

Do Good Well  
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And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

It doesn't take much to realize that God designed this world to be good. It also doesn't take much to realize that the good design has been broken. If you have ever had high expectations for something and found them thwarted, you know the feeling.

Why does this disappoint us so much? I think it's because there's an expectation for good implanted deep within us. Our needs are met when good happens, so it makes sense to be disappointed when we feel the consequences from the lack of good. The real problem is sin and its effects on ourselves and those around us. We see it everywhere. The moment we think things are finally going right, something bad happens. It's easy to get discouraged and want to give up. I have even found myself saying, "There is always something." It's not a cynical statement. It's just true.

What are we to do in such a mess as this? The answer is simple, but not always easy. Do something good. Yes, something...anything! It's easy to feel like it's not worth doing good unless that good somehow saves the day like some hero in a movie. Don't worry, Jesus already did that. Our challenge is to see the good to be done, that's right in front of us, and act upon it. Sometimes it's the thing that might go unnoticed or feels insignificant. Do it anyway. Maybe that good requires sacrifice or struggle. Then struggle. Sometimes good will require planning and discipline. Great! Our world is so starved for good. A little good is better than no good at all.

Doing good is worthwhile, and it's even better if we can do good well. After all, we know the Author of Good! It is God who gives us the opportunity to do good and to push toward excellence. In a world filled with ugliness and deficiencies, excellence shines, when that excellence points to our God and His grace. So, dive a little deeper into God's word and foster a closer connection to Christ. Take the extra time to listen to someone else's story. Grow in your prayer life and in your boldness to pray with others. Express your compassion and care for someone using what God has provided for you. We are driven to excellence because God gave us the greatest good in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and we have the opportunity to put that on display.

Nobody's perfect. There is no perfect church, or school, or person, but our mission through Jesus inspires us to greater things. So, let's pursue excellence, not for our own sake, but for the sake of a world who desperately needs good...done well.