

Sermon title: **Get The Goods**

Memory verse: Hebrews 10:24

And let us **take thought of** how to spur one another on to love and good works,

Scripture reading: Matthew 25:31-40

Song: 935 – They Need Christ (John Gowans)

Outline:

1. **Feel good** - Psalm 149:1-5 (Isaiah 12)

What are we doing here? Why do we go to church?

Some folks think there is something virtuous, in and of itself, in attending church. "I go to church because it's a good thing to do." Or perhaps they think it makes them look more virtuous in the eyes of their friends.

Other people think the important part of being a Christian is whether it makes them feel good:

"Does the church have a good Praise & Worship Team?"

"Are the people there friendly?"

"Do I leave feeling blessed?"

"Are my needs being met?"

Their relationship with God might be characterized as "Daddy, tickle me!"

149:1 Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Praise him in the assembly of the godly!

149:2 Let Israel rejoice in their Creator!

Let the people of Zion delight in their king!

149:3 Let them praise his name with dancing!

Let them sing praises to him to the accompaniment of the tambourine and harp!

149:4 For the Lord takes delight in his people;

he exalts the oppressed by delivering them.

149:5 Let the godly rejoice because of their vindication!

Let them shout for joy upon their beds!

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come so that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.

John 15:10 If you obey my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commandments and remain in his love. 15:11 I have told you these things so that **my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete**. 15:12 My commandment is this – to love one another just as I have loved you.

Deuteronomy 14:22:29 - God wants you to have a party - and take care of His people!

14:22 You must be certain to tithe all the produce of your seed that comes from the field year after year. 14:23 In the presence of the Lord your God you must eat from the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the place he chooses to locate his name, so that you may learn to revere

the Lord your God always. 14:24 When he blesses you, if the place where he chooses to locate his name is distant, 14:25 you may convert the tithe into money, secure the money, and travel to the place the Lord your God chooses for himself. 14:26 Then you may spend the money however you wish for cattle, sheep, wine, beer, or whatever you desire. You and your household may eat there in the presence of the Lord your God and enjoy it. 14:27 As for the Levites in your villages, you must not ignore them, for they have no allotment or inheritance along with you. 14:28 At the end of every three years you must bring all the tithe of your produce, in that very year, and you must store it up in your villages. 14:29 Then the Levites (because they have no allotment or inheritance with you), the resident foreigners, the orphans, and the widows of your villages may come and eat their fill so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work you do.

2. **Be good** - I Peter 1:13-22

Others think it is most important to believe right, to memorize creeds (or even scripture), or perhaps even live a holy life. Don't sink into judgmental condemnation or heartless legalism. This is still about me: especially "how do I look to others?"

1:13 Therefore, get your minds ready for action by being fully sober, and set your hope completely on the grace that will be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1:14 Like obedient children, do not comply with the evil urges you used to follow in your ignorance, 1:15 but, like the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in all of your conduct, 1:16 for it is written, "You shall be holy, because I am holy." 1:17 And if you address as Father the one who impartially judges according to each one's work, live out the time of your temporary residence here in reverence. 1:18 You know that from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors you were ransomed - not by perishable things like silver or gold, 1:19 but by precious blood like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, namely Christ. 1:20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was manifested in these last times for your sake. 1:21 Through him you now trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1:22 You have purified your souls by obeying the truth in order to show sincere mutual love. So love one another earnestly from a pure heart.

(Leviticus 19 "How do you spell 'holy'?")

19:2 "Speak to the whole congregation of the Israelites and tell them, 'You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

19:18 You must not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the children of your people, but you must love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

3. **Do good** - Matthew 7:21-23, Matthew 25:31-46

When we've grown through the Feel Good and Be Good stages we might learn the ultimate expression of Christian life: service. Do what did Jesus do: love others!

7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of heaven - only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. 7:22 On that day, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons and do many powerful deeds?' 7:23 Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you. Go away from me, you lawbreakers!'

25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 25:32 All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate people one from another like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 25:33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 25:34 Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty

and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 25:36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 25:37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 25:38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or naked and clothe you? 25:39 When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 25:40 And the king will answer them, 'I tell you the truth, just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me.'

25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels! 25:42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. 25:43 I was a stranger and you did not receive me as a guest, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 25:44 Then they too will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not give you whatever you needed?' 25:45 Then he will answer them, 'I tell you the truth, just as you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for me.' 25:46 And these will depart into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Do you want to know how to make God laugh? Tell Him your plans.

What must I do to impress God? Here's a clue: Micah 6:6-8

6:6 With what should I enter the Lord's presence?

With what should I bow before the sovereign God?

Should I enter his presence with burnt offerings,
with year-old calves?

6:7 Will the Lord accept a thousand rams,
or ten thousand streams of olive oil?

Should I give him my firstborn child as payment for my rebellion,
my offspring - my own flesh and blood - for my sin?

6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good,
and what the Lord really wants from you:

He wants you to promote justice, to be faithful,
and to live obediently before your God.

So it is certainly okay to **Feel Good**, and even better to **Be Good**, but on top of all that we are called to **Do Good**. It is still true just as Jesus explained it, you can meet all of God's expectations by doing two things: love God, and love (His) people.