

OH THE THINGS WE MAY DO

You have individual purpose, personal responsibility. Your purpose and responsibility is measured by several things: your native personality, your peculiar abilities, your station in life, your opportunities. In fact, all responsibility is ultimately measured by ability and opportunity. Obviously, you can't do what you have no ability to do, nor can you do what there is no opportunity to do. But when you can, you must. Here are some things all of us can do:

I Can Pray Often: -- A strong prayer life is lacking in the lives of many Christians. We know we ought to pray more. We admit it. But we get involved with other things and forget. Would we forget to stay in touch with our children or grandchildren? Would we let our friendships deteriorate because of a lack of attention? See what I mean? It indicates a lack of interest when we don't pray like we ought. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17) may not be saying we ought to pray continually, but it does say we should do it regularly. Are you?

I Can Be Present: -- I seriously doubt there is one person who actually can't do more than be present at every service possible, but I have no doubt at all that it's one thing we all can do. Sometimes you feel tired on Wednesday night and you say to yourself, "I just don't think I can make it tonight," but instead of giving in to the temptation to stay home, you force yourself and get up and go. After the stimulating Bible study, after the refreshment of spirited singing together with those who love God and having shared the other good things of so rich an association, you feel great. And everybody who has not been hindered by something over which he has no control can be here. Will you?

I Can Watch My Tongue: -- How many problems could be prevented if people would learn to watch what they say. "What they say" is the operative phrase. Every person should make sure that whatever he says about anything, is true. Not hearsay, not what someone said someone said, but truth. James says, "the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity (Jas. 3:6), and "behold how great a forest a little fire kindles!" (Jas. 3:5). Huge conflagrations are started by little, uncontrolled sparks. We best be careful that our one little remark doesn't start a huge rumor that eventually spreads out of control. Will you?

Well, those are some things each of us can do. Isn't it good we can be together today, together to warn and admonish one another, together to enjoy our common faith in Jesus, together to benefit from each other's warmth and friendliness Let us love one another, for love is of God.

[Dee Bowman; condensed]

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MEETING TIMES:

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| SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : | 9:00AM |
| SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: | 9:50AM |
| SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: | 6:00PM |
| WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS | 7:30PM |

*Worshipping
God "in Spirit
and truth"
(John 4.23)*

APRIL 26TH, 2009

THE CARPENTER

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "my gift to you."

What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too well.

So it is with us. We build our lives in a distracted way, reacting rather than acting, willing to put up less than the best. At important points we do not give the job our best effort. Then with a shock we look at the situation we have created and find that we are now living in the house we have built. If we had realized that we would have done it differently.

Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think about your house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Build wisely.

Who could say it more clearly? Your life today is the result of your attitudes and choices in the past. Your life tomorrow will be the result of your attitudes and the choices you make today.

HAPPINESS IS WHAT YOU DO NOT

PSALM 1:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. Happiness is usually framed in the actions and attitudes of those who seek it. If one wants to be happy, he must do something.
2. Most of the sadness in the world is created through sinful actions. There is no need to give trouble a chair to sit on.
3. In the first line of the first psalm, the writer reveals three things to avoid in order to maintain true happiness.

I. HE DOES NOT WALK IN UNGODLY COUNSEL

A. PSALM 1:1: "...the counsel of the ungodly..."

1. The advice of the ungodly reflect a philosophy of those who do not "*retain God in their knowledge*" (Rom. 1.28).
2. Following the advice of the ungodly only leads to misery. (Isa. 30.1,2; 1 Chr. 10.13,14; Jer. 23.20-22)

B. PSALM 1:2: "*But his delight is in the Law of the LORD*"

1. The Bible is the "*whole counsel of God*" (Acts 20.27)
2. The value of Biblically based advice. (1 Tim. 4.16)

II. HE DOES NOT STAND IN THE PATH OF SINNERS

A. PSALM 1:1: "...the path of sinners..."

1. Going where sinners tend to be puts one in a vulnerable position. Why do we go? (Rom. 13.14; Gal. 5.16,17)
2. The progression from desire to disobedience is almost unperceivable (James 1.14; Josh. 7.21; 2 Sam. 11.2)
3. The miserable those who stand not in judgment. (Ps. 1.5)

B. In contrast, those who seek happiness go to where righteousness dwells. (Heb. 10.24,25; Matt. 18.20)

III. HE DOES NOT SIT IN THE SEAT OF THE SCORNFUL

A. PSALM 1:1: "...the seat of the scornful."

1. Those who sit in the seat no longer casually look on, but is not one of them. (John 8.23; cf. 17.16)
2. Showing contempt for God is the natural result of those who practice sin. (John 3.20; James 4.4; Isa. 37.28)
3. These will not sit in the assembly of the saints. (Ps. 1.5)

B. Without being named among the wicked, true happiness is more readily available. (Ps 119.115; 26.4,5; 2 Cor. 6.17,18)

CONCLUSION: There is no happiness in wickedness. (Isa. 57.20)

COMMITMENT

We hear a lot about the subject of DNA today. The letters DNA stand for "Deoxyribonucleic acid. DNA is a nucleic acid that contains the genetic instructions used in the development and functioning of all known living organisms". Every living creature has DNA. The DNA is unique to each creature. It is unique in another way. Each individual creature's DNA is different to all other like creatures.

Consequently, we see DNA evidence left at a crime scene identifies, beyond a reasonable doubt, a specific individual who was present at the scene. In addition, since the science of DNA investigation has come into being, many convicted of a crime have been released from incarceration because human DNA left at the crime scene was not that of the individual convicted.

In 1st Corinthians 12, the apostle Paul uses the analogy of the human body to describe the Body of Christ, the church Christ established - Matt 16:18. In 1 Cor 12, he says all the individual Christians are like body parts; each have different functions but all a part of the same body. The apostle Paul said in Eph 4 there is one body and in Eph 1:22,23, he identifies the one body as the church.

The Spiritual DNA of the Body of Christ (that which contains the instruction and development of the living Body of Christ) is the word of God, the Bible. This Spiritual DNA refutes the view of religious denominations. If a religious group says one is saved by faith only, another says one is saved by grace only, etc., it does not match what the Bible (spiritual DNA) says and, thus, they cannot be a part of the Body of Christ. If a religious group is organized, functions, and teaches that which is contrary to the Bible, it cannot be identified as a part of the body of Christ (the church) because the teaching does not match the spiritual DNA (the Bible). Not only does their teaching exclude them from the Body of Christ, it also excludes them from each other. That is why the religious world is divided today.

Each true individual member of the body of Christ, who conforms to Biblical teaching, will act and speak as another member of the true body of Christ and thus there is unity. Each member is a human being, not a religious group. Doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that out does it. [Dick Millwee]