

Would you like to receive an extra copy of each "Good News Guide"
 to share with a friend, neighbor, or family member? Let me know.

Knowing and Doing

"If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." (John 13:17)

A farmer's son came to him one day, all excited, and said, "Hey, Dad, the County Agent's givin' a talk next week on better farmin' methods. You really ought to go hear it."

The farmer considered for a moment, then shook his head. "Naw, son, it'd just be a waste of time. I ain't farmin' half as good as I know how to now."

How are you doing as a Christian? Most of us can relate to that farmer. Are you applying what you have learned about following Jesus; about obeying God's commandments and doing all the good works that God has prepared beforehand for us to do? (See Ephesians 2:10)

It's good to study the Bible and learn more about God's plan for this earth, and about His love for us who were created in His image. The Bible is full of good information and wise instruction. But we should also ask ourselves: are we applying what we are learning?

In John Chapter 13, Jesus lowered himself to the status of a servant and washed His disciples' feet. The Bible says, *When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his*



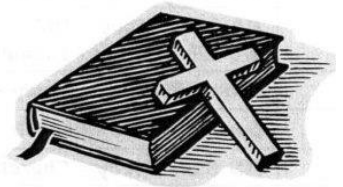
place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord

and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a

servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." (John 13:12-17)

I firmly believe that this truth from Jesus applies not only to washing each other's feet; not only to serving others in every way that we can; but to every truth that Jesus taught, and to every bit of guidance we get from the Holy Spirit. Knowing is good, but knowing and doing is the combination that produces blessing.

I confess that I am a bit concerned when some inmates ask me about where to get Bible study materials. And I say this



not to criticize, but to encourage clarity of intent, and maybe a shift of focus. The purpose of doing a Bible study is not just to earn a certificate. Remember what Jesus said to the brothers who were arguing about their inheritance, and to the crowd around them: *"Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."* (Luke 12:15) The number of courses completed is not very important; what matters in our Christian life is how well we apply what we learn from Jesus and the Bible.

Paul wrote: *And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.* (1 Corinthians 13:2)

The love he wrote about here is agape, the unconditional and caring love that comes from God and is expressed in loving actions toward others. We need to have love, and we need to show our love by our actions.

According to Jesus, the two greatest commandments are these: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."* (Luke 10:27) Are you obeying these commandments? Do you love God with all your heart? Do you love every neighbor as much as you love yourself? (And if you don't especially love yourself, you should—God loves you; He thinks you are worth loving.)

And if you say, "Yes, I do. I love God, and I love my neighbors," then I ask, "What are you doing about it?" Not to prove your love, but to express it, to make it effective — to produce blessing.

Jesus also said, *"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."* (Matthew 7:12) This is known as "The Golden Rule, and it's a good way to live your life. When you deal with others, treat them the way you would like to be treated. Be a kind, considerate, helpful, generous person, treating others with gentleness and love. Martin Luther said we should be "little Christs" for our neighbors, meaning that we should treat others as Jesus did, with godly compassion and generous love.

Finally, just in case there is any doubt about it, we have this admonition from the letter of James: *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.* (James 1:22-25) Here again, we see that the blessing comes with doing.

I won't try to list here everything God's word says we should be doing, but I will highlight two things we are commanded to do. They are both contained in what Dr. Bob Cook used to say at

the end of his "King's Hour" radio programs. He would always say, "Walk with the King today, and be a blessing." This is a very good admonition for us to keep in mind. How does one "walk with" King Jesus? Only by spending time with Him — praying, meditating, waiting, listening.



The Bible tells us we can come into the presence of the Father and pray to Him directly. We can also pray to Jesus, who is God, *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus ...* (1 Timothy 2:5) And though I don't see it in the Bible, I'm sure it must be okay to pray to the Holy Spirit, because He is God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are God, the one true God.

Some will not agree with me on this, but I believe praying to anyone or anything else is a mistake. It's at best a waste of time, because God is the only valid receiver of our prayers. To pray to anyone or anything other than God is, in my view, completely contrary to Scripture.

I hope to do a complete message on prayer sometime soon. For now, let me just say this much: What matters about prayer is God. My prayer is not important because of anything to do with me, or because there's an urgent need. My prayer is important because God will hear it, God will act or not, according to His will. The key ingredient in prayer is God.

Also, we can't even do it ourselves. ... *the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.* (Romans 8:26) God has poured out His Spirit, the Helper, for us, and boy, do we need help!

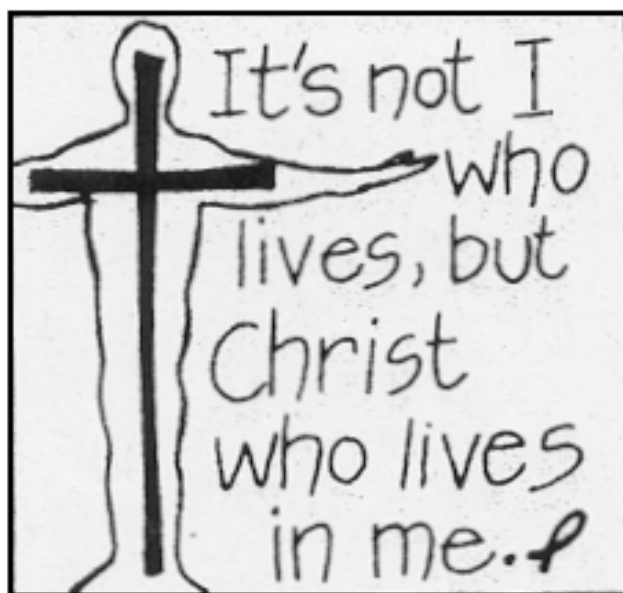
Let's learn all we can about being "little Christs," and then make sure to put that good learning into how we act, what we do. Let's be determined to walk with the King, and be a blessing to others, every day. God bless you all.

