

## “Reformed View of “The End Times” In Meeting Spiritual and Physical Needs of Others”

By  
Rev. Michael McGee

### I. Noting the Reasons Why People are in Need

*Although there are many reasons why people find themselves in need, there are only three causes which present these circumstances. These three factors are: the actions of God, others and the individual. .*

### II. Examples of Individuals in Need

Societal Examples of the Poor or Needy (Homeless; Hard-Times; Hand-outs)

#### Webster’s Definition

Needy: in a state of need or want; without means of subsistence; extremely poor; destitute.

Poor: having little or no money, goods or other means of support; dependent upon charity or public support.

Rich: having wealth or great possessions; abundantly supplied with resources, means, or funds.

#### Society’s Definition:

Needy: people who are lacking what they desire

Poor: anyone making below a certain amount of money.

Rich: anyone making above a certain amount of money.

#### Bible’s Definition:

Needy: not have nor able to obtain the means to sustain one’s livelihood; dependant on another’s charity.

Poor: destitute; dependent on others for their survival; cannot sustain self – elderly; handicapped.

Rich: those who do not need to work in order to survive or thrive.

### III. Encouragements to Assist Those in Need

*God could satisfy the needs of the poor in His creation but chooses not to do so. This does not mean that God is not concerned about the poor and needy. (1 Sam. 2:7; Ps. 69:33; 9:18; Jam. 2:5; Ps. 12:5)*

A. The Image of God in Man – Mt. 5:44; Lu. 17:3-4; Is. 58:7

B. Biblical Example – Ac. 2:44-45; 4:34-35; Lev. 25; Dt. 14:28-29; Is. 1:16-17; 58:6-7

C. Biblical Duty

Favoritism – Ex. 23:1-3

Cheating – Ex. 22; 23:9; Lev. 19:33-37; Dt. 27:19; Pr. 14:31; 22:22; 29:7; 31:8-9; Jam. 2:1-9

Caring for the Poor – Pr. 21:13; 28:27; 29:7; Lu. 14:12-14

D. Demonstrate Love

Commanded – Eph. 5:2; 1 Jn. 3:16-18; 4:16, 20-21; Mt. 22:37-40; Jn. 14:16, 21-23; Dt. 15:7-8

Love Involves Sharing – Ro. 12:13; 15:26-27; 1 Ti. 6:17-19; Heb. 13:15-16

Love Bears one Another’s Burdens – Gal. 6:2, 7-10

Love is Merciful – Lev. 19:18, 34; Mic. 6:8; Gal. 6:10; Ro. 12:8, 13; 2 Co. 9:8-15

E. Provides Encouragement to the Believer

Proves that God is at work in our lives – 2 Co. 8:1

Proves a Changed Heart – 1 Jn. 3:17-18; 2 Co. 8:7-8; Jam. 1:27; 2:15-17

Shows service to God – Mt. 25:40; Pro. 19:17; 14:31; 17:5

Shows the Grace of God at Work – 2 Co. 8:8-9

Provides a Way to Glorify God – 2 Co. 9:11-13

F. The Example of the Lord Jesus Christ

Helped the Needy Through Words And Deeds – Mk. 7:37; Ac. 10:38; Mt. 21:14-15

Compassionate to the Poor & Needy – Lk. 15:1-2; 7:11-14; Mt. 9:12-13, 35-38; Rm. 5:6  
Identified with the poor – Lk. 2:23-24; Mt. 8:20; 25:35-36  
Gracious – Rm. 5:8-10; Mt. 5:44-45; 2 Co. 8:8-9

*The gracious behavior of our Lord should be emulated practically by those who trust in Him for salvation. The use of our earthly resources should manifest our experiences of divine mercy by graciously relieving the needs of others.*

#### **IV. Delivering Help to the One in Need**

*As one considers the Church, they can usually divide it into two areas of concern, the Church's Doctrine and the Church's Practice. However, if a congregation focuses solely on sound doctrine, they will be lacking in their practice of love; and, if a congregation focuses only on loving one another, then they will be lacking a sense of direction. In order to have a biblical perspective, a congregation should have a love for God and their neighbor, which means that they will have biblical doctrine directing them to have a heart for mercy ministry.*

##### **A. Qualified Candidates**

Defining your neighbor – Lk. 10:30-37  
Christians – Gal. 6:10; 1 Ti. 5:3-10  
Non-Christians – Lev. 19:33-34; Heb. 13:2; 1 Tim. 5:10; Mt. 5:45; Lk. 6:32-36

*Poor of the World? We are not charged with supporting the poor of the world. We are to assist the needy people of God. We should also take advantage of opportunities to show compassion to those who are outside of God's Covenant Community (Mk. 7:24-30).*

##### **B. Guidelines for Assisting**

Needy; Without Support (Individually or from Family)  
Address Needs – Items that Pertain to Health and Survival  
Food, Shelter, Contentment (1 Ti. 6:6-10)  
If able, Individuals Should Work for Assistance Provided (2 Thes. 3:8-12)

##### **C. Reaching the Needy**

Evangelism and Discipleship – Mt. 28:18-20; 2 Co. 10:5; Transformational – Eph. 4:28

##### **D. Practical Ideas for the Family**

Work to Provide for Your Family – 1 Ti. 5:8; 2 Thes. 3:10; Heb. 6:11-12; Pr. 10:4  
Teach Children – Pr. 6:6-11; 12:24; 21:25; 24:30-34; Ro. 12:10-11  
Provide your children with an inheritance  
Meet the economic needs of family members – Lev. 25:25, 49

##### **E. Practical Ideas for the Church**

Evaluate Community and Serve those in need – Ac. 6:1-4; De. 14:28-29  
Gather and Distribute Offerings – 1 Co. 16:1-2; Ro. 15:25-27  
The Work of the Diaconate  
Organize Members to be involved with activities that would serve those in need

*The Church should not be a compartment in life where one participates in mercy ministry. It should be a community where practice and habit of mercy is learned and trained.*

##### **F. Charitable Giving**

Relieve the burden of those in need – Pr. 14:21; Lu. 14:12-14; Pr. 21:25-26; 22:9  
Determine whether candidate is worthy of assistance  
Give Aid: Meet needs not just give money – Ac. 2:44-46; 4:32-37; 1 Ti. 6:17-19  
Principle of Gleaning – Lev. 19:9-10; 23:22; De. 24:19-22; 23:24-25; Ruth 2  
Modern Examples: Garden Plots; Restaurants; Grocery Stores; etc.

##### **G. Societal Action**

Protect property rights of orphans and widows – De. 10:18; Ps. 68:5; 15:25; 22:28; 23:10-11  
Address Social Oppression and Guard Against Judicial Prejudice – Ps. 72:2-4, 12-14;  
Lev. 19:15; Ex. 23:6; Ps. 82:1-4; Pr. 22:22-23; 29:14  
Employer – Think about how you treat your workers – Lev. 19:13; Jam. 5:1-6