

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. *Matthew 23:25-26*

The First Step toward Goodwill Is Removing Evils; the Second Step Is Doing Good Things That Are Useful to Our Neighbor. Among teachings on goodwill the following point is primary: the first step toward goodwill is not to do evil to our neighbor. A secondary point is to do good to our neighbor. This is like a doorway to the teachings on goodwill.... [2] Intending evil and doing good are two things that are intrinsically opposite to each other. Evil comes from hatred for our neighbor and good comes from love for our neighbor. Or to put it another way, evil is an enemy to our neighbor and goodness is our neighbor's friend. The two cannot exist in a single mind, that is, there cannot be evil in our inner self and goodness in our outer self. If there were, the goodness on the outside would be like a wound that has been superficially treated, beneath which there lies the pus of an infection. We ourselves would then be like a tree whose roots are unsound; it produces pieces of fruit that outwardly look tasty and beneficial, although inwardly they are rotten and useless. Our good deeds would also be like pieces of rejected slag, superficially polished and beautifully colored, which are offered for sale as precious stones. Briefly put, these good deeds would be like the eggs of an owl mistaken for the eggs of a dove. *True Christianity 435*

To the extent that we turn our backs on evil deeds because they are sins, the good deeds we do come not from ourselves but from the Lord. Is there anyone who does not and cannot know that our evils stand in the way of the Lord's ability to come in to us? Evil is hell and the Lord is heaven, and hell and heaven are opposites; so to the extent that we are in one we cannot be in the other. One acts against the other and cancels it. *Doctrine of Life 18*

As long as we are in this world we are in between hell and heaven - hell is below us and heaven above us - and during this time we are kept in a freedom to turn toward hell or toward heaven. If we turn toward hell we are turning away from heaven, while if we turn toward heaven we are turning away from hell. *Doctrine of Life 19*

This makes it very clear that to the extent that we turn our backs on evil deeds we are with the Lord and in the Lord; and to the extent that we are in the Lord the good deeds we do come not from ourselves but from the Lord. This yields the following general law: To the extent that we turn our backs on evil deeds, we do good deeds. *Doctrine of Life 21*

If we intend and do good deeds before we turn our backs on evil deeds because they are sins, our good deeds are not good.
2. If we think and speak devoutly but do not turn our backs on evil deeds because they are sins, our devout thoughts and words are not devout.
3. Even if we are well informed and insightful, if we do not turn our backs on evil deeds because they are sins, we are not wise. *Doctrine of Life 23*

Doing No Harm

September 29, 2024

Rev. John L. Odhner

Beautiful106
Simple Gifts 63
Father Lift Me Up.....104

(Children Light Candles)

Wash Yourself Make Yourself Cleanperformance

Welcome Opening Prayer

Water of Life..... handout

Opening of the Word Offertory Readings and Talk

Ten Commandments handout

Lord's Prayer Benediction

Arise 152

(Children put out the Candles) Discussion Closing of the Word

Please join us on Zoom at 11:30am for a discussion.

Interested in helping out? We need you!

Helping roles include set up/clean up, ushering, greeting, refreshments, acting and lay reading.

Contact Nina at nina.deweese@brynathynchurch.org.

Please note: This service is livestreamed and recorded.

You and your family may be on camera, and your comments will be part of the livestream and recording.

Song Leaders: Lori Odhner, Aurelle Odhner

Video: Levi McFall

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

You shall not have other gods before Me.
You shall not make for yourself a carved image. **You shall not** bow down to them nor serve them...

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain...

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...

Honor your father and your mother...

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife... nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Exodus 20:2-17

“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.

Cease to do evil,

Learn to do good;

Seek justice,

Rebuke the oppressor;

Defend the fatherless,

Plead for the widow.

Come now, and let us reason together,”

Says the LORD,

“Though your sins are like scarlet,

They shall be as white as snow;

Though they are red like crimson,

They shall be as wool.

If you are willing and obedient,

You shall eat the good of the land;

But if you refuse and rebel,

You shall be devoured by the sword”;

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 1:16-20