



OUR ATTITUDE

From A Biblical
Perspective



BY JARROD M. JACOBS

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Author's note:

Attitude is defined as: “a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person's behavior” (Dictionary.com). This simply means that our attitude is a state of mind that is reflected in how we act. If I have a positive attitude toward something or someone, it will be seen in my words and actions. When I have a negative attitude toward something or someone, it will be seen in my words and actions. While we do not have the ability to read minds, we can comprehend peoples' attitudes when we hear their words and observe their actions.

Please use this book with Bible in hand. You will need it! In this book, we will study our attitude toward spiritual matters and challenge ourselves to have the attitude that will please God. Please be an active student by working diligently at this study and ready to answer the questions asked by the teacher.

May God bless you in your study of God's word!

- Jarrod Jacobs

Lesson I: Why Is My Attitude Important?

My good friend used to tell me that with most folks, it didn't matter what the facts were, but how they felt about them. I believe there is truth in that statement. With many people, their obedience to God and the truth does not depend so much on how well they know the truth, but whether or not they have the right attitude toward the truth! What is your attitude toward God? What is your attitude toward the Bible? What is your attitude toward the truth?

Please understand, I am not saying that one's attitude trumps the knowledge of the truth (See: Rom. 10:1-2). What I am saying is that once we are armed with the truth (Eph. 3:4, 5:17), our attitude needs to be right. If our attitude is not right, the truth will have little benefit to us on a personal basis!

What is attitude? Attitude is a term that is often used to refer to how aircraft and even spacecraft are oriented in reference to their direction. In other words, *attitude is where you are in relation to where you want to be*. The Oxford online dictionary says the word "attitude" means "a settled way of thinking or feeling about something" (<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/attitude>). This is why my friend has said that to some it doesn't matter what the facts are, but how they feel about the facts. It is because their attitude toward the facts was already settled in their minds.

The need for a good attitude toward the truth is not merely a 21st Century opinion. It is seen in the scriptures. On eight separate occasions, David sang that he was seeking God, obeying him, and praising God, with his *whole heart* (Ps. 9:1, 111:1, 119:10, 34, 58, 69, 145, 138:1). Referring to his "*whole heart*" speaks to David's attitude. Other Old Testament faith heroes humbly and gladly followed God and opposed men's opinions even when it meant death (Heb. 11:34-37)!

In the New Testament, we see this attitude of obeying God with one's whole heart is alive and well. Remember, only those who "gladly received" the gospel message were baptized and saved from sin (Acts 2:38, 41). (Think: What of those who didn't "gladly receive" the word? Are we to understand that they were baptized also? _____) Think about those in the Old and New Testaments who displayed humble attitudes and submitted to God's word and contrast them with the proud and haughty who also heard God's word. Study the chart below and note the differences between Moses and Pharaoh, Elijah and Ahab, Jeremiah and Jehoiakim, and Paul and Agrippa when it came to their response to God's truth! These men heard the same word from the same God, and yet they responded quite differently. Why did this happen? It was due to the attitude of the listeners. Yes, attitude matters!

Describe These Men's Attitude Toward God's Truth

<i>Exodus 5-12</i>	Moses	Pharaoh
<i>I Kings 18</i>	Elijah	Ahab
<i>Jeremiah 36</i>	Jeremiah	Jehoiakim
<i>Acts 26:26-29</i>	Paul	Agrippa

The question I must answer is: What is my attitude toward God's word? My knowledge of God's will is a necessary and wonderful thing. Yet, this knowledge becomes meaningless and impotent in my life when I have an attitude that reflects that I am haughty, careless, or apathetic toward the word of God! If I have "settled" in my mind that God's word is false and full of myths, then will I be someone ready to listen and obey what God has said? _____ At the same time, when I have "settled" that God's word is real and true and relevant to my life, will I have a greater tendency to listen and obey what God has said? _____

Again, remember that attitude *does not* determine whether or not something is true (Jn. 17:17). Attitude is subjective and personal in nature. Attitude, however, determines *how I will respond* to the truth that is presented to me! For this reason, my attitude can very well determine whether or not I go to Heaven!

With this in mind, let us ask a few questions....

- What would cause folks to endure trials, mockery, cruel treatment, sorrow, rejection, and wicked

treatment when it would have been so much easier for them to give up?

- What motivated martyrs like Stephen, James, Antipas, and others?

Was it not their attitude and dedication to God's will? In contrast to men like the apostle Paul, notice that Agrippa heard the same truth that Paul did (Acts 26:26). Yet, he rejected what Paul accepted (Acts 26:28). Was the difference not his attitude toward the truth he heard? Truly, our attitude motivates us to apply what we know and look to Christ who keeps us strong!

Attitude is an invaluable part of our lives in Christ. Remember that Christ said that those who worship God must worship Him "*in spirit and in truth*" (Jn. 4:24)! "In spirit" has to do with the right attitude. Thayer defines "spirit" in John 4:24 as "the rational spirit, the power by which the human being feels, thinks, decides ..." (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon). Therefore, true worship demands that we have the right attitude in connection with worshipping according to the true standard! Having one or the other is incomplete. We need "spirit" and "truth" if we are going to offer true, genuine worship to God! By the way, how is your attitude when it comes to worship? Are we like David who said, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord" (Ps. 122:1)? Or, are we like the Jews who complained about worship saying, "Behold, what a weariness is it!" (Mal. 1:13)? Are we like the Pharisees whom Christ said worshipped God in vain because their hearts were far from God (Matt. 15:8-9)? Or, are we the true worshippers God is seeking to worship Him (Jn. 4:23-24)?

Specifically, we need to show the proper attitude in our singing (Col. 3:16), our prayers (Lk. 18:1), our preaching (II Tim. 4:2; Eph. 4:15), in our giving (I Cor. 16:1-2; II Cor. 9:7), and as we partake of the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:27-28).

Truly, our attitude is of the utmost importance in our relationship with Christ!

Conclusion

The Bible teaches us that there is a need for self-examination (II Cor. 13:5). Why not start with checking our attitude? Upon learning the truth, what is our attitude toward it? Are we going to accept or reject it? Will we try to twist the truth to suit what we want? Let us take our attitudes seriously, not only for what it means to our relationship with God but also because our attitude affects our relationship with one another (Matt. 5:16)!

Questions

1. What is a good definition of attitude?
2. Why does our attitude affect how we receive God's truth?
3. Can we jeopardize our soul if our attitude toward God's truth is not right? Why or why not?
4. Name some people in the Bible who show us a right and proper attitude. What makes them stand out?

Lesson 2: Our Attitude Toward The Bible

Webster's dictionary defines attitude as: "manner, disposition, feeling, position, etc., with regard to a person or thing." I know there are many who possess a great attitude toward the Bible. I believe that those using this material have a good attitude toward the Bible. Yet, not all men do. Some are ignorant of God's word and assume that it contains little information that can help them today. Thus, they will not read God's word and will discourage others from doing so.

Some deny that the Bible contains truth (contr. Jn. 17:17). Others deny that the Bible is verbally inspired by God (contr. II Tim. 3:16-17). Sadly, these people's influence will keep themselves and others from knowing God's word and being saved (Rom. 1:16). What is your attitude toward the Bible? Are you interested in learning more about God's word? Are you striving to live it daily? These are questions we all must answer.

All of us ought to strive daily for a fuller comprehension of the word of God. If one asked you: "What must I do to be saved?" what would you tell them? (Provide Scripture)

If one wished to know about our origins upon this globe, or asked you what the purpose of life is, could you answer that question? What would your answer be? (Provide Scripture)

Some people don't know the apostles from the epistles! Some do not know whether or not Moses built the Ark, or whether or not the Egyptians escaped the slavery of the Israelites! What about you? All men have the responsibility to know and understand God's word (Eph. 3:4, 5:17; II Tim. 2:15). We cannot be satisfied that someone else in our family knows God's word. Each person needs to have this knowledge for himself! Let us examine ourselves (II Cor. 13:5). My attitude toward Bible reading and Bible study can often be seen in my knowledge of God's word (or lack thereof)!

Due to the poor attitude many have toward the Bible, we are living in a time of starvation in the U.S. No, this is not a shortage of food. Rather, we are starving spiritually! Our population is educated in nearly every matter except in matters that are most important! We have access to information at a rate unknown in centuries past. Yet, we continue to remain ignorant of God's soul-saving truth. Sadly, this is nothing new (Amos 8:11; I Sam. 3:1).

Though we are starving spiritually, in the U.S., we have Bibles aplenty, CD's, computer programs, websites, Bible apps, printed materials, etc., that are all filled with God's word. How could we be starving? It is not because we lack spiritual food, but because we refuse to "eat"! In physical terms, the person who refuses to eat will starve just as quickly as the one who lacks food to eat. In spiritual terms, there are untold millions who are emaciated, not because they lack the ability

to read and know God's word, but simply because because they refuse to partake of that spiritual food (milk/meat), of God's word (Heb. 5:12-14; I Pet. 2:2).

Remember, it is the soul which is eternal, not the body (II Cor. 4:16)! The soul needs nourishment, and the only true nourishment available is from the word of God! What is my attitude toward the word of God? _____ Am I spending time learning God's word, or am I starving from a spiritual perspective? _____

Friends, there is no shortcut to spiritual nourishment! David said, "*Thy _____ have I _____ in mine _____, that I might _____ against thee*" (Ps. 119:11). He said the "*blessed man*" is the one who meditates "*day and night*" in God's word (Ps. 1:1-2). Are we doing this? How can we expect to know the Bible if we don't spend time in it? _____

Let us resolve to remove the distractions in our lives, correct our poor attitudes, and spend time in God's book daily (Acts 17:11)! We will be amazed at the good that will come from it! Let us stop making excuses and make time for God's word! Let us fix our attitude and allow God's word to take first place in our lives!

Questions

1. There are many people starving spiritually today. What is the reason for this? How can this be rectified?

2. To what is the Bible compared to Hebrews 5:12-14? Why would such a description be appropriate?

3. What is the “blessed man’s” attitude toward God’s word?

4. In our country, we have access to Bibles and Bible material. Why do you think there is such a great degree of Bible ignorance in our nation?

Lesson 3:

Our Attitude Toward Sin

What is your attitude toward sin? Do you consider it funny? I hope not. The Bible says, “Fools mock at sin” (Prov. 14:9). Is sin something that you consider “no big deal”? Perhaps you think sin is serious, but not serious enough to motivate you to change your life? When we read the Bible, we are warned about sin, and within the Bible, folks are impressed with the need to change their lives immediately! (Acts 22:16; II Cor. 6:2; etc.) The reason we need to make an immediate change is that tomorrow may be too late (Prov. 27:1; Jas 4:14-15).

Perhaps our attitude toward sin is not what it ought to be because we do not appreciate how terrible it is. Let us consider God’s definition of sin and His attitude toward sin and contrast this to our attitude toward sin.

The Bible compares sin to a _____ (Isa. 1:6). God looked upon national Israel and said, “From the sole of the foot even to the head there is no soundness in it; but bruises and sores and raw *wounds*; they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil.” David described sin in a similar way in Psalm 38:5. He described their putrid nature by saying, “*My wounds* _____ *and* _____ *because of my* _____” (Ps. 38:5). Psalm 38:7-8 expands on this description as well. Does God’s description of sin make it seem like “harmless fun”? _____

Two other descriptions of sin are found in Psalm 38:4. David said, "For my iniquities have _____; like a _____, they are too heavy for me." In the first part of the verse, it sounds as if he is drowning, and the last speaks of his sin as a _____. Truly, this is the accurate picture of sin in the lives of men, then and now! Men overwhelmed in sin can feel like they are drowning in their iniquities and wrongs. If we think of someone swimming, how far might he get if he is carrying something heavy as he tries to swim to shore?

Our Lord describes sin as a _____ (Matt. 6:12). He instructed His disciples to pray: "And forgive us our *debts*, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Do we recognize that sin is a debt we have? Are we forgiving toward others, or do we refuse to forgive them? Do we hold grudges against others? If we do not forgive people, how can we expect God to forgive us of our debts (sins) against Him (Matt. 6:14-15, 18:21-22, 35)?

