

Dear members and friends of St. John Lutheran,

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21, ESV)

Some of us have come to believe **doing nothing is one of the great pleasures of life.**

Doing nothing is something at which Melody Schick is very good. Not so very long ago, Melody, dressed as a rag doll, sat on a revolving platform in a Dallas shopping center. Thousands of people gathered to watch Melody sit and do nothing. For five hours and forty-three boring minutes Melody sat and did nothing. Then, at the end of that time, Melody rose, tried to smile, and left the platform as the proud possessor of the world's record for sitting still and doing nothing.

Now the purpose of this article is not to get you to start thinking, "I bet I could beat that record." Nor is it to encourage husbands and wives to say, "Melody is an amateur at doing nothing compared to my spouse." Of course, such an observation may be right.

There are a lot of folks who work very hard at doing nothing -- even more who like to observe others doing nothing. What a waste. **Each of us has been given gifts from God -- gifts He wishes us to use for a purpose.**

Now, it's possible that doing nothing may be Melody's gift. However, doing nothing is not the kind of life to which all of us should aspire. The Lord sent His Son to save us. Now, the Holy Spirit equips us to do His will, to work that which is pleasing in His sight. St. Paul put it this way in Romans chapter 12: *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.* Notice verse 11 where he says that we should not be lazy in our zeal to serve our Lord. Instead we are to be "fervent in spirit" – to be caught up in the Spirit of God.

This happens when we **study our Bibles daily** and **pray frequently** for God to help us be of service to Him (praying frequently is more than before meals and before we go to sleep at night – this means many times a day – too often to keep track of, or as St. Paul says, 'be constant in prayer.').

Jesus died on the cross to free us from a life of bondage. We were chained to a giant weight called sin, and we couldn't move from it. It affected every aspect of our lives, and not in a good way. Now, the chain has been broken by the One who died with our sins on Himself. We're free! But that doesn't mean free to do nothing! We're free to serve Him by loving our neighbor to the point of sacrificing our time, our abilities, and our resources for the benefit of others.

Now, I'm positive that the Lord has something for you to do today. Start by reading your Bible and praying for God to use you. And don't be surprised when it happens! May you do that *something* to the glory of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Travis