

Being Responsible

“The person who sins will die. A son will not suffer the punishment for the father’s guilt, nor will a father suffer the punishment for the son’s guilt; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.” Ezekiel 18:20

“The one who is faithful in a very little thing is also faithful in much; and the one who is unrighteous in a very little thing is also unrighteous in much.” Luke 16:10

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people.” Colossians 3:23

“So for one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, for him it is sin.” James 4:17

November Birthdays

10 Daniel Brown

November Anniversaries

2 Shannon & Susan Hudson

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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A Soldier in Active Service

By Bruce Evans

“Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 2:3) Unless one has served in the military, it is difficult to grasp fully the applied dedication involved. Noted British author, C.S. Lewis, who served during World War I, when asked to make a public address dealing with the rigors of servitude spoke openly about the hardships a soldier must face. His words were presented during the Second World War as England was reeling from the opening salvos of Germany. “All that we fear from all kinds of adversity, is collected together in the life of the soldier in active service. Like sickness, it threatens pain and death. Like poverty, it threatens ill lodging, cold, heat, thirst, and hunger. Like slavery, it threatens toil and humiliation, injustice, and arbitrary rule. Like exile, it separates you from all you love.” What a graphic depiction to say the least. Those who serve should first consider the cost.

Paul in his second letter to Timothy, in the second chapter lays out that the child of God is like unto, “a son”, “soldier”, “athlete”, “farmer” then a “*workman who does not need to be ashamed*”. Each one of these vocations has its challenges and rewards. By the same token each one has a discipline enjoined to it. However, the one that seems to resonate, is that of a soldier. By the time this letter is written, Paul is aged; he bears the scars of a life spent in service to Christ. Now he presents to the young man, whom he views as his son, in a spiritual sense (see verse one), “must endure hardship.”

Our service to the “*King of kings and Lord of lords*” (1 Timothy 6:15) is one that is voluntary. Yet, it should not be enjoined thinking that there is not a cost to be paid. In Luke the fourteenth

chapter, Jesus discusses the need to stand back and determine if the individual is freely willing to pay the cost of discipleship (see verses twenty-five through thirty-three). To in essence “*suffer hardship...as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.*”

In the book of Isaiah, chapter six and verse eight the following can be seen. “*Also, I heard the voice of the Lord saying: ‘Whom shall I send. And who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send Me.’*” That is the attitude one must embrace as a disciple of Christ. A true soldier steps forward, willingly accepting the responsibility, ready to face whatever challenges may be faced.

Service to Christ includes that one has a tenacious mind set. Undeterred, no matter if beset by obstacles like poor health, difficult life situations or challenging circumstances of any nature, one presses ever forward for the cause of Christ. “*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, not any other created things, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” (Romans 8:38-39). Earlier in the same chapter, Paul wrote, “*But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*” (v. 37) The ultimate victory is ours, if only...

Accepting Responsibility

Excerpts from article by Garreth L. Clair

The Bible tells us that our eternal destiny depends upon our acceptance of personal responsibility for the things we do and for the way we live. Please observe the following Scriptural references that show personal responsibility is to be accepted if we are pleasing to God:

Matthew 25:15-28 – “*To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. The one who had received the five talents immediately went and did business with them and earned five more talents. In the same way the one who had received the two talents earned two more. But he who received the*

one talent went away and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

“Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have earned five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master.’

“Also, the one who had received the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have earned two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master.’

“Now the one who had received the one talent also came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed. And I was afraid, so I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you still have what is yours.’

“But his master answered and said to him, ‘You worthless, lazy slave! Did you know that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter seed? Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival, I would have received my money back with interest. Therefore: take the talent away from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’” (NASB)

CONCLUSION:

Everyone is responsible for the choices that they make in every arena of life. For every choice there are consequences, therefore when we accept responsibility for the decisions we make we will weigh the consequences before we make the choice. To consider well our choices and the possible consequence is a Biblical principle that everyone should incorporate within their actions toward choices in life (i.e., count the cost or consider the consequence well before committing to a position), that is an exercise in personal responsibility.