The Bible also describes sin as a _____ (Isa. 1:18-20; Jas. 1:27). The "*stain*" of which Isaiah speaks is compared to a garment which has been double-dipped in dye so that the fabric is vibrant with color. James reminds Christians to make sure and not be "*spotted*" with the corruption found in this world! The way we can keep from such is described for us in James 1:25-27. What are the instructions in this passage? _____

The New Testament reveals that sin _____ us (Jn. 8:34; Rom. 6:16; II Pet. 2:19). One who is in sin is in slavery and a citizen in the kingdom of darkness (Col. 1:13; I Pet. 2:9). Hence, the need for redemption! What does the word "redemption" mean? _____

How terrible it is when we see folks who are slaves to sin and we don't seem to care! They do not seem interested in redemption at all, but wish to live and die in spiritual slavery! May we avoid such attitudes!

Sin results in _____ (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 21:8)! No one who dies in sin will see God. Let us heed the warning!

God lists various sins that jeopardize our souls in passages like Galatians 5:19-21; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Revelation 21:8; and other places. Sins listed in these passages are not "minor" things. Your soul is in jeopardy of being lost in Hell so long as you continue to live in such sins! "Fools" may "mock at sin," but sin is not a joke (Prov. 14:9).

Seeing that the above is true, if we could go to someone who can **heal** the wound, **lift** the burden, **forgive** the debt, **cleanse** the stain, give us **freedom**, and bring spiritual **life**, would we not do it? Of course, we would! Then why the delay? Repent and be baptized today if you are not a Christian (Acts 2:38). If you are a Christian, then realize the seriousness of sin and do all you can to avoid it! Friend, what is your attitude toward sin? Your attitude is reflected in what you do about it! Let us examine ourselves and repent of all of our sins and turn to the Lord!

Questions

1. What is the attitude of the foolish person toward sin? What does “mock” mean?
2. God describes sin as a wound, burden, debt, stain, enslaving, and something that produces spiritual death. Why do you think such numerous descriptions are necessary?
3. What do you think would be helpful in encouraging people to have the right attitude toward sin?
4. Where can we turn to find freedom from sin? What can we do to encourage others to accept God’s plan?

Lesson 4: Wrong Attitudes

Wrong attitudes plague us in this world. They are a problem because wrong attitudes result in wrong actions. When we read the Scriptures, we see that God's people from the beginning have had to contend with wrong attitudes and wrong actions from others. Not only is this the case, but God's people have had to contend with the temptation to develop these wrong attitudes in the first place. The Bible tells us of some who had wrong attitudes, and as a result, sinned. Let us study some wrong attitudes and learn what God expects of us.

Pride

Today, people sometimes use the word "pride" to mean they feel a sense of accomplishment, appreciation, or gratitude for someone or something. There is another side of pride, however, that is condemned by God. Originally, there was nothing good associated with the attitude of pride. Pride has raised its ugly head on many occasions, starting very early in the history of man. When we read the Scriptures, God warns us often about the dangerous attitude of pride.

For example, the Holy Spirit, through Solomon, warned of pride in the book of Proverbs. Here, we read ...

- "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: _____, and _____, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I _____" (8:13).
- "When _____ cometh, then cometh _____"

but with the lowly is _____” (11:2).

- “In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of _____: but the lips of the _____ shall preserve them” (14:3).
- “_____ goeth before destruction, and an _____ spirit before a fall” (16:18).
- “A man’s _____ shall bring him _____: but honour shall uphold the _____ in spirit” (29:23).

Is there any question about what God thinks of the prideful, arrogant attitude that many possess?

Not only do we read of warnings about pride in the Bible, but we also see several people in the Bible who displayed pride. Consider Diotrefes who loved _____ (III Jn. 9). Due to his pride, he not only used malicious words against John and other apostles, but did not receive some brethren, and put “them out of the church.” This man was so lifted up with pride, that he was literally out of control. He would allow no one to question the preeminence he demanded in that church.

Other examples of pride include King Nebuchadnezzar, who lost his kingdom for a time because he thought he was a “self-made man.” This was wrong. (Dan. 4:30-37, 5:20). Ultimately, his grandson Belshazzar lost the kingdom forever because of his pride (Dan. 5:22-31). Unfortunately, Belshazzar did not learn from the mistakes of his grandfather (Dan. 5:22-23). In addition to these men, we read in Hosea 5:5-7 where even God’s people, Israel, were guilty of pride. As a result, God withdrew Himself from them.

God has no part with a proud man. One with pride cannot be His child. The “proud” person thinks only of himself and is not humble. The Bible declares that God “resists the _____, but _____”

to the _____” (I Pet. 5:5-6). Friend, do you have a proud attitude? If you do, you need to repent. God hates that attitude (Prov. 6:16-17).

Covetousness

Another wrong attitude that plagues men is covetousness. What is covetousness? Mr. Thayer describes covetousness as, the “greedy desire to have more.” Put simply, when one places a person or thing before God in terms of importance, then this person is covetous. When someone “stops at nothing” to obtain this item, even committing sin to accomplish his goals, then this person is covetous. At its very core, covetousness is selfishness. We want more, thinking this will please ourselves. In Colossians 3:5, we see that God equates covetousness with idolatry. This is how serious a sin that covetousness is.

Covetousness is a deep-seated sin and can take many forms. For example, in the Old Testament, God was specific in telling His people not to covet _____

(Ex. 20:17). Why do you think God had to be so specific? _____

In the New Testament, Colossians 3:5 is one verse that shows us that covetousness is “alive and well” among men today. We do not have to literally bow down to something in order to have an idol. Anything we place before God becomes our idol! Some may be covetous toward money (I Tim. 6:10), toward a person (Ex. 20:17), toward their own interests (Eph. 4:19-20), toward recreation (I Tim. 4:8), etc. Anything that you allow to come between you and God becomes your idol. It is that for which you covet and devote yourself. Friends, we must not be covetous. In fact, Christ tells us to “*beware of covetousness*” (Lk. 12:15)! Are we heeding the warning?

Some examples of folks who were caught up in covetousness in the Bible include Achan, who coveted after “_____ from Shinar, and 200 shekels of _____, and a bar _____ weighing 50 shekels” and caused the Israelites to lose the battle against the people of Ai (Josh. 7:5, 18-21). The remedy was that he and his family died so that the Israelites could be in good standing with God (Josh. 7:23-26). We might also consider the covetousness mentioned in I Timothy 6:10. It is a dangerous matter indeed when we are covetous. When people have covetousness in their lives, they will turn away from God and from His soul-saving word!

Self-Sufficiency

Some, especially in this country, have the attitude that they can do it all by themselves. This may be a good attitude to have in the USA, but it is not a good attitude in the spiritual kingdom of God! Self-sufficiency is defined as “having undue confidence; smug.” When a person justifies himself spiritually by saying he “does more good things than bad”, this person is trying to say he is able to save himself. Some never admit their need for God. Instead, they think that all things depend upon them and their efforts. We need to realize that we are not self-sufficient, but are helpless. We could do nothing if it were not for God (Jn. 15:5). We would not be here if it were not for God. Colossians 1:17 teaches that if it not for our Lord, nothing would even exist! The gravity on this earth and the very air we breathe are gifts from God and nothing we have “earned” or “deserved” (Matt. 5:45). How dare we think we are self-sufficient in any way? How many times have we sung the song, “I Need Thee Every Hour”? Do we really mean that? Or, is our attitude toward Christ one of “don’t call me, I’ll call you”?

One who had a self-sufficient attitude was the rich fool of Luke 12. Jesus showed that this man thought he had provided everything for himself. Yet, after making plans that didn’t

include God, what did God say to him (Lk. 12:20)?

Notice in Luke 12:16-21 that the personal pronoun “I” is used by him no less than six times! He never thought about God, nor thanked Him for the bounty. He was only concerned about himself and he lost it all in a night! Let us examine ourselves and ask how grateful we are to God for what He has given us.

The Christians to whom James wrote thought they were self-sufficient (Jas. 4:13-16). Their proud, arrogant boasting was evil in God’s sight. They thought they were self-sufficient, could provide for their own, and did not need to include God at any point in their lives. They were wrong, and we are wrong if we think we do not need God. We do not know what may come tomorrow (Prov. 27:1). Therefore, we need to remember who holds tomorrow, and live for Him!

Apathy

The apathetic attitude may be the most dangerous of all. To show apathy is to show little or no interest or concern for a person or thing. The American Heritage Dictionary says apathy means, “lack of interest, or concern ... lack of emotion or feeling.” It does not necessarily mean a person has no interests at all. Rather, when a person shows little or no interest in a certain area of life, he is apathetic in that area. For example, one may be very interested in his family, but may not care at all about sports or politics. This person is apathetic in that area of life. Another person may be very interested in sports, or in old cars, but shows little or no interest toward his neighbors. This person is apathetic in that area of life.

In like manner, there are those who have numerous interests in various worldly pursuits, and yet show apathy toward the Lord and His church. They are so caught up in worldly things, that they have no interest, or concern for the things that are

most important – spiritual matters! This is not healthy. Jesus asked, “For what is a man _____, if he shall gain the _____, and lose his _____? or what shall a man give in _____?” (Matt. 16:26). What is *your* answer to Christ’s question?

There are many apathetic people mentioned in the Bible. Consider the fact that Paul had to remind those “rich in this world” that they had a responsibility to the Lord and His cause (I Tim. 6:17-19). If they were not careful, they would only show their interest in material pursuits, and be apathetic toward the Lord.

One who was apathetic was Agrippa. When faced with the greatest decision one can make in this life, he refused, telling Paul, “_____ thou persuadest me to be a _____” (Acts 26:28). Agrippa was very aware of the doctrine of Christ (v. 26) but had no interest or concern for it, nor for his soul. Another man who had an apathetic attitude was _____ (Acts 24:25). What did he do when presented with the gospel and an opportunity to be saved?

In fact, there are many today (including some Christians) who show that their interests lie in other things besides the gospel. When people around us show apathy toward the Lord and His church, let us not follow their example, but remember that we need to examine ourselves lest we also become apathetic (I Cor. 10:12, 15:33).

As always, we need to examine ourselves as we study this, and any other Bible subject (II Cor. 13:5). Let us make sure we are not guilty of these wrong attitudes, for they will develop into wrong actions! In some, it is already apparent what attitude they have. Let us do our best to live by the Bible,

to follow its precepts, and love the Author. If we are guilty of harboring any of the attitudes we have studied, then let us repent and turn from those things while we have the time to do so (Heb. 3:7-8). May God help us all to have the right attitude, to live for Him, and look forward to Heaven when this life is over.

Questions

1. What is a good definition of attitude?
2. Why are wrong attitudes so dangerous?
3. Which attitude do you find especially hard to conquer?
4. What makes apathy so dangerous?

Lesson 5: David's Attitude Toward Life

David, the “sweet psalmist of Israel” (II Sam. 23:1) taught us something about having the right attitude. In Psalm 27, we read a psalm that teaches us about having the right attitude toward God, obedience, and righteous while living on this earth. Let us study Psalm 27 in detail and see what lessons we can apply for living in this world and for preparing for the life to come (Rom. 15:4; I Cor. 10:6, 11).

Be Brave!

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident” (Ps. 27:1-3).

It is interesting to note that David begins this psalm by saying God is “my light”. Darkness often scares folks; not merely because it is dark, but because they are afraid of the unknown. In contrast, David declares that God is his “light”! Not only is this fact declared here, but when we read the New Testament, we see the connection between God, Christ, and the light.

- John 1:4 – “In him was _____; and the life was the _____ of men.”
- John 8:12 – “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the _____ of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in _____, but shall have the _____ of _____.”
- James 1:17 – “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the _____, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

In addition to “light”, David also says God is strength and asks of whom would he be afraid? He then gives God the glory for defeating his enemies. Please read Psalm 23:4. What was the thing that encouraged David’s bravery in that psalm?

In like manner, when we read the New Testament, what do we learn about bravery and how it connects with man’s relationship with God (See: Phil. 4:13; Eph. 6:10; II Tim. 2:1)?

When we are on God’s side, we have no need to fear (Ps. 56:4, 118:6; Heb. 13:5-6). I am impressed with what is written in Proverbs 28:1. What contrasts do we see between the brave and the cowardly? _____

Read Revelation 21:8. Who are the first ones mentioned as belonging in Hell? _____

Let us be brave (I Cor. 16:13-14)! When Satan looks at us and hates us because we are doing the Lord’s will, then we are doing it right! When he strikes against us (as a lion, I Pet. 5:8), and tries to get us to fear him and leave the Lord, let us trust in

the Lord, and know He will deliver us. Remember the words of Psalm 23:4-5 and be brave!

Have A Single Purpose!

“One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD” (Ps. 27:4-6).

We see how David had a single purpose in verse four. Notice he spoke about “one thing” that he desired! He was not talking about one of a dozen things! Or, talking about one of the many things he wanted in life, etc. The “one thing” he wanted was to dwell in God’s house all of his days. This is something he talked about in Psalm 23:6 as well.

Unfortunately, our society is not geared this way. Thus, those who are Christians, and those who are not, are stretched in many different directions today. We ought not to be like this in our spiritual lives! Yet, this is why the Bible speaks about the struggle between flesh and spirit that goes on in each of us (Rom. 7:15-20, 8:5-9; I Pet. 2:11; Matt. 6:24). Only one (flesh or spirit) can rule, so who will it be? This answer is important because my answer to this question will determine the course of my life! What is it that controls you? Who is it that controls you? Read Colossians 3:1-4 and take note of where Paul says our “*affection*” or mindset ought to be focused.

Why ought our minds be focused on things above?

Let us look at David again. King David had his mind fixed on “one thing”! What was that one thing?

I find it interesting that this “one thing” is discussed not only here, but in Psalms 15 and 23:6. When we study the New Testament, we see that Paul also talked about the “one thing” that motivated him (Phil. 3:13-14). What was it that motivated the apostle Paul? _____

In like manner, Mary chose the “good part” that would not be taken away (Lk. 10:41-42). Have we made that decision yet? Are we choosing the “good part”? Are we focusing on the “one thing”? If not, why not?

Obedience To God Is A Must!

“When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek” (Ps. 27:8).

Of course, this verse has a larger context in which we see the praising of God for His mercy when men fail (v. 7-12). He then talks about times when even our parents fail! David declares that when we face our enemies, we still have a God who loves and can be trusted by His children. In this lesson, though, let us focus on verse eight specifically.

Notice what David said. **“When God said seek my face; my heart said... thy face ... will I seek”** When God spoke, David responded to the Lord’s will by being obedient! We read of no arguments, no substitutions, no “what if’s,” etc.! David understood what it means to obey and he was ready to obey the Lord whenever He spoke!

In this sense, David is comparable to all the great faith heroes, including men like:

- Noah and Moses. What does the Bible say their decision was when deciding whether or not they would obey

God? _____

(Gen. 6:22; Ex. 40:16)

- The Apostles – they were obedient to the very taking of their lives!

Why would David, or anyone else, respond to God like this? Why such an absolute statement like “*When God said ... my heart said*”? _____

There is a similar sentiment shown by David in Psalm 27:11 when he asks God to “*Teach me thy way ...*”. Why would David want to be taught God’s way? _____

In like manner, we ought to ask God to “*Teach my thy way*”! Why do we need to know God’s “way” today?

Conclusion

“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD” (Ps. 27:13-14).

These are words of encouragement and comfort to the child of God. David’s attitude in life was one of complete trust in the Lord. His trust was so great that the thought of being without God caused him to “faint” or lose heart.

We as well need to bolster this kind of attitude of trust in God. Let us learn the lesson of Psalm 27:14. There we learn to

“Wait on the Lord, and be of good courage”! Though the enemies surround us, we need to trust in God.

Though we sin and do wrong things (as David) and have to beg God to forgive, He still loves us and is ready to forgive (II Pet. 3:9)! Let us spend our lives in faithful service to God, for He loves us (Ecc. 12:13)!

Questions

1. What connections do we see between God and light? What connections do we see between Satan and darkness?

2. Why does my relationship with God produce bravery? Who else was brave because of his/her relationship with God?

3. What is man's purpose in life? Why would David, Paul, and others express the importance of having one supreme goal/purpose?

4. How can men "*wait on the Lord*"? Is there any good that comes through patience?