

What Goes Around Comes Around

Text:

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”*

Introduction:

A. Today’s society tends to label most things as gray rather than black or white. The distinctions between right and wrong have become confused by the emphasis upon the right of every man /woman to do whatever they feel like they want to do. However, the Bible is very clear and, as Christians, we must accept it as our rule of life. We truly cannot depend upon our own intellect or desires to be the determining factor in regard to right or wrong, life or death, blessing or cursing.

Proverbs 14:12 *“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”*

B. We have got to understand that the choices we make today will determine the blessing or cursing that we will walk in tomorrow.

Romans 2:5-10 *“But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: ⁷eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; ⁸but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, ⁹tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; ¹⁰but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”*

Romans 6:16 *“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”*

C. In other words, what we sow is what we will reap, or put another way, what goes around comes around.

I. We try to put all the responsibility upon God, but we make choices that determine our future.

A. God gives us a free will and sometimes that freedom of will brings results that we are not happy about. Then we are tempted to blame our circumstances, education, social background or some other outside influence.

B. Every decision has its own set of consequences that we will be forced to embrace.

C. The choices we make in those circumstances and situations will determine the kind of people we will become.

D. Our character is developed through those circumstances. The way we respond in those challenges of life is the way we will begin to approach all of life.

E. Notice the difference between Saul with David.

1 Samuel 13:14 *“But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”*

1 Samuel 15:28 *“So Samuel said to him, ‘The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you!’”*

1. What made David a better man than Saul? He had made better choices, even though his circumstances were a whole lot worse than Saul’s.

2. David had to run for his life, hide out as a fugitive, live in a cave, even pretend to be crazy at one time, but his choices were the choices that God was pleased with.

F. We are self-made persons. (Unfortunately, the self-made person, as someone has said, is often the product of unskilled labor!?!)

G. We reap what we sow.

Galatians 6:7-9 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. ⁹And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

- G. The opportunities of future choice will be determined by the choices we make today.
Daniel 6:10 "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days."
1. Every time we make a choice, it becomes a little easier to make similar choices in the future.
2. If we choose to do right or react in a positive fashion, it becomes easier to live that way in the future.
3. On the other hand, if we choose to do wrong or react in a negative fashion, it will become easier to respond that way in the future.

II. What we sow will come to harvest time, be it good or bad.

- A. God will take every act into account in His judging of our lives.
Matthew 12:34b-37 "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. ³⁶But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
- B. Robert Louis Stevenson said, "Sooner or later, we must all sit down to a banquet of consequences".
- C. We can never truly say that our lives are helpless and hopeless -- we can do something that will alter our situation for the better.
- D. We need the kind of confidence that David had when faced with the Goliath circumstance. By making the right choice then, his entire future was affected.
1 Samuel 17:26 "Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
1. Not only was David's future altered by this choice but the present condition of Israel was affected.
2. Every act or choice we make, no matter how insignificant it may seem, gains God's attention.
Mk. 12:41-44 "Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. ⁴²Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. ⁴³So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; ⁴⁴for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."
- E. This is a new day, with all its opportunities and challenges ready to be experienced. Let's make choices that bring life and blessing instead of choices that bring death and curses.
Deuteronomy 11:22-28 "²²"For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—²³then the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves. ²⁴Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the [□]Western Sea, shall be your territory. ²⁵No man shall be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you. ²⁶"Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: ²⁷the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; ²⁸and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God,"