

Friday, December 13: Read [Matthew 20:1-16](#)

If we are God's workmanship, created to do good works, then we need to get busy. There's plenty of work to be done and no such thing as unemployment in the Kingdom of God! Let's finish the week on a positive note. Jesus' parable of "the workers" reminds us that it's never too late to get to work. [Matthew 25:14-30](#) tells us we will give account for the work we do and [Matthew 25:31-46](#) reminds us of who we are ultimately working for and the reward he promises to all who are faithful. God requires both faithfulness and fruitfulness of us. Check yourself to see if you are exhibiting both at this time. Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire and to empower you to do good unto others, in the name of Jesus, for his kingdom and name sake.

Friday: Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), , **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Sue Saunders** (Bosnia), **Matt and Becky Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezowski** (Wycliffe), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (Ethnos360), **Brad and Christa Babjack** (University of West Virginia), **Salomon and Megan Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Central Asia), **William and Salma Garcia** (Tijuana church plant)

Week of
December 08
2019



Be the CHURCH is DISCIPLESHIP

Spiritual Disciplines Guide:

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.*
- *Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advice or wisdom gleaned from your reading.*
- *Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.*
- *Think about what you're reading. Ask:*
 1. *How does this apply to me?*
 2. *Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?*
 3. *What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?*
- *Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.*

Monday, December 9 Read [Ephesians 4:17 - 5:21](#)

[Ephesians 2:10](#) has been our theme verse the past couple weeks. God has created us to do good works. This week, let's consider the contrary. Why don't Christians automatically do good works? Why do believers even do bad things on occasion? The first answer (today's focus) is simply blatant disobedience. As "free agents", true Christians can choose to disobey God and walk in sin. Notice all of the Apostle Paul's admonitions ("do not's") in [Ephesians 4-5](#). He is writing to Christians, warning them of the possibilities of disobedience. Take note of the variety of types of sins listed in these two chapters. Are any personally tempting or even pertinent to you? Do as you are instructed here. Like an old garment, willfully "put off" (discard, renounce) sin and, by faith, "put on" your new identity, personality and lifestyle in Jesus Christ. Get dressed daily in your new garb as God's workman.

Monday: Pray for yourself:

---My relationship with God

—My life roles and responsibilities

—My personal needs/weak areas

—My goals and objectives for the end of 2019

Tuesday, December 10: Read [*Psalms 112*](#)

Yesterday we saw one reason Christians do not live out their identity as God's workmanship -- blatant disobedience (sin). Today, let's consider a second reason Christians often do not occupy themselves doing good works -- apathy. Apathy is a sinful attitude of the heart; to be indifferent, willfully ignorant of the needs of others; to simply not care. Your heart is the deepest part of your being, akin to your spirit or soul. God wants to work deep inside developing your heart attitudes, motives and desires, recreating them to be like Christ. Take time today to meditate on each of the following verses. Consider the relevance of each for you personally. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your prayer time and to restructure your heart attitudes as you submit yourself to his grace and power.

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

[*Psalms 51:10; 66:18; 119:10-11; 139:23-24; Proverbs 4:23; 27:19, Ezekiel 36:26-28; Hebrews 4:12*](#)

Wednesday December 11: Read [*Hebrews 12:25 - 13:3*](#)

Today let's consider a third reason Christians don't always do good -- I'll call it "inertia". Inertia in physics is the tendency of matter not to change or to remain the same, unless acted upon by an external force. Human beings (and Christians) are subject to inertia. We tend to get comfortable, complacent and lazy. We naturally resist change. So when we see a job to be done, we easily rationalize in our mind excuses for not doing it -- we tell ourselves "It's too much work", or "I can't do that", or "I don't have the time or energy to get involved, I'm already too busy, maybe later." Spiritual inertia has taken hold in our heart so we don't get out and help others like we know we should.

Again, study each of the following verses. Ask God to check your attitude in the face of others' needs. Renounce inertia and allow the Holy Spirit to energize you to serve the Lord.

[*Philippians 2:1-4; Ephesians 4:25-28; Colossians 3:12-17.*](#)

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

1. Leadership: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC. Pray for the church council and the various ministry team leaders. Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up more workers for the harvest ([*Matthew 9:38*](#))
2. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for more musicians to help lead the church in worship, including a pianist. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
3. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers. Pray that we incorporate newcomers into our church fellowship. Pray through this past Sunday's congregational prayer requests.

4. Discipleship: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Ask God to bless our small group ministry, to raise up new groups, new teachers and more leaders.
5. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. Ask God to embolden our people to intentionally reach out to others, especially through the Kingdom Assignments and the upcoming Kingdom Projects.
6. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our 2020 plan as we call our members to a greater love and commitment to the Lord and his service. Ask God to bless our finances so that we can better accomplish his purposes for our congregation.

Thursday, December 12: Read [*Matthew 21:18-22*](#)

A fourth roadblock to good works is basic doubt or unbelief. Doubt is a natural tendency to question the supernatural will and ways of God. We wonder if God is really real, or if God hears our prayers, or if God will actually work through us to help others. Because of doubt and unbelief, we often hesitate to reach out to people in need. We choose not to get involved because we're not sure about our own relationship with God.

Look up the following passages, consider if any relate directly to you and ask God to squelch unbelief and doubt in your life in favor of faith and obedience.

[*Mark 6:4-6, Romans 14:22-23; James 1:2-8, Hebrews 3:12-19, Romans 4:18-21; James 2:14-26*](#)

Thursday: Pray for "My World"

(Write down names as God brings people to mind.)

- Neighbors • People who live around me. (Focus Four)
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can you invite to church this Sunday?
- Community -- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County. Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation. Pray for the community parachurch ministries serving our county, including Beginnings Care for Life Center, Branch County Right to Life, Celebrate Recovery, Coach Eby Youth and Family Center, Damascus Road Ministry, Family Hope Outreach, Forgotten Man Ministries, Foster Closet of Branch County, God's Choice Church of Branch County, Jacob's Well Ministry, Presbyterian Free Health Clinic, Shelterhouse, Tommy's House.
- America -- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.