

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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IT IS GOOD

Larry R. Ping II

In a world where the lines between good and bad are rapidly blurring, if not altogether disappearing, we must be especially adept at discovering those things which are good. If the Bible announces something is good, then it is! Consider these.

1) It Is Good To Give Praise Unto God. David authored, *"I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good"* (Psa. 54:6). We praise Him because He is right (Psa. 7:17). We praise Him because of His power (Psa. 21:13). To praise God is to reverence God, and worship Him. This is something which is due to Him. The Psalmist pointed out, *"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness"* (Psa. 29:2). Jesus commanded, *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth"* (Jn. 4:24). Are you consistently praising God? If not, you should be. It is good to do!

2) It Is Good To Draw Near To God. Asaph penned, *"But it is good for me to draw near to God"* (Psa. 73:28). Away from God is not a good place to be. Among the many eternal punishments is the fact the disobedient will be *"punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power"* (II Thess. 1:9). May we be exceptionally determined this is not the case for us. Let us follow James' words, *"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you"* (Jam. 4:8). Eternal thanks to Jesus who made being close to God a possibility. Paul mentioned a *"time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ"* (Eph. 2:12-13). Strive daily to be near to God. Study His Word and consistently pray to Him. It is good to do!

3) It Is Good To Be Afflicted. In the longest Psalm it is said, *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes"* (Psa. 119:71). This may seem counter-intuitive to many, but the Bible in many places expresses the good which can come from suffering. Even in this same Psalm it is said, *"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word"* (Psa. 119:67). Paul, often persecuted and maligned, wrote, *"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope"* (Rom. 5:3-4). Later, Peter wrote, *"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf"* (I Pet. 4:16). When this occurs, we *"commit the keeping of"* our *"souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator"* (I Pet. 4:19). What a wonderful, caring Father we serve and to whom we humbly submit. If and when you are afflicted, use it as a good thing!

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4) It Is Good To Sing Praises Unto God. Near the end of the grand collection of Psalms, it is recorded, “*Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely*” (Psa. 147:1). Singing is an indication of happiness. James reminded, “*Is any merry? let him sing psalms*” (Jam. 5:13). The Ephesians were told to be “*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*” (Eph. 5:19). Similarly, the Colossian brethren were notified to “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord*” (Col. 3:16). Sing unto God whenever you can and from wherever you are. It is a good thing!

5) It Is Good To Enjoy The Fruit Of Your Labor. The preacher uttered, “*Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the*

good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion” (Eccl. 5:18). We are commanded to work (Eph. 4:28; I Tim. 5:8). From the earned funds, we support our families and help those who are in difficult situations (Prov. 3:27-28). The Bible cautions us to remember, though, “*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning*” (Jam. 1:17). There should be a good feeling generated by hard work. Thank God for your means to support, and for the blessings which follow. It is a good thing!

6) It Is Good To Not Offend Your Brother. In a chapter dealing with opinion matters, Paul said, “*It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak*” (Rom. 14:21). The idea of “Bible offending” is to cause another, in this case a brother or sister in Christ, to sin.

We should never cause another to sin through our actions. Paul quickly reminded the Roman Christians, “*We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification*” (Rom. 15:1-2). That is, we need to realize there are others who have differing, allowable opinions, and that is just fine. Do not ever force another to adopt yours. It is a good thing not to do so!

7) It Is Good To Be Zealous All Of The Time. The Galatian brethren were admonished, “*But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you*” (Gal. 4:18). Friends, it is easy to be zealous with brethren in the meeting-place. But how are our spiritual energy levels when we are away from these people? Folks around us need to see Christ in us, always. As Paul said, “*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me*” (Gal. 2:20). Be excited always. It is a good thing!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm