

Abundant Life Church
Pastor Steve Finton
January 7, 2018

Series: ***The Year Of Getting What You Really Want***
Title: ***The Good Rule***

What are you praying for in 2018?

- Is what you want a *who*?
- Is what you want a *what*?
- Is what you want a *thing*?
- Is what you want a *state of mind*?

If you get, what you want, will you really be happy?

Strong earthly desires are short-term feelings.

1. Power
2. Control
3. Pleasure

If you had the freedom to choose your future what *good* would you spend your life doing?

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. John Wesley

The Rule of Good

Romans 7:21-22 (ESV)

So I have learned this rule: When I want to do good, evil is there with me. In my mind, I am happy with God's law.

Deep down, all of us want to help people and not harm them.

The *Rule of Good* defines evil:

Evil is not just defined by doing the wrong thing. Evil is also defined by not doing *good* for people in life.

Matthew 25:31-45 (ESV)

But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me." Then the righteous will answer Him, "Lord,

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when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'" Then He will also say to those on His left, "Depart from Me..."

Matthew 25:45-46 (ESV)

Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'" These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

The Rule of Good:

When I want to do *good*, evil is there with me.

Romans 7:15 (NLT)

I do not understand the things I do. I do not do what I want to do, and I do the things I hate.

What is of greatest value to God?

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

The Master Weaver's value of *good* is seen in his action -- John 3:16!

God is weaving *good* out of a world of evil

How have people wronged you?

Philippians 4:12 (NIV)

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Genesis 37:18-22 (NASB)

When they saw him from a distance and before he came close to them, they plotted against him to put him to death. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer! Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, 'A wild beast devoured him.' Then let us see what will become of his dreams!" But Reuben heard this and rescued him out of their hands and said, "Let us not take his life." Reuben further said to them, "Shed no blood. Throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not lay hands on him"-that he might rescue him out of their hands, to restore him to his father.

How many times did Joseph desire deliverance from his lot in life?

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None of us control our resume!

Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:20 (NASB)

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

In Hebrew: “You wove evil, but God rewove it together for good.”

Philippians 4:13-14 (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.