

Living Faithfully: Living as Jesus' Disciple in the 21st Century

Week 4: Faithfully Useful

Introduction: 2nd Timothy 2:14-26

A man used to visit a tiny general store in the country. The proprietor has a clerk named Jake, who seemed to be the laziest man in the world. One day the man noticed that Jake was gone.

He asked the proprietor, "Where's Jake?" "Oh, he retired," was the answer. "Retired? Then what are you going to do to fill the vacancy?" The owner replied, "Jake didn't leave no vacancy."

(Insert comedic rim shot here)

That leads me to ask, "What kind of vacancy would there be in Cornerstone if you left?"

It is God's clear intention that every one of His people be used to honor the Lord Jesus Christ through serving and sharing. God has given gifts to each one to be used as good stewards. And yet for so many that name the name of Christ, their faith is more like being a football—an occasional Sunday spectator sport. There are those who call Jesus, "Lord", yet, they do not serve in the church, share of their resources to advance the Kingdom in the community, nor do they give witness to Christ's love and work in their lives. But if you truly know Christ, you can't be happy sitting on the bench or in the stands. You want to be in the game.

The Big Picture: God faithfully uses those who are faithful to Him!

Discussion:

Open:

- Have you ever had a work review? Did your employer commend or correct your efforts? How did that make you feel?

Discuss:

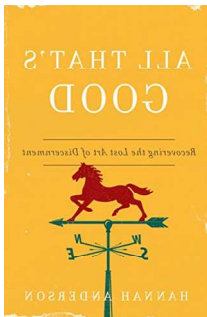
Read 2nd Timothy 2:14-26. Review the sermon. Write down any questions you have or any statements that stood out to you.

At Cornerstone, we believe the following six values will help you live faithfully to Jesus in the 21st Century: grace, growth, gather, gifts, generosity and goodness. These shaping values lead our discussion points.

- **Grace: Experiencing Regular Renewal and Refreshment through the Spirit**
Can winning an argument also win souls? What is the role of Christian apologetics—reasoned arguments to justify Christianity—in evangelism?
- **Growth: Learning from and Applying the Word of God to My Everyday Life**

How is it possible to teach or be taught the same thing—the gospel—year after year without losing the importance of the message?

- **Gather: Experiencing Christian Community and Gospel Renewal with Others**
Why does it seem that false teaching spreads more easily and quickly than sound doctrine? What should Christians do in light of the presence of false teaching?
- **Gifts: Applying My Time and Talent for God’s Glory and the Benefit of Others**
Is the pastor the only spiritual “workman” in the body of Christ? In what ways do others toil in the work of the kingdom?
- **Generosity: Honoring God by Sharing My Resources to Benefit Others**
What is the difference between gentleness and timidity? How can a Christian balance meekness and humility on one hand with boldness and confidence on the other?
- **Goodness: Expressing the Gospel at Work through Love and Good Deeds**
What undesirable “youthful passions” have you seen in yourself or in others? How does the Christian response to these things contrast with secular culture? How do we help people who live far from God see that God’s way is good?



Further Exploration on this Topic:

All That's Good: Recovering the Lost Art of Discernment, Hannah Anderson

From the Publisher: Look out over the world today, it seems a far cry from God’s original declaration. Pain, conflict, and uncertainty dominate the headlines. Our daily lives are noisy and chaotic—filled with too much information and too little wisdom. No wonder we often find it easier to retreat into safe spaces, hunker down in likeminded tribes, and just do our best to survive life.

But what if God wants you to do more than simply survive? What if he wants you to thrive in this world, and be part of its redemption? What if you could rediscover the beauty and goodness God established in the beginning?

By learning the lost art of discernment, you can. Discernment is more than simply avoiding bad things; discernment actually frees you to navigate the world with confidence and joy by teaching you how to recognize and choose good things. When you learn discernment and develop a taste for all that’s good, you will encounter God in remarkable new ways. Come, discover the God who not only made all things, but who will also make all things good once again.

NOTE: Winner of the 2018 TGC Book Award for Christian Living

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/All-Thats-Good-Recovering-Discernment-ebook/dp/B078Z5ZMWP>

