

"What is the Christian's/Church's Responsibility Towards the Poor?" (Part 1)
Proverbs 21:13; Luke 6:27-36

"Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered." (Proverbs 21:13)

- The Biblical Reality of Poverty:
 - *"For **there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'**" (Deuteronomy 15:11). "**For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have Me.**" (Matthew 26:11)*
- The Biblical Definition of Poverty:
 - *"**But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.**" (Luke 14:13-14)*
 - Biblically the poor are those who lack the material wealth and resources to meet their own basic needs (**widows, orphans, or a marginalized group**). Individuals who have no representation (headship), are powerless, viewed as insignificant, or who have indirectly chosen poverty by their own personal actions/decisions.
- Reasons for Poverty:
 - **Rejection of God's Wisdom/Sin:** *"Poverty and disgrace comes to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored." (Proverbs 13:18)*
 - **Laziness:** *"A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man." (Proverbs 24:33-34)*
 - **Irresponsibility/Impatience:** *"Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty." (Proverbs 28:19)*
 - **Debt:** *"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender." (Proverbs 22:7)*
 - **Discontentment:** *"Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me." (Proverbs 30:8)*
 - **Evil Authority:** *"Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty." (Proverbs 22:16). "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (1 Timothy 5:8). "Render true judgements, show kindness and mercy to one another, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart." (Zechariah 7:9-10)*
 - **Consequences of Living In a Sinful World (War, Natural Disasters, Disabilities, Disease/Plague):** *"Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls." (Habakkuk 3:17)*
 - **God's Providence:** *"I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need." (Philippians 4:12)*
- The Enemies of Helping the Poor: *Selfishness, Self-advancement, and Self-preservation: (Luke 6:30-31)*
 - **Selfishness:** A concern for one's own welfare or advantage at the expense of or in disregard of others.
 - **Self-Advancement:** The pursuit of personal growth, success, or fulfillment.
 - **Self-Preservation:** Our natural instinct to do what is safe or low risk to ourselves.

Worship: I Stand Amazed — Norton Hall Band

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) — Matt Redman

Service Times: Sundays: Sunday School 9am/Prayer 9:45am/Church 10:30am; Mondays: Legacy Practicum 6pm;
Tuesdays: Bible Study — Women 6:30pm/Men 7pm; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20pm/Church 7pm

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Please see the March Newsletter for more information about our monthly collection.

★**"IN HONOR/IN MEMORY OF" EASTER LILIES:** The Servant's Heart Ministry is sponsoring an Easter Lily Sale again this year. Please consider purchasing an Easter Lily and dedicate your Lily in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The Easter Lilies will adorn the sanctuary for both the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. Your purchased Lilies can be retrieved following the Easter Sunday service. The cost is \$13 for a 6 inch potted Lily. Order forms are available on the table in the Entryway. ***Please note: we are requesting that the Lilies be paid for in CASH only! Checks are highly discouraged.*** Please put your completed order forms, along with your cash payment, into the container on the Entryway table. The last day to order your Easter Lily is on Sunday, March 29th. If you have any questions, please see or contact Janelle Gordon: 740-334-0834.

★**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Men, the monthly Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, March 21st, at the Big Apple Café — Log Pond location, at 7am. If you plan on attending, please let Pastor Zach know (740)618-0739.

★**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:** On Sunday, March 22nd, we will be celebrating our 9th Anniversary as a Church!

★*For all other announcements, please see the March Newsletter!*