

Bay City Wesleyan Church
February 12, 2017

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Sunday Morning 02-12-2017
Accept the challenge of Jesus' invitation, "Follow me."
<http://bible.com/events/170081>
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[Image]
Our theme for 2017
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Our theme for 2017 is Jesus' invitation, "Follow me."

These two simple words will transform every person that accepts the challenge. I pray that in the next 12 months all of us in this place, as well as those who join us, will see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly.

WESLEYAN LIFE Magazine
Winter 2017 The mission of the church is discipleship.
<https://wesleyan.life/magazine/winter-2017>

Matthew 6:24-34 NIV

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

One of the hardest-to-get,
most-difficult-to-live-into,
toughest-to-hold-onto ideas
of the truly Jesus-like life is that
Jesus followers live for the sake of others.

Have you noticed the warnings at the end of the commercials for medicines?

We all should pay attention to the possible side effects of things in our lives.

This all started me thinking about other things.
What if there are side effects to things like being rich?

1 Timothy 6:17 NIV

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Good news! You can be a follower of Jesus AND rich in this world. However, there are some negative side effects to avoid.

1. Rich people tend to live in denial.
2. Rich people are plagued by discontentment.
3. Rich people can become arrogant or prideful.
4. Rich people can expect their money to protect them from trouble. They are worried often.

Proverbs 18:11 NIV

The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it a wall too high to scale.

Matthew 6:24 NIV

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Put your hope in God. Why? Because he is generous.

A NEW WAY TO SEE GOD

Perhaps you're startled to think that God is generous and that he wants you to enjoy what you have. Since God loves you enough to give himself to bring you back into his family, then you must ask why would you trust in the provision when you can trust the Provider.

Sermon in a Sentence:

I will not hope in riches,
but in Him who richly provides.

"What is one thing you can do this week to begin to put your hope in God instead of your money?"

Let's make February our Generosity Project Month.

I'd like for our church family to present our support for the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission on Sunday, February 26th, in three ways:

- [1] giving financially through a special offering;
- [2] serving by doing something; and,
- [3] food and clothing donations.

Will you join me to pray and ponder how we might commit to supporting the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission?