Consistent Christianity
The Enemies of Consistency

• Inconsistency
  – “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” – Lk. 12:15
  – For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. – I Corinthians 4:20
The Enemies of Consistency

• Inconsistency in Godliness
  – It is ignoring or abandoning godly principles
  – It is haphazard application of principles
The Enemies of Consistency

• Rote
  – Basic gathering/memorizing facts
  – “Mechanical, unthinking routine or repetition; a joyless sense of order”
And the Lord said: “Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men – Isaiah 29:13/Matthew 15:8-9

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’ By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the LORD's table may be despised. When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. – Malachi 1:6-8
The Enemies of Consistency

• Rote “Godliness”
  – Knowing the Bible for knowledge sake
  – Knowing the what, but not the why
  – Prideful attitude toward Christian life
Practical Suggestions for Consistent Christianity

• Make sure you are a Christian!
  – “ian”: “Belonging to, relating to, like”
  – A Christian is one who abides in Christ
  – A Christian stays with Jesus no matter what!

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. – John 15:4
Practical Suggestions for Consistent Christianity

• Establish mindful habits of endurance
  – Bible Reading:
    • Inconsistent: Rarely read; read to win an argument
    • Rote: “I must read my Bible once a year”
    • Mindful Consistency: Read to draw closer to God

All Scripture is breathed out by God and **profitable** for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, and for **training** in righteousness, that the man of God may be **complete**, equipped for every **good work**. – II Timothy 3:15-16
Practical Suggestions for Consistent Christianity

• Establish mindful habits of endurance
  – Bible Class Attendance
    • Inconsistent: See little to no value in collective study
    • Rote: “I am required to attend class;” learn facts
    • Mindful Consistency: Time to learn/edify/admonish

I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. – Romans 15:14
Practical Suggestions for Consistent Christianity

• Establish mindful habits of endurance
  – Worship Assembly Attendance
    • Inconsistent: God is not very important; neither is worship
    • Rote: “Bench warmer;” motion without godly motivation
    • Mindful Consistency: Time to praise God; encourage others

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. – Heb. 12:28-29
Practical Suggestions for Consistent Christianity

• Pray without Ceasing
  – Trust God hears praise, thanksgiving, and petitions

• Never Underestimate Your Example
  – In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. – Matt. 5:16
With God Forever