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What's the point of being good? Ecclesiastes 8:12-17

We do good to show our love for Jesus, not to earn His love. Ecclesiastes 8:12-14

Ecclesiastes 8:14 (NLT) – *“And this is not all that is meaningless in our world. In this life, good people are treated as though they were wicked, and wicked people are often treated as though they were good. This is so meaningless!”*

- Why do we expect fairness? We don't actually want what we deserve.
- John 14:21a - *“He who has my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me...”*
- We only know what is good from God and we know there is a God because only He could show us what is good.
- Isaiah 61:10 - *“I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”*

We do good because we were made for it, not to earn salvation. Ephesians 2:8-10

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.”*

- Salvation is a gift of grace that we cannot earn. Ephesians 2:8-9
- We have to do what we are made by God to do. We are made for doing good. Ephesians 2:10
- We do good to bear fruit for God's Kingdom: Luke 6:46; James 1:22

We do good to bring joy into the world. Ecclesiastes 8:15-17

Ecclesiastes 8:15a – *“So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for a man under the sun except to eat and to drink and to be merry...”*

- What does “eat, drink and be merry” look like in a world with God (not under the sun)?
- Nehemiah 8:10 - *“Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”*
- Celebrate the good works God is doing through each one of us.

Response: We remember and give thanks to Jesus as we take communion together.

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

1. What has been your experience with trying to “be good?” Has that been filled with pressure and guilt? Has that been to show love to God? Has that been to earn something from God? Share your story with the group.
2. What do you think you were made by God to do? How are you created to do good works? How can we partner with you to help you live that out together?

Ecclesiastes 8:12-17

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹² Although a sinner does evil a hundred *times* and may lengthen his *life*, still I know that it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly. ¹³ But it will not be well for the evil man and he will not lengthen his days like a shadow, because he does not fear God.

¹⁴ There is futility which is done on the earth, that is, there are righteous men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked. On the other hand, there are evil men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I say that this too is futility. ¹⁵ So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for a man under the sun except to eat and to drink and to be merry, and this will stand by him in his toils *throughout* the days of his life which God has given him under the sun.

¹⁶ When I gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the task which has been done on the earth (even though one should never sleep day or night), ¹⁷ and I saw every work of God, *I concluded* that man cannot discover the work which has been done under the sun. Even though man should seek laboriously, he will not discover; and though the wise man should say, "I know," he cannot discover.

In Today's Service:

COMMUNION: Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus to help us give thanks, remembering His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins and looking forward in hopeful expectation of His return. The bread represents the body of Christ given for us and the juice represents His blood shed for us. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-34). Communion will be passed during the service today.

GIVING: The offering is received each Sunday as a way to express trust in God and worship Him through giving. It's also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of giving 10% as a baseline, but the New Testament calls Jesus' followers to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping further ministry locally and globally. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

Ecclesiastes 8:12-17

New Living Translation (NLT)

¹² But even though a person sins a hundred times and still lives a long time, I know that those who fear God will be better off. ¹³ The wicked will not prosper, for they do not fear God. Their days will never grow long like the evening shadows.

¹⁴ And this is not all that is meaningless in our world. In this life, good people are often treated as though they were wicked, and wicked people are often treated as though they were good. This is so meaningless!

¹⁵ So I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy life. That way they will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives them under the sun.

¹⁶ In my search for wisdom and in my observation of people's burdens here on earth, I discovered that there is ceaseless activity, day and night. ¹⁷ I realized that no one can discover everything God is doing under the sun. Not even the wisest people discover everything, no matter what they claim.

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the auditorium will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

PRAYER ROOM: The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at any time during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.