

I WOULD RATHER BE RIGHT
ROMANS 7:15-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. To be accepted by God and have the hope of heaven, I must do what is right. (Acts 10.35; 1 John 2.29; Phil. 1.11; James 5.17)
2. Yet, doing the right thing is not always easy. (Rom. 7.15-17)

I. RELATIONSHIP

- A. Doing what is right is essential to maintain a relationship with God. (2 Cor. 6.17,18; 1 Cor. 5.9,10; 1 John 3.1)
- B. Joseph is an example of someone who allowed did what was right for God. (Gen. 39.4,9)

II. INFLUENCE

- A. Doing what is right has a positive influence on the way others view Christianity. (Rom. 14.7)
- B. Paul is an example of someone who influenced the lives of others. (1 Cor. 11.1; 4.15,16; 2 Tim. 3.10)

III. GOSPEL

- A. Doing what is right will help others see the gospel through your example. (Rom. 1.16; Col. 1.5,23; 1 Pet. 3.15)
- B. The Corinthians are a good example preaching the gospel by their lives. (2 Cor. 3.2)

IV. HARM

- A. Doing what is right is encouraged by always showing love toward others. (Rom. 13.10; 12.17)
- B. Paul is example of one who was motivated by love to always do what was right. (Acts 23.5; 2 Tim. 4.14)

III. TRUTH

- A. Doing what is right is guided by the word of God which is truth. (John 17.17; 2 Tim. 2.15; Heb. 5.14)
- B. Jesus is example of appealing to truth. (Matt. 19.4)

CONCLUSION: Are you living right?

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“...fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” -Ephesians 2:19

January 9th, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

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

PROGRESS BY GOING BACK

C. S. Lewis once wrote, “We all want progress, but if you’re on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road.” Although C. S. Lewis was not a New Testament Christian, he makes a valid point. If we want to go forward, sometimes we have to go back.

If we are not making progress we need to do as God commanded through Jeremiah: “*Ask for the old paths where the good way is, and walk in it*” (Jer. 6.16). Sometimes we ought to follow the example of Isaac who “*dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the day of Abraham his father*” (Gen. 26.18).

How do we move forward by moving backwards? Too often we get away from the power and wisdom of the word of God. We forget about its ability to guide us and lead us in the direction we ought to go. Therefore we need to go back to the Bible. And remember the words of the apostle Peter who said, “*if any man speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God*” (1 Pet. 4.11).

Furthermore, we move forward by remembering and going back to do the first works. When we find our enthusiasm waning and our love growing cold, we can progress out of that by remembering where we have fallen, “*repent, and do the first works*” (Rev. 2.5). Moving forward is only progress when we are moving in the right direction, walking in the light of the Lord (1 John 1.7). Are you moving forward?

REKINDLE YOUR PASSION FOR GOD

JEREMIAH 20:9

INTRODUCTION:

1. Because he was persecuted, Jeremiah decided not to speak about God anymore. But he could contain his passion. (Jer. 20.9)
2. We are to be passionate about God. (1 Pet. 2.2; Titus 2.14)
3. Are you passionate or are you lukewarm? How can you fan the flames of passion for God?

I. DRIFT AWAY

- A. **HEBREWS 2.1:** *“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.”*
1. “Drift away” carries the idea of a derelict ship without an anchor and being carried by the winds and waves.
 2. We drift away from God when we do not *“give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard.”* (Heb. 2.1)
- B. How can I rekindle my passion for God?
1. Give more attention to the Bible. (Heb. 2.1)
 2. Take the warnings of God seriously. (Heb. 2.2)
 3. Give more attention to my salvation. (Heb. 2.3)

II. DISOBEY

- A. **HEBREWS 3.15,16:** *“Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion...”*
1. In context, Israel had departed from God. (Heb. 3.7,12)
 2. Israel did not have an obedient faith, but acted in disobedience and sinned. (Heb. 3.16-19)
- B. How can I rekindle my passion for God?
1. Be impressed with God. (Heb. 3.12)
 2. Take sin seriously. (Heb. 3.13)

III. DULL

- A. **HEBREWS 5.11:** *“of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.”*
- B. How can I rekindle my passion for God?
1. Teach the gospel to others. (Heb. 5.12)
 2. Develop a deeper understanding of the Bible. (Heb. 5.13)
 3. Get serious about morality. (Heb. 5.14)

CONCLUSION: Though I did not drive the nails in His hands, I hurt Jesus when I am apathic. Things need to change!

HOW TO MAKE REAL CHANGE

How hard is it to change? Think about all the things that you want to stop doing: The unhealthy foods you want to stop eating. The time you waste binge watching Netflix. The grudge you have been holding that you want to let go. Think about all the things that you want to start doing: Daily Bible reading and prayer. Spending more time with your family. Getting up earlier to exercise. Now stop doing all the things you don't want to do, and start doing the things you want to do. If you find that to be difficult, then you understand how hard it is to change.

Change is necessary. Without change, I cannot go to heaven. I must repent (change) to become a Christian (Acts 2.38). When sin comes into my life, I must repent (change) to restore my broken relationship with God (Acts 8.22). I need to stop doing the things God tells me I am not to do and start doing the things God says I am to do. With all the life hacks and methods that are suggested that will help us to change, it all comes down to one thing. You must make a decision. I can delve into my psyche to understand why I behave the way I do. I can reflect on my past and understand why it is so hard to change. I can figure out what triggers me to fall back into old patterns of behavior. But change will never happen in my life unless I decide to change.

If I want to decide to change the way I live so that I am guiding my life by the teachings of scripture, I need to be moved by the goodness of God. Romans 2.4 tells me that *“the goodness of God leads you to repentance.”* The word “goodness” translates the Greek word “chrestotes” meaning, “kindness.” God is kind. He treats us with gentleness. Think about all the ways that God has been good to you. Consider the ways He has blessed your life. Let the kindness of God be what moves you to the decision to repent.

When I think about the bad choices I have made in light of all the good that God has done for me, that moves me feel godly sorrow. I hurt God, and I don't want to hurt Him anymore. It is with that thought in mind that we read in these words in 2 Corinthians 7.10: *“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation.”* Think about what God has done for you. And then think about what you have done? Does that move you to godly sorrow? Does that help you make the decision to change?

Change is not easy. But it helps to turn our attention away from ourselves and what we want and turn our attention to God. CLP