

# True Benefactors

## Introduction

### **A. There are true and false benefactors.**

1. **Luke 22:24-27** For the second time Jesus made the point that greatness in the kingdom is measured by service and not by lording it over others.

a. Kings exercise lordship and are called "benefactors" which ironically means "doers of good" or givers of benefits as servants of their inferiors.

b. Although usually they are selfish tyrants who do good only to those who please them or to those that might provide some advantage for them.

2. The world is full of the wealthy and the wanna-be's supposed benefactors.

a. Nobles, aristocrats, powerful and influential "movers and shakers" in the world.

b. Even Al Capone of the Chicago mafia with his mobsters were thought to be "benefactors" doing favors for the poor, etc.

### **B. Jesus is the True Benefactor.**

1. He teaches the twelve how to become true benefactors... without being wealthy or powerful in human terms.

2. We are like them as benefactors in at least four ways:

a. Witnesses of Jesus

b. Teachers and leaders in fellowship with God and the family of God.

c. Healers or saviors of others

d. Sufferers for the cause of giving benefits to their fellows which Jesus died for.

## I. Witnesses of Jesus

A. **Acts 1:6-8** Jesus announced that the twelve were to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.

1. **Acts 2:32** Peter called the twelve witnesses

2. **Acts 2:37-41** 3,000 souls repented, were baptized, were forgiven of their sins, and received the gift of the Holy Spirit .... great blessing or benefit received from the true benefactors trained by Jesus.

**B. In a second sense we bear that testimony to the world by word and deed and become benefactors.**

## II. Teachers and Leaders in Fellowship with God and with the Family of God.

A. **Acts 2:42-43** **And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and prayers.**

1. **Ephesians 2:19-20** the temple of God is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

2. Apostles were givers of great blessing through their teachings, true benefactors.

3. **Ephesians 4:12-16** the effect of those teachings were to make the members of the body of Christ mature, stable, reaching toward the measure of the stature of Christ, the ideal benefactor.

**B. Jesus and the apostles now have left us with the Bible and Church with which we can also become benefactors as teachers and leaders in fellowship with God and His family.**

1. **Romans 12:3-11** given much to give much
2. **Galatians 6:1-5** bearing one another's burdens

### III. Healers and Saviors of Broken, Lost, Sin-cursed men.

A. **Acts 3:1-6** Silver and gold have I none; but **such as I have give I thee**: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

1. **Matthew 10:8** Heal the sick, cleanse the leper, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely **ye have received, freely give.**

2. **1 Corinthians 9:19-22** Paul was a servant of all that he might **gain the more**. He was made all things to all men, that he might by all means **save some**. "save" is from the same Greek word for "heal".

B. Jesus was the great Physician to the sin-sick souls, **Matthew 9:10-13**.

1. The great commission of **Mark 16:16** offers healing/salvation to those who believe and are baptized. Christians are all commissioned to preach the Gospel to every creature and thus to become their benefactors.

2. The Gospel is God's power unto salvation/healing, **Romans 1:16**.

3. We must obey the teaching of Jesus in order to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, **Philippians 2:12-13**. We must participate in the healing of our own lives with Jesus' help, for it is God who is working in us both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

4. Timothy is told to apply himself to his teaching and to continue faithful in both doing and teaching such things to save himself and to save those who hear him, **1 Timothy 4:16**.

-- this made Timothy a great benefactor. a great healer.

C. Jesus calls on us to be zealous of good works.

1. **Titus 2:11-14 (3:3-8)** goodness of God appeared, saved us, devoted to good works)

2. **Ephesians 2:10** created in Christ for good works

-- this is the great failure of the unbelievers, **Ephesians 4:17-20**

3. **Ephesians 5:22, 25; 6:1-3, 4** benefactors in the home environment

4. **Ephesians 6:5, 9** benefactors even as slaves and masters! (not your normal context for benefactors!)

5. **Hebrews 10:24** benefactors in the church; **Galatians 5:13** through serving one another. (Romans 12:1-2; 15:1-2, 8-9 Christ became a servant)

### IV. Sufferers

A. **Acts 5:17-18** imprisoned and then, **v. 40-42** dishonored and beaten for Christ, our Benefactor... and by extension as benefactors for all of the people who might be moved to repent, be baptized, and begin serving Christ to the healing and blessing of their lives.

B. **Colossians 1:24** Paul also rejoiced in his sufferings for the brethren regarding it as filling up what was behind or lacking of the afflictions of Christ in the flesh for His body's sake which is the church.

- When we suffer in our service to Christ, we are true benefactors bringing benefit to the church and to all those for whom Christ served and died on the cross.