

## FAITH, LOVE, ACTION! – Serving the Widows

June 28-29, 2025

**1 Timothy 5:3-6 (NIV)** – “Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives”.

“Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but, how much of God’s money will I keep for myself?” – **John Wesley**

**1 Timothy 5:7-8 (NIV)** – “Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever”.

“The Christian who falls below the best heathen standard of family affection is the more blameworthy, since he has what the heathen has not, the supreme example of love in Jesus Christ” – **Newport J.D. White**

**1 Timothy 5:11 (NIV)** – “As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry”.

“**put on the list**” – Greek *katalego* - “to enroll, choose out, take into the number”

**Acts 6:1-4 (AMP)** - Now about this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, a complaint was made by the Hellenists (Greek-speaking Jews) against the [native] Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. So the Twelve called the disciples together and said, “It is not appropriate for us to neglect [teaching] the word of God in order to serve tables and manage the distribution of food. Therefore, brothers, choose from among you seven men with good reputations [men of godly character and moral integrity], full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. But we will [continue to] devote ourselves [steadfastly] to prayer and to the ministry of the word”.

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**Leviticus 23:22 (NIV)** – “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God”.

“God has no need of your money, but the poor have. You give it to the poor, and God receives it” – *Saint Augustine*

**Deuteronomy 14:28-29 (NIV)** – “At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year’s produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless, and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands”.

**Ruth 1:16-18 (NIV)** – But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me”. When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

**Ruth 2:1-5 (NIV)** – Now Naomi had a relative on her husband’s side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor”. Naomi said to her, “Go ahead, my daughter”. So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek. Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, “The Lord be with you!” “The Lord bless you!” they answered. Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, “Who does that young woman belong to?”

**Ruth 2:8-9 (NIV)** – So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled”.

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“**widow**” = Greek *chera*, derived from *chasma*, meaning “chasm”, through the idea of deficiency – one who lacks a husband, literally or figuratively – ***Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance***