



(SLIDE #1) FILL YOUR LIFE WITH CHRISTIAN DEEDS!

(Slide #2) Introduction:

- A. Many People Do Lots Of Good Deeds In Life!
 - 1. Some are just done out of compassion.
 - a. Pharaoh's daughter had compassion for the Jewish mother and for the baby boy, Moses, in the little ark in the bulrushes of the Nile. Ex. 2:6
 - b. The Samaritan did good deeds for the man beaten and left dead on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Lk. 10:33,34
 - 2. Some are done for personal satisfaction.
 - a. The Pharisee who prayed and glorified himself. Everything he did for others or in worship was for personal glory. Lk. 18:10,11
 - b. A person feels good because they have done a kind deed for another person.
 - 3. Some are done for praise.
 - a. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talked about people doing religious acts because they sought the praise of men. Mt. 6:1-8 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ³But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. ⁵And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. ⁷And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."
 - b. Jesus described the motive of the scribes and Pharisees in Mt. 23:5: "But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments."

B. (►) Contrast Why Many People Do Good Deeds With Why Christians Should Do Good Deeds:

1. There may be a sense of personal satisfaction.
 - a. It feels good to help other people.
 - b. II Tim. 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
2. However, there are MUCH HIGHER MOTIVES!
 - a. Mt. 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
 - b. Phil. 2:15 “that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,”
3. Because we are trying to imitate Jesus -- compassion for people having no focus; for those with all kinds of diseases; and for those demon-possessed!
 - a. Jn.13:34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”
 - b. Jn. 13:15 “For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”
 - c. I Cor. 11:1 “Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.”
 - d. Jn. 4:4 “But He needed to go through Samaria.”
 - a. ESV “And he had to pass through Samaria.”
 - b. NIV “Now he had to go through Samaria.”

C. (►) Jesus Commends Those Who Do Good Works, No Matter How Small In His Name!

1. Mt. 10:42 “And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”
2. Mk. 14:3-9 “And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, **a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head.** ⁴But there were **some who were indignant** among themselves, and said, ‘Why was this fragrant oil wasted? ⁵For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.’ And they criticized her sharply. ⁶But Jesus said, ‘Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. ⁷For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. ⁸She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. ⁹Assuredly, I say to you, **wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.**”

3. Lk. 7:36-50 “Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee’s house, and sat down to eat. ³⁷And behold, **a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, ³⁸and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.** ³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw *this*, he spoke to himself, saying, ‘This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman *this is* who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.’ ⁴⁰And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Simon, I have something to say to you.’ So he said, ‘Teacher, say it.’ ⁴¹‘There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?’ ⁴³Simon answered and said, ‘I suppose the *one* whom he forgave more.’ And He said to him, ‘You have rightly judged.’ ⁴⁴Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, ‘Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped *them* with the hair of her head. ⁴⁵You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. ⁴⁶You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. ⁴⁷Therefore I say to you, her sins, *which are* many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little.’ ⁴⁸Then **He said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’** ⁴⁹And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, ‘Who is this who even forgives sins?’ ⁵⁰Then **He said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.’**”

4. Dorcas! Ac. 9:36-39 “At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was **full of good works and charitable deeds** which she did. ³⁷But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid *her* in an upper room. ³⁸And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring *him* not to delay in coming to them. ³⁹Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought *him* to the upper room. And **all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made** while she was with them.”

5. As Jesus pictures the Judgment Scene, He talks of His commendation of His disciples who have lovingly served others in the smallest ways; He describes His condemnation of His disciples who have hard-heartedly ignored others and doing the smallest things they could do for them!

Mt. 25:34-46 “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? ³⁸When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? ³⁹Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’ ⁴¹Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ ⁴⁵Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

D. (Slide #3) Think About Good Deeds That You May Do And The Impact They May Have!

I. (Slide #4) You Show Your Love And Respect For Jesus Christ!

A. He Has Called Us To “Good Works!”

1. Eph. 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
2. God’s people are to be: “**zealous for good works.**” Tit. 2:14
3. Paul’s prayer for the Colossian Christians: Col. 1:10 “that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, **being fruitful in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God;”
4. He prayed for the Thessalonians that Christ and the Father would “comfort your hearts and **establish you in every good word and work.**” II Thess. 2:17
5. Young Men: “in all things **showing yourself to be a pattern of good works**; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,” Tit. 2:7

