9), but not live unto the Lord now (Rom. 14:10-12,18)? Consider what the apostle Paul wrote:

"For none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; or whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:7-8).

Do you want to die and be with Jesus (Philippians 1:23), but not live with Jesus now (Philippians 1:20-21)? Paul wanted to die and be with Jesus, but he was also willing to live faithfully for Jesus during his life. He wrote:

"according to my earnest expectation and hope, that in nothing shall I be put to shame, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if to live in the flesh, if this shall bring fruit from my work, then what I shall choose I know not. But I am in a strait betwixt the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ; for it is very far better" (Philippians 1:20-23).

Do you want to fall asleep in Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14; Acts 7:60), but not live awake in Jesus now (1 Thessalonians 5:4-11)? Paul spoke of Christians who fell asleep in Jesus (died), but also of Christians who lived vigilantly in Jesus' service. He wrote:

"But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief: for you are all sons of light, and sons of the day: we are

not of the night, nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep, as do the rest, but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:4-6).

Do you want to die in faith (Hebrews 11:13), but not live in faith now (Hebrews 11:6)? The author of Hebrews wrote, "these all died in faith" (Hebrews 11:13). The "these" he is talking about are the men and women of faith mentioned in the Old Testament. Read Hebrews 11 and you will see how "these" godly men and women lived by faith before they died in faith. Are you willing to do this?

Do you want to die in the Lord (Revelation 14:13), but not live in the Lord now (Revelation 14:4,5,12)? John wrote in the book of Revelation about Christians who died and would be rewarded in heaven after living and laboring faithfully for Jesus on the earth. He wrote:

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying, write, blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them" (Revelation 14:13).

It certainly is a great goal in life to say we want to die and go to heaven. But, just saying it won't make it happen. We must all live now like we want to die later. If we want to die and go to heaven, let's all live right today like we are going there. Are you living like you want to die?

- Chris Reeves -