

**October 18 | Sunday**  
**Sanctification: Perfected in Love**  
James 2:4-18



**19 | Mon – “Christianity is essentially...”** | Read Matthew 5:13-16

John Wesley, as a follower of Jesus’ teaching, said “Christianity is essentially a social religion.” Jesus did not isolate himself from his culture; neither should we. In Matthew 5 we are instructed to be salt (a preservative) and light (dispelling the darkness). How could your choice of words and actions help preserve the good and bring light to a dark situation, even today?

**20 | Tue – “Works of mercy...”** | Read Ephesians 2:4-10

Some folks believe that the grace of God makes good works unnecessary. John Wesley believed these verses that tell us “we were created in Christ Jesus to do good things.” Wesley’s Second General Rule of the Methodist Church asks us to be “doing good of every possible sort” How do these words spark your imagination? Think of one or two things you could do today to bless others around you?

**21 | Wed – “We were enabled to feed...”** | Read 1 John 3:14--18

The apostle John used strong words for those who could see a brother or sister in need and not help them. Wesley wrote of a time when he saw such poverty that he was compelled invite his congregation to join him in helping feed the poor only four miles away. Their generosity provided enough funds to feed 100-150 of the most poverty stricken. Watch for an opportunity to help someone in need today; it will bless you too!

**22 | Thu – “Where is the justice...where is the mercy?”** | Read Isaiah 1:11-18; 42:1-7

The prophet Isaiah pointed out that injustice ran rampant in Israel. Wesley visited one prisoner charged with a large offense instead of the petty crime he had committed. He indignantly asked where was the justice in swelling \$4 into \$577, where was the common sense in making a 14 page story out of something that could be told in ten lines, and where was the mercy in grinding the face of the poor? We could ask the same questions.

**23 | Fri – “That grand pest...a faith without works”** | Read James 2:14-26

Wesley had learned firsthand the folly of trying to earn God’s favor through good works. He challenged those Christians who believed that “salvation by faith meant good works were optional. Do we sometimes fall into that trap? James did not talk about faith and works being 50/50. Instead we need 100% of both. Do our good works grow out of our faith as a grateful response to God’s gracious acceptance of us or does duty compel us?

**24 | Sat – “Feed...clothe...lodge...”** | Read Matthew 25:31-46

Looking back, it is easy to see how Wesley and his followers made a big impact for good in both Britain and America. It was not with a single sermon or campaign. Numerous small acts of grace and caring changed the world. As Jesus said...feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger. Doing these things in His name is the same as doing it for Him. How can you serve Jesus today by serving others?

**October 25 | Sun – The Latter Years** | Read Romans 13:11-12



**Hastings United Methodist Church | *Adventure by the Park***