

Theme for 2018

**WE ARE THE ARMY OF GOD &
WE ARE ARMED AND DANGEROUS!**

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)



This Week’s Thought – September 16, 2018

“Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.” Luke 11:42 (NIV)

Love, justice and generosity are all fruit from the tree of trusting and following Jesus. When we love the Lord with all our being, we want our fellow man to be treated fairly, and we freely give to support these weightier matters on the heart of God. A generous heart flows from love for Jesus---to love what He loves: sharing the good news of His love and forgiveness, serving the sick, speaking up for the disenfranchised, the marginalized, the unrecognized and the undervalued. We live our life not to be seen, but for others to feast on the abundant fruit of someone surrendered to the Almighty God.

The religious leaders of Jesus' day lacked love, justice and generosity as part of their spiritual lives, all of which are fruit from the tree of trusting and following Jesus. Instead, artificial, self-righteous, nit-picky, grumpy living was their spiritual brand. A pretentious pious life weighed down by pride, lives to be seen by others as a morally superior saint. These first century faith posers gave 10% of all they owned to an ornate religious institution, while neglecting the more important issues of love and justice. Christ, who knows the heart of man, still calls us out to examine our motives. Why do we do what we do? Do we give for man's applause or for praise from an audience of One---God?

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

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Is your religion rigid and routine or a vibrant loving relationship with the Lord your God? If time with Christ is only a box to be checked on Sunday or in a daily quiet time; perhaps your beliefs need a fresh infusion of love and justice toward your Savior Jesus and toward your fellow man. A growing love relationship with the Lord results in a savor of faith that is aromatic and attractive. Your heart is God's heart!

Generosity of love, justice and money show a stingy world a better way. Generosity is God. "*He gave His only son.*" (John 3:16) Generous giving by followers of Jesus sound the alarm of love and justice that hopefully awakens slumbering sin sick souls, who only dream about being loved by God. Religious pride is ugly, Christian humility is beautiful. Religious harshness is abrasive, Christian mercy is compassionate. Religious hypocrisy turns people off, Christian vulnerability turns people on. Religious rigidness brings death, Christian love gives life. So what does the Lord require of you, His child? To act justly, love mercy, walk humbly and give generously!

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." (Isaiah 1:17)

Application: Pray and ask God to show you where you might need to increase your generosity to support loving others by helping them be treated fairly.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear Lord, Your Son died for the salvation of all mankind, as I know He died for me. Through the power of Christ, I can be compassionate, courageous, and strong. Help me to use that power Father, for the glory of Your kingdom, today and forever. Guard my heart today by the power of the Holy Spirit. Shelter my faith and prove it genuine in my life. I lift up my heart and I choose to greatly rejoice that You will increase my faith... prove my faith genuine... and shield me by Your power today! Assist me to live a holy life and to grow in goodness and grace that I may be an example of Your generosity, love and justice. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus. Amen!”

“And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King