



WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE?

By Rev. Will Nelken

Presented at Trinity Community Church, San Rafael, CA, on Sunday, April 3, 2022

On the one hand, we take so much of life for granted, as if everything *should* just continue as it has before.

Some have spurned the hope of Jesus' return, saying, "Since the dawn of creation, all things continue as they have always been; why expect change?"

On the other hand, people all over the world are engaged in a desperate search for the will of God—through multiple religions of the world (even those that offer little hope of finding anything beyond a good path to follow), through a multitude of rituals and sacrifices performed in the quest for some answer of peace, through so much human effort, and so much frustration. There is an emptiness that longs for fulfillment, and an uncertainty that cries for assurance. What's the answer?

Micah 6:6 *What can we bring to the Lord? Should we bring Him burnt offerings? Should we bow before God Most High with offerings of yearling calves? ⁷ Should we offer Him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins?*

The prophet replied:

⁸ No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

"What is good." So many people today express ideas of what is "good." But God has told us what is good, and it often looks nothing like what we've imagined.

What is "good" for us, is also (as it happens) what God "requires" of us. Yes, God wants what is good for us. What's more, He exerts His sovereign wisdom and power to *"work all things together for our good."* (Romans 8:28)

"This is what He requires of you." It's music to my ears, and water to my soul! We CAN know what He wants, because He has told us.