

The Camp Hill Vision

Seeking the Lost, Equipping the Saved and Bringing All Into the Image of God

IV. Good Works: Service to Christ

We have reached the end of the series *The Camp Hill Church of Christ Vision*. This is was a series designed to rekindle our focus on our purpose in Christ. What is our vision?

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The four steps necessary to embrace our vision in a scriptural way are the following:

I. Discipline: Living for Christ

We discussed about our goal to be disciplined in our life. If we lack the self-discipline that Jesus wants, then there is loving discipline which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 18.

II. Life Groups: Fellowship in Christ

Instead of having “Death-groups” of non-fellowship with the world, there will be “Life-groups” of fellowship with each other. In tonight’s lesson, Tracy Probst will further expound on the “Life-group” concept. Please make every effort to be present.

III. Bible Studies: Education toward Christ

In the third section we have two lessons on our education in Christ through small-group, home Bible studies. This week we will be starting some of those study groups as mentioned in the bulletin. Please attempt to be a part of these efforts.

IV. Good Works: Service to Christ

In this last lesson, we will cover a topic extremely vital to our vision, Good Works. There must be a demonstration of Service to Christ in every church’s vision. Without it, we are nothing more than a “Christian” in name only. That is not what Jesus wants in our lives.

Jesus said in John 13:34-35, “*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*” What was the image in the disciple’s mind as He spoke? Jesus had just completed one of the humblest acts of a service by washing the disciple’s feet. It is as Jesus said in Mark 10:45, “*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*”

Carrying out good deeds of service for others has always been in Christ’s vision for His church.

- 1 Peter 2:12, “*...your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*”
- Titus 2:7, “*...in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds...*”

Listen closely to the words of Paul in Ephesians 2:10, “*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*” In that passage Paul was explaining a deep, yet simple principle about the purpose of God and His purpose for us. There are two implications brought forth in this verse.

1) We are God’s workmanship.

If we are His “*workmanship*”, then He Himself was the *Worker*. He saved us by exerting His merciful grace and not by our own works, but His. He said concerning our

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conversion a few verses earlier, “*even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)*” (Ephesians 2:5).

He is the One that labored for us through the death of His Son. He brought us into His kingdom all by Himself. We only accepted the invitation. If you think for a moment you are special in Christ because you are SPECIAL, then you are fooling yourselves. We are special because of God.

2) We become “workman” for God.

Now that we have been a recipient of His awesome handiwork, we ourselves become a workman. He did not save us without a purpose in our lives, but with intention, meaning, and goals. He wants us to model works of appreciation for what was done on the cross.

When we refuse to bear fruit, it is an indication that either we have misunderstood the covenant or have forgotten that Christians work as a workman in response to the Master Workman. When we are a worker of good deeds, God uses it as a magnet to draw others into the program.

- We are to let our, “*...light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*” (Matthew 5:16)
- We are to be “*equipped for every good work*” (1 Timothy 3:7).
- We are to “*...consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds...*” (Hebrews 10:24).
- We are to “*Instruct them to be rich in good works...*” (1 Timothy 6:18).
- *Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. (Titus 3:14)*

With that as part of the foundation in our vision here at Camp Hill, I would like to conclude the lesson by “examining ourselves” to see where we stand. We will do this by answering two simple questions.

A) Where do we presently stand in our “Good Works”?

1) Golden Living Ministry

Three years ago we adopted the residents of Golden Living Nursing Home in Camp Hill. This good work started out with great energy and participation.

- We would take groups of people over and sing hymns to them. Their level of joy was obvious through smiles, thankfulness and singing along. God said, “Go workmen and workwomen, show them My glory!”
- We restored the patio for the Alzheimer’s wing, tearing out a stump, re-doing the concrete, building an arbor and re-planting all the growth. It was the first time they were able to use it for a couple years. God said, “Way to show the love of My Son to the world My precious workman and women of the church!”
- For three years in a row you have purchased many thousands of dollars of needed living supplies for them. You did it not because you were forced to, but because you wanted to. God said, “Bless you My workmen and

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women of the kingdom, for you understand what Jesus did for you on the cross!”

