

First RP Church of Beaver Falls Third Annual Christian Life Conference

*Learning to Do Good Deeds
to Meet Pressing Needs*

Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath
Bartholomeus Breenbergh
c. 1630



Learning to Do Good Deeds to Meet Pressing Needs

Session 1 - Friday Evening

Hearing the Call as We Worship to Love Mercy

Session 2 - Saturday Morning

Emphasizing the Vital Role of Deacons in Mercy

Session 3 - Saturday Morning

Developing a Congregational Approach to Mercy

Session 4 - Lord's Day Evening

Bringing Forth the Sabbath Fruits of Mercy

Learning to Do Good Deeds to Meet Pressing Needs

Theme Verse

Titus 3:14

*Our people must also learn
to engage in good deeds
to meet pressing needs,
so that they will not be unfruitful.*

Learning to Do Good Deeds to Meet Pressing Needs

*Hearing the Call as
We Worship to Love Mercy*



Caring for the Needy: That *Other* Regulative Principle of Worship

Presbyterians, rightly so, believe that there is a Biblical principle that helps us regulate our worship. The Regulative Principle of Worship is that as we worship we must take great care only to do as the Bible commands.

However, there is also a Biblical principle that insists that our worship is to regulate us. That *Other* Regulative Principle of Worship is that as we worship we must take great care to do for the needy as the Bible commands.

Caring for the Needy: That *Other* Regulative Principle of Worship

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world...I will show you my faith by my works.” –James 1:27; 2:18

But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left...The King will answer and say to them, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.” –Matthew 25:31-33, 40

God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the rulers. How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them out of the hand of the wicked.
–Psalm 82:1-4

Caring for the Needy: That *Other* Regulative Principle of Worship

Westminster Directory of Publick Worship

“The collection for the poor is so to be ordered, that no part of the publick worship be thereby hindered.” -Of the Celebration of the Communion, or Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

“That what time is vacant, between or after the solemn meetings of the congregation in publick, be spent in reading, meditation, repetition of sermons; especially by calling their families to an account of what they have heard, and catechising of them, holy conferences, prayer for a blessing upon the publick ordinances, singing of psalms, visiting the sick, relieving the poor, and such like duties of piety, charity, and mercy, accounting the sabbath a delight.” - Of the Sanctification of the Lord’s Day

“At one or both of the publick meetings that day, a collection is to be made for the poor, (and in the like manner upon the day of publick humiliation,) that their loins may bless us, and rejoice the more with us.” –Concerning the Observation of Days of Publick Thanksgiving

The Echo of Poverty Laws in the Scriptures

The Law	The Psalms	The Prophets	The Gospels & Acts	The Epistles
Israel (Church) to be a Place of Justice Deuteronomy 16:20	Psalms 125:3-5	Isaiah 5:7	Luke 11:42	Colossians 4:1
Reminder of Egypt (Slavery) for Humility Exodus 22:21	Psalms 136:10-11, 23-24	Micah 6:4-8	John 8:31-36	Romans 8:15
Care for the Orphan & Widow Deuteronomy 10:17-18	Psalms 68:4-5	Zechariah 7:10; Ezekiel 16:49	Acts 6:1-6	James 1:27
Concern for the Stranger Leviticus 19:34	Psalms 146:9	Jeremiah 22:3; Isaiah 58:6-7	Matthew 25:34-40	Hebrews 13:2
Curse upon Those Who Oppress the Poor Deuteronomy 27:19	Psalms 94:6	Malachi 3:5	Mark 12:38-40	James 5:1-6

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Let's Sing Psalm 68B!



Practical Theological Steps to Take in Worship in Order to Heed the Call to be Merciful

Step 1

As you worship,
heighten your awareness
regarding God's examination
of the church's fruitfulness.

Psalm 82:1-2; Matthew 25:31-46



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Step 2

Never forget the poverty
of your own spiritual state.

Psalm 34:6; 40:17; 68:10; 69:29; 70:5; 86:1;
109:22; Matthew 5:3



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Step 3

Insure that the rich and poor
worship and fellowship on equal ground.

Psalm 49:1-2; 72:9-14; James 2:1-10



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Step 4

Be convinced that prayer and preaching
are more powerful than political persuasion
in bringing deliverance & justice to the poor.

Psalm 9:11-12; 10:1-2, 12, 17-18; 35:9-10;
72:1-2; 107:41-43; 113:7-8; Luke 4:16-22



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Step 5

Learn that greater than material needs is the need of the poor to be given counsel, friendship, and wisdom from the church.

Psalm 12:3-6; 41:1-2; Matthew 5:6; 11:19



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Step 6

The righteous are to be personally
involved in the lives of the poor,
knowing when to give, lend, or withhold.

Psalm 1:1-2; 112:5-6; 146:5-9; 101:7-8;

Matthew 6:3-4



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Step 7

The righteous man remembers
the poor even in distant lands.

Psalm 72:12; 112:9; II Corinthians 9:8-9

Bill Scott



Final Warning: The Danger of False Worship

