Prelude to Prayer

“If you had to condense all of the Bible’s directives in to 3 rules, what would you say those rules would be?... John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, summarized God’s directives to His people in what he called “Three Simple Rules.” Wesley said that if we could “Do No Harm, Do Good, and Attend to the Ordinances of God (or, more simply, Stay in Love with God)” that we would be following God’s plan for our lives. While these are much easier stated than actually followed, I do think that these three instructions can give us a great starting point for more closely walking the path that God has for us.” Amy Shores, Methodist Family Health

Romans 7:21-25

21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I, myself in my mind, am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

* Dear Lord, thank you for your words to live by. I try to follow you closely and stay in Your word, but I fail so many times. As Paul said “The things I want to do, I do not do…” I find myself putting so many things before You, when all I want to do is draw closer to You. Give me the strength to follow Your prompting and stay disciplined in my attention to You. Help me especially right now with…
* Father, it feels like our country has turned it’s back on You. We have let those who do not believe make decisions that go against Your word. They have relished in flaunting their irreverence and disobedience. Forgive us for allowing this to happen. Help us be bold, but kind, in our defense of You and help us to stand firm on Your word. Let us “do no harm” so that they can be won over by truth and not hurtful rhetoric.
* Lord, I ask that you give us a heart for reaching out to those who are hurting and searching for You. Give us a longing for helping and giving, even if we don’t have much to give. Sometimes a smile goes a long way to helping a broken heart. Remind me to smile even when I don’t feel like it because I realize that it isn’t always about me. Let me make it all about You and them.
* Father, we have many in our church and our lives that are unwell and trying to find answers to what is ailing them. We ask that you be with Marv & Linda, Loren & Glenda, and Lisa Danielson as they are seeking direction and healing from their doctors. Be with Dakota & Lily as they anticipate the new baby and help Lily with the intense pain she is having to deal with. Be with the Hamiltons as they deal with Covid. Give them strength and resilience to recover from it quickly.
* Lord, thank you for being the Great Physician and the Great Healer. You are the Beginning and the End, and we look forward to the day that we will be with you for all eternity.

Romans 8:18-21

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.