

Bay City Wesleyan Church
February 26, 2017

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Sunday Morning 02-26-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"
When was the last time you asked?
<http://bible.com/events/176407>

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[Image]

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http://d1o2alqw72zlh8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1483223017441_152x152.jpg

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 few months all of us in this church, as well as those
who join us, will see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him
more nearly.

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.

Do good to those who can't or won't do good to you because Jesus did more for
you than you could ever repay.

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.

Determine that you will not hope in riches, but in Him who richly provides.

1 Timothy 6:18 NIV

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and
willing to share.

Use money well by earning all you can, spending as little as you can, so you
can give all you can.

1 Timothy 6:19 NIV

In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for
the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Do more and give more, because there's more to life than this life.

Counterculture Living:

Our fallen world pressures us to gain and to hoard. We feel compelled to ask,
"What's in it for me?" Advertisers push us to buy their products to enjoy life
to its fullest. But, the truth is that you get the most out of life by giving
generously.

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?

Luke 10:25-37 NIV

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "'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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Good Samaritan Rescue Mission Website

The Mission's Vision: WE ARE COMPELLED BY THE LOVE OF GOD to equip the hurting and homeless of Mid-Michigan through guidance and godly care that will lead our guests toward God-honoring, sustainable solutions and permanent housing.

<http://gsrmbaycity.org/>