

Do the needful

To complete or fill up what is lacking. Doesn't that sum up our lives? This is our pursuit, it is what spurs us on. But on to what? We can perceive many things in our minds that cause us to worry when we look at them and they seem insufficient. My confidence, income, understanding, education, intellect, or perhaps my physical ability or even skill set. How we think about these things directly affects who we become. When we see ourselves as lacking we are far less inclined to give of ourselves to others.

Pro 23:6 Do not eat the bread of a selfish person, Or desire his delicacies;

Pro 23:7 For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, "Eat and drink!" But his heart is not with you.

If this is our mindset, this is where our heart is. It is set squarely on our desires. Any giving then is not done cheerfully because of the scarcity mentality we have fallen prey to. We are all broken or incomplete but in Christ, we are made whole. Restored to the One from whom all blessings flow. We may perceive a great many weaknesses and shortcomings but if we are in Christ we have everything!

2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us **all things** that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through **the knowledge of him** that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

In all our pursuits there is only one necessary thing. This one thing will direct our lives and from it, like the Apostle Paul, we will learn to be content.

Luk 10:41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, **Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:**

Luk 10:42 **But one thing is needful:** and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Be admonished

Be warned there are a great many pursuits that in the end only produce weariness but there is one thing that we should pursue...Knowing Jesus! – this is the whole duty of man.

Ecc 12:11 The words of the wise *are* as **goads**, and as nails fastened *by* the masters of assemblies, *which* are **given from one shepherd.**

Ecc 12:12 And further, by these, my son, **be admonished:** of making many books *there is* no end, and much study *is* a weariness of the flesh.

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear **the conclusion of the whole matter**: Fear God, and **keep his commandments**: for this *is the whole duty of man.*

Ecc 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

Paul was kicking against the goads – going against the truth of the gospel – caught in bondage to the law but then he was shown mercy

The end of the matter makes a person whole.

Psa 19:7 The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Keeping His commandments

1Jn 3:23 This is His commandment, that **we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another**, just as He commanded us.

1Jn 3:24 The one who **keeps His commandments** remains in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He remains in us, by **the Spirit** whom He has given us.

We cannot love one another apart from believing in Jesus. It is from the supply of faith, that we are made complete in Him. From the fullness of our understanding, we are enabled to love others.

➤ **How do we love one another?**

Joh 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and **will manifest myself to him.**

When we believe and trust in Him we see Him!

This is what we see when we look into the law of liberty – we are complete in Christ! If this is what we see we can truly give.

1Pe 1:8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

1Ti 1:5 But **the goal** of our instruction (commandment) is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* a sincere faith.

The goal of our instruction is the end or conclusion of the matter:
Rom 10:4 For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Consider your ways (Examine yourselves -the Lord's supper)

Set your heart – where our treasure is our heart will be – where is our heart set? Judge ourselves rightly

Hag 1:3 Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying,

Hag 1:4 "Is it time for you yourselves to live in your paneled houses while this house *remains* desolate?"

Hag 1:5 Now then, the LORD of armies says this: "**Consider your ways!**

Hag 1:6 "You have sown much, *only* to harvest little; *you* eat, but there is not *enough* to be satisfied; *you* drink, but there is not *enough* to become drunk; *you* put on clothing, but there is not *enough* for anyone to get warm; and the one who earns, earns wages *to put* into a money bag full of holes."

Hag 1:7 The LORD of armies says this: "**Consider your ways!**

Hag 1:8 "Go up to the mountains, bring wood, and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be honored," says the LORD.

Our confidence should not come from our work, our completeness is not dependent on us. We fall short. Looking to everything we do for sufficiency will never be enough just like there is always some home improvement to do on our houses. Idolatries and mammon are never satisfied.

- **Mat 6:33** "But **seek first His kingdom and His righteousness**, and all these things will be provided to you.
- **2Co 9:8** And **God is able to make all grace overflow to you**, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Behold he stands at the door and knocks. We need eye salve for our eyes so that we may see clearly. This is the only way we can ever judge ourselves rightly by looking to Christ. for any other standard is measured back to us and condemns us. (Rev 3:14-22)