6. Paul counseled godly women on their focus -- put much more emphasis on the internal and doing good than upon the external! “but, which is proper for **women professing godliness, with good works.**” I Tim. 2:10
 7. He urged Christian citizens: “Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, **to be ready for every good work,**” Tit. 3:1
 8. He urged all believers: “This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should **be careful to maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable to men.” Tit. 3:8
 9. Tit. 3:14 “And **let our *people* also learn to maintain good works,** to *meet* urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.”
- B. By The Way, The Scriptures Direct Us Into Those Good Works!
1. We have the Scriptures to prepare us to be: “thoroughly equipped for every good work.” II Tim. 3:17
 2. Godly wisdom is: “**full of mercy and good fruits.**” Js. 3:17
- C. And By Those Good Works, We Glorify The Godhead, Not Ourselves!
1. Jn. 15:8 “**By this My Father is glorified,** that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”
 2. Mt. 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

II. (Slide #5) You Inspire Brethren By Your Good Deeds!

- A. Paul Influenced Christians In The First Century; He Influences Us To Be about Christian Deeds Constantly!
- B. When You Read About Dorcas, You Are Inspired To Use Your Talents To Help Others!
- C. When Fellow Christians See YOUR Christian Deeds, It Can Motivate Them To Think About How They Can Use Their Lives, Times, Talents, Money, Etc. To Bless Others!

III. (Slide #6) You May Encourage Or Mend Broken Hearts!

A. Some Are Broken-Hearted Because Of Grief.

1. Like Jesus, you can weep with them! Jn. 11:35
2. You can just be there for them!
3. You can talk about Jesus and the hope we have in Him!
 - a. I Thess. 4:13 “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.”
 - b. I Thess. 4:18 “Therefore comfort one another with these words.”
4. And long after the funeral is over, you can remember a grieving widow, widower, parent, child, etc.
 - a. You never know how they are hurting inside.
 - b. Often they are overlooked after a funeral; everyone goes on with life; the grieving ones are forgotten.
 - c. Call, visit, send cards, take them out to eat, or take them visiting others!

B. Some May Be Down On Themselves Because Of Failures.

1. John Mark left Paul and Barnabas on the First Missionary Journey.
2. Barnabas believed in this young man.
3. He stood up for him so much so that he parted from Paul and took John Mark with him on his Second Missionary Journey to Cyprus! Ac. 15:39

IV. (Slide #7) You Can Assist Someone To Achieve A Goal; Then You Encourage Them To “Pass It On!”

A. Many Times I Have Seen Christians Help Someone Trying To Get Ahead In Life.

B. It May Have Been To Finish Their GED, To Prepare Themselves Educationally To Have Greater Opportunity And To Be More Successful In Their Career.

C. Often The Brethren Had NO Expectation Of Anything In Return; Rather They Encouraged The Receiver To “Pass It On.”

V. (Slide #8) You May Share Your Knowledge That Has Great Impact On Their Decisions.

- A. You May Teach A Younger Person How To Do Things In Life.

- B. You May Talk With Him/Her About Decisions They Are Making And Consequences Of Those Decisions!

- C. You May Help That Young Person Not Make Tragic Mistakes That Previous Generations Have Made.

VI. (Slide #9) You May Take Note Of A Person's Reservations And Help Them Attain What They Desire!

- A. Jesus Approached The City Of Jericho. Lk. 19:1-10

- B. People Heard That Jesus Was Coming To Town And Great Crowds Gathered!

- C. Zacchaeus, The Tax Collector, Wanted To See Jesus.

- D. Because Of His Short Stature, He Could Not See Over The Crowd, So He Climbed Up A Tree To See Him!

- E. Jesus Took Note Of This Man, His Reservations, And His Limitations; He Stopped, Invited Himself To Zacchaeus' House, And Helped Bring This Sinful Man To Repentance And To Salvation!

VII.(Slide #10) You May Help Guide Someone To Christ!

- A. Because Of Doing Good, Casting A Demon Out Of A Young Woman, Paul And Silas Were Thrown In Jail In Philippi. A. 16

- B. The Men Who Were Using This Girl For Financial Gain Were Livid And Brought Paul And Silas Before The Magistrates.

