

# GREATNESS

Open The Door 



## In It For Good

September 19, 2021 Message Notes

1 PETER 2:15

How do you live a great life? Choose God's will. But, is following God's will worth it?



## NOTES

**How do you live a great life?** Choose God's will.

**What is God's will?** It is God's best offer for your best life.

**"It is God's will that by doing good** you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people."  
*1 PETER 2:15*

**What's God's best offer for your best life?** Simple: do good!

But doing good in the name of Jesus always leads to a struggle.

**Is following God's will worth it?**

- worth the struggle?
- worth the ridicule?
- worth the isolation?
- worth the exhaustion?

When did God's best offer for your best life become equated with comfort?

What if God wanted something more for you than just comfort and the status quo of the American melting pot life?

Some melting pot values resonate deeply with us but others directly oppose Jesus' teachings.

We have to become better able to spot when other world views and religions get masked up into Jesus' words.

*"I can't do this on my own  
Someone watchin' this close  
Might go down as G.O.D.  
I make sure that north-side eat  
And still, bad things  
It's a lot of bad things  
That they wishin' on me"  
"God's Plan", recorded by Drake*

Do you believe that doing good leads to more good, and if so, then how did you come to that belief?



Did Jesus teach this, or did you unknowingly pick this belief up along the way because our melting pot culture lifts this value as one of THE supreme values in our society?

*“Drake references the tragic death of a friend, but he doesn’t shy away from shallow relationships with women. And when it comes to God, it’s unclear whether he’s referencing God in his own way, or whether that reference might just be to himself—making “God’s Plan” sound more like “Drake’s Plan.”* – From Focus on the Family’s, “Plugged In” track review

Picking and choosing our beliefs from the buffet line that best meets our needs in the moment can lead to great confusion about what God’s best offer for our best life means.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way, they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”  
MATTHEW 5:11-12

**“It’s Not About You!”** from *The Purpose Driven Life*, page 21.

The belief that doing good leads to some kind of good in return is, ultimately, a belief about you – not a belief about Jesus.

**God’s best offer for your best life is to do good for God’s glory.**

Less you = more God = more life in you. Therefore, less you = more life.

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”  
JOHN 14:16

“My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.”  
JOHN 10:10

When the church is at its best, we are walking with one another in the face of hardship when doing good. The church becomes a living manifestation of God’s grace!

“Let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”  
GALATIANS 6:9

The melting pot of materialism leads us to believe that adding more to our life brings more comfort and security.



Jesus says: “Don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”

*MATTHEW 6:31-33*

Jesus opposes materialism because of how much the temptation to want more things interferes with receiving more of God in your life.

Doing good to glorify your Father in Heaven always leads to more life and one that points to something greater than itself. It shows the Source of your life, but also shows others where to find theirs.

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.”

*1 PETER 2:21*

**Hardship from doing good in Jesus’ name draws us into a space of:**

- Remembrance: glimpse a little of what Jesus suffered for you
- Revitalization: experience a new depth of faith and Holy Spirit energy
- Reorientation: Refocus away from the melting pot of world values and personal pride to the presence of God’s Spirit alive in your life

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

*1 THESSALONIANS 5:18*

God’s got you here for good... to do good... for God’s glory!

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood...”

*EPHESIANS 6:12*

“We are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

*EPHESIANS 2:10*

