

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 the present world, that which is determined to be good is muddled, to say the least. We live in times well-defined by Micah who said, “*hate the good, and love the evil*” (Mic. 3:2). Yet, we are called upon to “*Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live*” (Amos 5:14). To seek good, we must know what is good. Considered in this brief article are things which the Bible says, “*it is good.*”

1) IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS. The Psalmist penned, “*I will give thee thanks for ever, because thou hast done it; And I will hope in thy name, for it is good, in the presence of thy saints*” (Psa. 52:9). God’s people have much to be thankful for, and they should be. Later, the Psalmist would remind, “*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, And into his courts with praise: Give thanks unto him, and bless his name. For Jehovah is good; his lovingkindness endureth for ever, And his faithfulness*

unto all generations” (Psa. 100:4-5). It must be noted, the “*unthankful*” are grouped with those from whom we should “*turn away*” (II Tim. 3:1-5).

2) IT IS GOOD TO ENJOY THE GOOD OF YOUR LABOR. The preacher said, “*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). It is a good thing for a man to work hard, and enjoy the fruits of his labor. Stated another way, “*There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour*” (Eccl. 2:24). Paul admonished, “*Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth*” (Eph. 4:28). He also warned, “*But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the*

faith, and is worse than an infidel” (I Tim. 5:8). The lesson is simple. Work hard and enjoy the blessings you receive as a result (Jam. 1:17).

3) IT IS GOOD TO BE ALWAYS ZEALOUS. In writing to the brethren at Galatia Paul iterated, “*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). The Lord needs followers who are excited and enthusiastic about His work. It is a turn-off to God to see apathetic and indifferent believers. John said, “*I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth*” (Rev. 3:15-16). It is rather easy to be enthused about God’s work in the meeting-house, but an entirely different scenario outside of it. Being enthusiastic about God will have an impact on those who are watching.

4) IT IS GOOD TO SING PRAISES TO GOD. It is noted in the book of Psalms, “*Praise ye the LORD: for it is*

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good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely” (Psa. 147:1). Not only is singing praises to God a good thing, it is also said to be a beautiful and proper thing to do! God’s people are instructed to sing. *“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). James asked, *“Is any merry? let him sing psalms”* (Jam. 5:13). God is worthy of all the praise we can muster. Let’s do it!

5) IT IS GOOD TO PATIENTLY WAIT FOR THE LORD. The weeping prophet observed, *“It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD”* (Lam. 3:26). The Bible promises, *“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation”* (Heb. 9:28). James understood the connection between patience and the Lord’s second coming when

he wrote, *“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh”* (Jam. 5:7-8). It is a wonderful thing to want to go to our home in Heaven, but we must be patient while waiting for our hope to be realized.

6) IT IS GOOD TO NOT CAUSE YOUR BRETHREN TO STUMBLE. Paul reminded the Roman Christians, *“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). In connection to this Paul charged, *“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). While it is true we have liberty in areas of opinion and conscience, we must, at the same time, be

mindful of our brethren with weaker consciences. Paul’s conclusion on this matter was, *“Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend”* (I Cor. 8:13).

7) IT IS GOOD TO BE AFFLICTED. The Psalmist uttered, *“It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes”* (Psa. 119:71). Also, he stated, *“Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word”* (Psa. 119:67). Clearly, afflictions (albeit difficult to deal with), can draw one closer to God. Paul expressed, *“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed”* (Rom. 5:3-5). Similarly, Paul mentioned his *“light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”* (II Cor. 4:17). Believe it!

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

2720 Battery Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 672
Vincennes, IN 47591

Phone: 317.308.8288

Website: www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com

Email: firstcitychurchofchrist@gmail.com

MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm