

**Praxis Series
Virtues
08/12/23
Newport News**

Opening

-financial update

-new series...taking us through most of September

Introduction/Recap

-You and I must decide what we believe is waiting for us after we die, because what we believe about that day should ultimately determine how we live out our lives between now and then. **

-Matthew 16:24-27 (Romans 2:5-11)

- Dispelling belief that Christians won't be judged...
- The 5 Solas
- Jesus and the early Apostles: judgment!
- Good deeds don't make up for being a bad person!
- Ergon (Romans 2) AND Praxis (Matthew 16)

-For too many people, churches have become places where people want someone to tell them ALL the right things to do and ALL the wrong things not to do. I have found in over 20 years of pastoral ministry that if we teach people how to be virtuous, most everything else follows!

Virtues

-The more I become like Christ in virtue, the more I become like Him in deeds. **

-1 John 2:6

-1 Corinthians 11:1

-Five Great Growth Lists

1. Matthew 5:3-10
2. Romans 12:9-21
3. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
4. Galatians 5:22-23
5. 2 Peter 1:5-7

-(read list of 24 virtues from book)

The Good Samaritan

-Luke 10:25-37

- Observe the question...("give me a list of do's and don'ts)
- Point out Jesus takes the conversation to deeds
- Explain rift between Samaritans and Jews
- Modernize (Jesus in an all white republican church making the protagonist a black Christian Democrat with a BLM tshirt on)
- Explain term priest (Jesus confronting mindset, "I've already done enough good deeds today")
- Explain term Levite (Jesus confronting the mindset, "My station in life is enough.")
- Notice Jesus' question at the end?
- Remember Jesus connects this to eternal life!

-A virtuous heart produces Godly deeds. **

1. Proverbs 3:27-28
2. Matthew 5:14-16
3. 2 Corinthians 5:10
4. Galatians 6:9-10
5. Hebrews 10:24

(DOWNLOAD NOTES)

Recap

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Pathways to Virtues

-Where are all my gardeners and green thumb people?

>(participation: **what is needed for plants to grow?**)

-I want to suggest to you that virtues are no different than the gardens you have planted...if you create a spiritually vibrant environment in your life, virtues will grow. And the consistent work of the 12 Pathways are the keys to that spiritual vibrancy...the work of gardening for the soul.

Band

-read list of 12 Pathways from booklet with definitions

Close

-Acts 17:31