- C. The Citizens Of Philippi Became Enraged; The Magistrates Had Paul And Silas Beaten With Rods And Delivered To The Jailer!

- D. The Jailer, Fearful Of Their Escape, Put Them In The Innermost Part Of The Prison And Fastened Their Feet Into Stocks!
- E. These Beaten, Hurting Men Were Praising God And Praying Fervently.
- F. A Massive Earthquake Hit Philippi; The Jail's Foundations Were Destroyed; The Chains On The Prisoners Were Broken!
- G. The Jailer Was Smitten By Their Actions (Worship And Integrity -- They Did Not Flee The Jail) And Reactions.
- H. His Question: "Sirs, What Must I Do To Be Saved?"
- I. They Told Him To Believe In Jesus And Taught Him The Word Of The Lord!
- J. He Was So Grateful To Learn About Jesus; He Washed Paul And Silas' Awful Wounds (Repentance); Then He And The Believers In His House Were Baptized!
- K. Paul And Silas' Example And Teaching Led This Man And His Family To Salvation!

VIII. (Slide #11) You Can Set An Amazing Example For Others!

- A. The Widow: Lk. 21:1-4 "And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, ²and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. ³So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; ⁴for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."
- B. Jesus Praised Her Action And Encouraged Others To Imitate Her!

IX. (Slide #12) You May Inspire Others To Imitate Your Loving Kindness!

- A. A Call I Received A Few Days Ago:
1. Rodney Denson from AL called me.
 - a. Many phone calls you receive are complaints.
 - b. This one was a resounding compliment of several of you personally and of the Washington Avenue Family!
 2. Rodney is Dwight Burton's brother-in-law; he is married to Dwight's sister, Jennifer.
 3. Bringing up Dwight's name reminds us all of his untimely death.
 - a. When he became an elder, many of us thought he would be an elder for decades.
 - b. SEVERE pancreas disease took his life in about a week and a half!
 - c. Our hearts went out and still do to Edie, Trent, and Trevor.
 - d. We miss them all!
 4. Rodney's message:
 - a. "I have been intending to make this call for quite a while; I should have done it earlier."
 - b. "I want to commend the Washington Avenue congregation; I want to express our family's appreciation for you and your love for us!"
 - c. "You have been a good example!"
 - d. "You all are doing it right!"
 5. Later he sent me a text message saying, "Here is what I wanted to say earlier when we talked. I Pet. 4:8 says, "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for *'love will cover a multitude of sins.'* " I think that means that the more love in our heart that we have for each other, the less room there is for lying, jealousy, deceit, and hate. That's how love covers a multitude of sins. I often write scripture references beside verses for cross referencing. In my Bible beside I Peter 4:8 it simply says, 'Washington Ave.'"

(Slide #13) Conclusion:

- A. Let Us Heed The Biblical Call For Christians!
1. Heb. 10:24 "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,"
 2. Heb. 13:16 "But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

- B. (▶) Be A Christian Who Lives Your Life As God Has Given Us The Call!
1. Don't be a Christian who wastes your time and life!
 2. Don't be a Christian who gossips, complains, causes dissension, etc.
- C. (▶) Be A Christian Who Seeks To Do Things To Make A Difference In The Lives Of Others -- Help Make Their Lives Easier And Better; Help Ease Their Struggles; Help Them Find Jesus And Salvation!
- D. (Slide #14) And Remember, God Will Not Forget The Good You Do; He Will Bless You And Reward You For Your Good Deeds And Their Influence!
1. Heb. 6:10 "For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister."
 2. God will bless you for doing good deeds in the name of Christ (because you are a Christian and are trying to imitate Christ)! He will give you a home in Heaven!
 - a. Rev. 14:13 "Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: 'Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' ' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.'"
 - b. Mt. 25:40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'"
 - c. Mt. 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:'"
- E. (▶) Let NOTHING Discourage You From Doing Good Deeds -- Ingratitude Or Wondering If It Is Going To Reap Any Fruit!
1. Just keep on doing good!
 2. Gal. 6:9 "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."
 3. Keep doing Christian deeds; let God give the increase!
 4. It is NO SECRET What God Can Do -- He Can Use Your Christian Deeds For Good And For His Glory!