

Personal Evangelism

John 16:7-11

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

(12)
(Continuation from 06/27/12)

The Message: God's Plan of Salvation, John 16:7-11

Section III.

Chastening and Rewards

In Isaiah 30:1 God says those Christians who rebel against Him will have trouble... those who refuse the counsel of God in the Scriptures so that they can live their own lives of sin can expect trouble. **“Woe to the rebellious children,” declares the LORD, “Who execute a plan, but not Mine, And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin.”**

Satan will always give you the best excuses why you shouldn't obey God. But the decision as to what you will do with your life is completely up to you. As we have mentioned before, salvation is voluntary, and service is voluntary. If you do not serve the Lord, you will have no one to blame but yourself.

Perhaps you may feel you have no particular **“talent”** to give to the Lord. God says the greatest **ABILITY** in Christian work is **DEPENDability**. **“... It is required in stewards that a man be found FAITHFUL”** (1 Corinthians 4:2). It is not required that you are (1) popular, (2) wealthy, (3) successful, (4) educated, or (5) influential. God honors the believer who faithfully does his best for the Lord each day.

Notice in 1 Timothy 1:12 the reason that God put Paul into the ministry. It wasn't that God just **“chose”** him for some intangible, vague reason. Paul had proven to be a faithful servant already, and God put him into the ministry because he could be counted upon to continue being **FAITHFUL**.

An interesting insight God has given us into the real reasons why many people do wrong and think they can actually get away with it, even in the sight of God, is found in Ecclesiastes 8:11, **“Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.”** People forget that there is usually a **TIME LAPSE** between *planting* and *reaping*. The result of what we do is often not produced until later. (But then, when we realize the harm that has been done, it is too late to remedy the damage.)

Deuteronomy 32:35 says, **“Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, In DUE TIME their foot will slip; For the day of their calamity is near, And the impending things are hastening upon them.”**

What you plant in your life will always come up. If you sow to the flesh, you will have nothing but heartache.

Worldly pleasures are (1) trouble to get, (2) they don't satisfy when you do get them, and (3) there is great sorrow when they are lost. It has been said that the life of the world is the **"life of the constantly bursting bubble."**

A disciplined life for the Lord will cost you work, time, and effort. But an undisciplined life costs much more. Usually you will find it is not so much a question of **KNOWING** God's will for your life as being willing to **DO** it.

Determine that your life is going to amount to something for the Lord, and then discipline your life to that end. Every successful business has a time-table... a plan of progress... a projection for the future. There is no room in today's world for the mediocre person. **AIM FOR THE HIGHEST.** Don't settle for being an **"average or mediocre Christian."** After all, **"average"** is just as close to the bottom as it is to the top. Don't be ordinary. **STAND UP** for the Lord Jesus Christ, and serve Him with all that is within you.

Remember that happiness is not found in pleasure, money, laughter, fame, or getting what you think you want... but is a by-product of a Spirit-controlled, useful life for the Lord Jesus Christ. **Your future is being determined by what you do TODAY.** If you want to accomplish great things for the Lord in the *future*, you must accomplish something for the Lord *today*.

Even unsaved ministers, doctors, and psychiatrists know the best advice they could give a depressed and unhappy person is to help someone else—to go and be of service. This brings joy. The Lord, our Great Physician, knows that serving Him brings the highest joy possible. Instead of trying to **"buck"** God's plan, why not follow His advice and share in all the good things God wants to bring into your life?

God is looking all over this earth for those who are single-mindedly, sincerely wanting to serve Him, that He might exercise His mighty power in their lives. **"For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."** ([2 Chronicles 16:9](#)). God **WANTS** to do things for His children... but He cannot reward **EVIL**. When you serve Him, He will do all things for you.

Besides the contentment you will have now, as you live your life for the Lord, knowing you are truly experiencing the fullest life possible on this earth—that of being in the service of our King—our wonderful God also promises that the person who is a faithful servant here will be greatly rewarded in the kingdom of God.

While it would be wrong for the Christian to serve the Lord **ONLY** because he will be rewarded for it, there is nothing wrong with realizing that God has set such a **HIGH VALUE** upon serving Him that He does promise to reward His servants... and with living our lives in accordance with the standards of value that **He** has placed upon things.