

DO YOURSELF A FAVOR

Although there are eternal rewards promised to the faithful child of God, Jesus never intended that Christianity be a "Quid Pro Quo" arrangement. To the contrary, Christianity is giving without expecting, (much less demanding), anything in return from our fellow man. The religion of Christ is at its core selflessness. **Do Yourself A Favor:**

GIVE without wanting something in return. Give like Barnabas, not like Ananias and Sapphira, (Acts 4, 5). Give simply because it is the Christ-like thing to do. Don't keep a tally on "favors given and favors returned." If Jesus had limited His favors given in relationship to the ones He received, mankind would be without a Savior. **Do Yourself A Favor:**

STUDY to show yourself approved unto God (2 Tim. 2:15). Don't acquire knowledge just to show everyone how smart you are. Don't study so you can hold forth and pontificate, lifting yourself up like some sort of specialist in the Scriptures. Study so you can help yourself and others get to heaven. That's the reward! **Do Yourself A Favor:**

PRAY for others more than yourself. Too often we devalue prayer to nothing more than a "wish list." We use it as a "fire escape" in times of trouble. How much time do you spend praying for the church, the elders, the deacons, the preacher, the sick, and the lost? How often are we Pharisaical in our prayers compelled to somehow inform an all-knowing God of our qualities? There is no gain in that at all. Rather the one who is blessed in his prayer is the one who shows contrition and makes confession, (cf. the Publican, David, Isaiah, Lk. 18; Psm. 51; Isa. 64). **Do Yourself A Favor:**

WORK without the need for recognition. Be content to work for praise of God not men. Too many want to blow their own horn, making sure that everyone sees every little thing they do for the church. This is not what is meant by the title of this article. The glory of good works is to be aimed toward God, not

self (Mt. 5:16). **Do Yourself A Favor:**

EXTEND KINDNESS not to receive thanks, but because this is what Jesus did. He is our example, (1 Pet. 2:21). What made the good Samaritan "good," was the fact he extended kindness for kindness' sake, with no desire for anything in return. **Do Yourself A Favor** and see Christianity for what it really is, i.e., a system of doing good for others, while unconcerned about equanimity or repayment here on earth. Jesus said, "For great is your reward in heaven" (Mt. 5:12). **Do Yourself A Favor and Get There!**

- J. D. Conley, Marietta, OH - via *Bulletin Digest*

"Be Of Good Cheer"

One thing in life is certain: we all have our share of pain, difficulty and suffering. Bad things happen, and they often happen to good people. Age, disease, and sickness seek to destroy our health. Family problems often threaten to destroy the lives and souls of those we love most dearly. Such problems, along with financial strain, job-related stress, and the everyday challenges of everyday life seem to be like Jesus' description of the poor — "With us always." (Mark 14:7).

This, though, should not surprise us. Didn't Jesus warn, "In the world you shall have tribulation..."? (John 16:33).

We can be thankful that Jesus didn't conclude his thought on that somber note, but continued by promising, "but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33).

No problem, no catastrophe, no sorrow is larger than our God. And God, who "cannot lie" (Titus 1:2), has promised to help His own. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalms 46:1).

The question is not "Does God care?" He does. The real problem that each one must answer is "Do I believe what God has promised?"

✱ Dalton Key - Lubbock, TX, via *Bulletin Digest*

If your Christian life is a drag, worldly weights are probably to blame.

News & Notes

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies to help make bears for children.

ELDERS TO SPEAK: This annual event will be Sunday evening, Jan. 25th at 6:30. Plan to be here to be informed about the work and future plans of this congregation, and to encourage these good men.

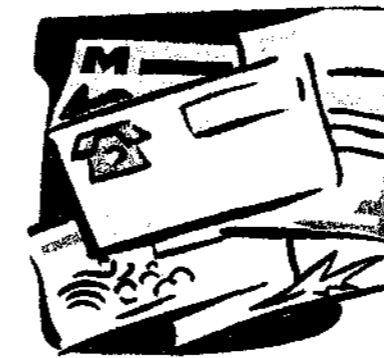
PANTRY: Peanut butter & jelly.

REMEMBER THESE SHUT-INS: Harry & Imogene Nice.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Dylan Heinselman, Marlene Reynolds, Becky McKitrick, Beulah Rice, Betty Carlin, Crystal Baker, Marilyn Sprout, Linda Wiersbicki, and others with health issues.

THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS: City Hospital: Becky McKitrick. Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh: Dylan Heinselman. Ruby Memorial Hospital, Morgantown: Marilyn Sprout. At Home: Beulah Rice, Ruth Brewer, Betty Carlin, Crystal Baker, Linda Wiersbicki, Marlene Reynolds, Sue Haught, Gene Miller, Bette, Gentry, Dan Williams, Ella Beagle. Encourage others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. Check the bulletin board.

I CAN'T GIVE BECAUSE ...



- ◆ In January because of the Christmas bills.
- ◆ In February because of high fuel bills.
- ◆ In March because of sickness/doctor bills.
- ◆ In April because of new spring clothes.
- ◆ In May because of a car tune-up.
- ◆ In June because house insurance was due.
- ◆ In August because of unexpected bills.
- ◆ In September because of school needs.
- ◆ In October because of new winter clothes.
- ◆ In November because of Thanksgiving trip.
- ◆ In December because of Christmas buying.

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" — 1 Corinthians 16:2

- Heart to Heart, House to House -

A Friend

I went out to find a friend,
But could not find one there.
I went out to be a friend,
And friends were everywhere.

- Author Unknown -

