

Why Serve the Poor?

Because... whoever is kind to the needy honors God (Pro 14:31—NIV) He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done. (Pro 19:17—NIV) A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. (Pro 11:25--NIV) He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures forever (2Cor 9:9-NIV) ...not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. (2Cor 9:12—NIV)

Because... He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him: was not this to know me? *Says the Lord.* (Jer 22:16) ...Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me. (Matt 25:40)

Because... He that *gives* unto the poor shall not lack: but he that *hides* his eyes shall have many a curse. (Pro 28:27) Blessed is he that **considers** the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and *You will* not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of *sickness*: *You will restore* him in his sickness. (Ps 41:1-3)

Because... the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I (the Lord) command *you*, saying, Thou *shall* open *your* hand wide unto *your* brother, to *your* poor, and to *your* needy, in *your* land. (Deut 15:11) ...remembering the words of the Lord Jesus Who said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35) ...give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God *loves* a cheerful giver. (2Cor 9:7)

Because... by this service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for your obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. (2Cor 9:13-14—NIV)

Because... the Lord Almighty says: Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor... but they refused to pay attention...and would not listen to the law or to the words that the Lord Almighty had sent by His Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the Lord Almighty was angry. When I called, they didn't listen; so when they called, I would not listen, says the Lord Almighty. I scattered them with a whirlwind among the nations where they were strangers. (Zech. 7:9-14--NIV)

Because... this was the sin of ... Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen. (Eze. 16:49-50—NIV)

Because... The righteous *considers* the cause of the poor: but the wicked *regard* not to know it. (Pro 29:7) ...among my people are found wicked men...they have become great, and grown rich...they shine: ... they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not...the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy they do not judge. ...shall not My Soul be avenged on such a nation as this? (Jer. 5:28-29)

Because... If my people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (2Chron 7:14) ...break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity (Dan 4:27—NKJV).

Because... the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish forever. (Ps 9:17-18) Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy. (Pro 31:9)

Because... Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress...(Ja 1:27—NIV) ...remember the poor...(Gal 2:10)

Because... If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your desire with good things, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. (Isa 58:10-11—RSV)

Because... What *does* it profit, my brethren, though a man say he *has* faith, and have not works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *does* it profit? Even so faith, if it *has* not works, is dead, being alone. (Ja 2:14-17)

Because... In Christ Jesus...the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (Gal 5:6--NIV) This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ...let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in His Presence. (1Jo 3:16-19—NIV)

Because... Your Father's good pleasure *is* to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give *to the poor*; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Luke 12:33-34--RSV) ...He who is noble devises noble things, and by noble things he stands. (Isa 32:8—RSV) And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives

to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He (God)...will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. (2Cor 9:7-10--RSV) only... remember the poor, which very thing I was eager to do. (Gal 2:10-RSV)

Scripture verses compiled by Bob Sanders 12/5/03

All verses not from the King James Version are noted as: NIV—New International Version, RSV—Revised Standard Version, NASV-New American Standard Version, or NKJV—New King James Version

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Honor God! Plead the cause of the poor and needy! Remember the poor!
Redeem the time! Plant multiplying seed-- reap a multiplied harvest!