Brother Roland

Be Sensible

(From Mere Christianity, by C. S. Lewis)

Prudence means practical common sense, taking the trouble to think out what you are doing and what is likely to come of it. Nowadays most people hardly think of Prudence as one of the 'virtues'. In fact, because Christ said we could only get into His world by being like children, many Christians have the idea that, provided you are 'good', it does not matter being a fool. But that is a misunderstanding. In the first place, most children show plenty of 'prudence' about doing the things they are really interested in, and think them out quite sensibly. In the second place, as St Paul points out, Christ never meant that we were to remain children in intelligence: on the contrary. He told us to be not only 'as harmless as doves', but also 'as wise as serpents'. He wants a child's heart, but a grown-up's head. He wants us to be simple, single-minded, affectionate, and teachable, as good children are; but He also wants every bit of intelligence we have to be alert at its job, and in first-class fighting trim. The fact that you are giving money to a charity does not mean that you need not try to find out whether that charity is a fraud or not. The fact that what you are thinking about is God Himself (for example, when you are praying) does not mean that you can be content with the same babyish ideas which you had when you were a five-year-old. It is, of course, quite true that God will not love you any the less, or have less use for you, if you happen to have been born with a very second-rate brain. He has room for people with very little sense, but He wants every one to use what sense they have.



Enough

Lord, please help me to be ...

- ❖ Wise enough to ask for more wisdom
- ❖ Humble enough to desire humility
- ❖ Good enough to want to become better
- ❖ Patient enough to wait without complaint
- ❖ Kind enough to be quick to show kindness
- ❖ Joyful enough to bring joy to others
- ❖ Peaceful enough to help calm conflict or confusion
- ❖ Gentle enough to inspire trust
- ❖ Self-controlled enough to do what is right automatically
- ❖ Faithful enough to pray faithfully
- ❖ Committed enough to share the gospel with words and actions
- ❖ Loving enough to represent Jesus.

The "Good News Guide" is a monthly newsletter that is free, and freely available to anyone who wants it. I love to get a note saying, "Please put me on the mailing list." If you know of someone who wants it, let me know. For inmates I need first and last name, DOC number, usually their SID number, and address.

This newsletter is primarily for jail and prison inmates, but I love it when an inmate is released and still wants it. I just need your address. Keep telling me where you are, and I'll keep sending you the GNG.

If you have a question about Bible truth or the Christian life, I'll gladly share my thoughts with you, and maybe with readers of "Good News Guide." Write to me. **Note:** I do not have Bible studies or materials to send you.

Address: Brother Roland, P.O. Box 14, Fayetteville PA 17222

Website: www.goodnewsguide.org

Knowing and Doing

Knowing Bible truth is good — it is truly a blessing. God means us to act on that truth and share that blessing with our neighbors. A pastor I know, probably quoting Kierkegaard, often said that sharing the Gospel is like one beggar telling another beggar where to get food. Enjoy the Puzzle.

Puzzle:

W V O A Y Z S R R C J F L E S R U O Y E L B M U H T Y E W P H D
P A X J H Q B L T S E E K G O D O S O S S C L T Y S H S W B V R
G B S O O O Q B U R O O P E H T O T E V I G O V D N I A E I S O
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P E H B O H R H H H T Z Y S P E Y A E J J U O E E P K W M C L A
B V A A D G U Q E I V H E J S B K Y L E U F C B M R I U F L D R
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F N D G O L S L C A V H A I I U G U N A U G Y C T O I F O T M L
N E B I L D R S H T T H O A R H S X R O L P Z F O X O L A R O R
D V A V E N E E E T Q H C E F K S P H A C Q O L W T E K L V B D
B J P E H A H E E H T T N Q F H E T D V K K B N N H E A E S G O
E E T G T T T K K I G E N J J E I E H L V Y K A T U D Y M O B G
A R I E N L O G P S M P U L Y W V K S G M B V W P H O X A M Y O
R F Z N I A R O C I V O D N Y D U N H S I R O Y W U E N O X W T
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C G A O U B B K N Y D P J U T A T C E O R J E U T U I W A R Q O
H I X U R O T I B B J I K X F K V B F C G I T R O P Z W D Y D L
F V E S T W S N W O L V M E N S Z I R R G E A S V Y T H U K L G
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S C L V V S T N E R A P R U O Y R O N O H R F Y X B R H B O B X

Words:

ABIDE IN THE VINE
ASK, SEEK, KNOCK
BE MERCIFUL
BE RECONCILED
BE SALT AND LIGHT
BE SERVANT OF ALL
BEAR MUCH FRUIT
BEAR OTHERS' BURDENS
BELIEVE IN JESUS
CALL UPON THE LORD
DRINK THIS, MY BLOOD
EAT; THIS IS MY BODY
FOLLOW THE LORD

FORGIVE
GIVE TO THE POOR
GIVE GENEROUSLY
GIVE GLORY TO GOD
GO AN EXTRA MILE
HAVE FAITH
HONOR YOUR PARENTS
HUMBLE YOURSELF
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
LOVE GOD
LOVE YOUR ENEMIES
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
OBEY JESUS' COMMANDS

PRAISE THE LORD
PRAY FOR ENEMIES
PRAY WITHOUT CEASING
REJOICE, BE GLAD
REPENT
SEEK GOD
SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM
SEEK RIGHTEOUSNESS
TAKE MY YOKE
TAKE UP YOUR CROSS
TEACH AND BAPTIZE
TRUST IN THE LORD
TURN THE OTHER CHEEK