

Glorious Alternative 9 - Crickets or Trumpets?

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23

Jesus did not come to establish a whole new list of things to do, he came to establish a whole new kind of person.

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:1-4

Acting anonymously, selflessly and generously requires that we believe the Father is actually watching and is pleased.

42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. Matthew 5:42

Generosity is an assumed characteristic of a follower of Jesus.

Works righteousness is false belief in a right standing before God based on what I do on earth.

Our giving and generosity must become as second nature and effortless as the use our dominant hands.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Giving is strongly encouraged and taught but it is not demanded.

2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, 1 Corinthians 16:2

Giving is to be ordered and intentional.

The greatest reward a believer can have is just the simple knowledge that we have pleased our Lord.