- We have streamed more than 100 Sunday morning worship services, held more than 300 Bible studies, made several thousands of personal visits and thousands of personal prayers offered on their behalf. God said, “Show them what I did for you, my workmen and women of heaven. They will see your good works and bring me the glory!”

2) Youth Ministry

One of the reasons we chose to come to Camp Hill nearly thirteen years ago was because of the youth group. There were so many in this group who wanted our children to go to heaven.

- You involved them in not one, but two Bible camps. It built their faith, built strong relationships, and grounded their love of Christ. God said, “Yes! You workmen and women of Christ are causing your offspring to love me with all their hearts, minds and souls (Matthew 22:35-37)!”
- You always provided a great curriculum to ground them in the word. They grew in their knowledge of Jesus and learned to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). God said, *“You workmen and women for the gospel are doing great job to train the next generation to defend faith in Me!”*
- You have taken them to Timothy Hill Ranch, Toys for Tots, nursing home visits, service projects, Boys Night Out, Girls Night Out, Bible Bowl, works days and at least a couple of other meaningful ministries. You did it because you deeply cared about all souls! God said, “It is so good my lovely workmen and women that you want to pass down the faith to your offspring!”

3) Internet Ministry

We made a decision to open up our studies and worship services to the entire world and the results have been wonderful. On any given Sunday morning we have people from around the country and even the world who join with you.

- The shut-ins and bedridden brothers and sisters in Christ who are searching for fellowship can find it here through your Internet ministry. God said, “Way to go My workmen and women, for you are encouraging the downtrodden through the ministry of My Word!”
- For quite a few years, Broadtop Church of Christ was struggling in their mid-week studies. We joined one of our classes with them every Wednesday evening via Skype. It allowed us to further encourage one another in Spirit and Truth, though many miles separated us. God said, “Well done you good and faithful workmen and women of the church!”
- The residents of Golden Living, whose minds are willing, but the flesh is weak”, cannot join us at the building. Because you chose to pay for the Internet connection to their television screen, they can join some of our other members in worship. You have opened the door of encouragement

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through the Word for them. God said, “Nice job workmen and women, you see the value of their souls and made me look great!”

I could spend much more time talking about the car ministry, the ministry of the Word through small-groups, hospital ministry, the ministry of benevolence and a few others. The three I listed are what stands out to me. The point is that God is behind all ministries that make Him look good in the eyes of the world and the church. I want to thank you for having always understood this and making this a wonderful place to share Christ.

B) Where can we go in our future “Good Works”?

We were told in a previous verse to stimulate each other for good deeds. This is an ongoing process of invention, re-invention and re-application. Ministries are born, live, grow, wane and die. What worked at one time might have outlived its functionality. We do what we can to keep a ministry going, but in the end, there will be an END.

The key factor is to make sure a ministry is not dying through neglect and starvation from lack of involvement. We must always be stimulating our minds to make what is good to be better. We must be willing to answer the question, “Is there anything I can do to make a present ministry better?” Let’s test it out!

Is there anything I can do to make the Golden Living Ministries better?

- We need more volunteers to go over and be with them during worship.
- We need more people visit on a regular basis.
- We need someone who would like to head up this ministry.

Is there anything to make the Youth Ministry better?

- We need parents to bring their children to be involved. (A youth ministry without youth does not exist.)
- We need people to volunteer for planning, participation and teaching.

Is there anything to make the Internet Ministry better?

- We need people who are willing to learn the equipment which is used.
- We need people who are willing to assume some of the responsibility of broadcasting.
- We need people who are willing to follow-up with the shut-ins who join us on Sunday morning.

Those are re-inventive means to push our present ministries to a higher level. Have we reached the zenith in some of our ministries? The only way we can know is to re-invent and re-apply. If after a period of time there is no effect, then we might possibly have our answer.

What about invention? Are there any new great ideas out there waiting to be applied? We must remember there was not car ministry, no God’s Love Story, no Internet Ministry and no Golden Living Ministry ten years ago. Praise God your inventiveness for Christ was present. What else is there out there?

It is up to you to stimulate one another to good deeds!