

(4) “ENJOYING GOD IN YOUTH and HELPING YOUTH ENJOY GOD”**ADAPTING TO GOD’S GUIDANCE**Acts 17:30-31; 3:19; Gal.3:1-3 Col.1:21-23**INTRODUCTION:**

**Adapt:** **a-dapt-ed, a-dapt-ing, a-dapts** verb, transitive -- To make suitable to or fit for a specific use or situation. verb, intransitive -- To become useable! **Guidance:** 1. The act or process of guiding. 2.

Counseling, such as that provided for students seeking advice about vocational and educational matters. 3. Any of various processes for guiding the path of a vehicle, especially by means of built-in equipment.

**READ TEXTS:** Acts 17:30-31; 3:19; Gal.3:1-3- “O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? 2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”

Col.1:21-23- “And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach-- 23 IF INDEED YOU CONTINUE IN THE FAITH firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.”

It is one of life’s SADDEST TRAGEDIES to go back to a former congregation to learn that some brother or sister has quit serving the Lord since you were last there! **ONCE, THEY HAD TURNED AWAY FROM A SINFUL LIFE THROUGH FAITH/ REPENTANCE/ and BAPTISM, AND THEY RAN WELL, BUT NOT NOW -- NOW, THEY’VE STOPPED THEIR WALK WITH GOD!**

The two primary things we want to address in this lesson about “**Adapting to God’s Guidance**” is about the CHANGE OF LIFE that takes place in REPENTANCE and **THEN**, how WE’RE TO MAINTAIN A CONTINUING STANDARD OF FAITHFULNESS TO GOD for the rest of our lives. SO, IN FACT, we must **ADAPT OUR LIVES TO THE GUIDANCE OF GOD!**

## **I. REPENTANCE IS A GODLY TRANSFORMATION IN THE RENEWING OF OUR MINDS - Rom.12:1-2. REPENTANCE:** [metanoeo-”to change one’s mind or purpose”.]

1. To feel remorse, contrition, or self-reproach for what one has done or failed to do; be contrite.
  2. To feel such regret for past conduct as to change one's mind regarding it: *repented of intemperate behavior.*
  3. To change for the better in one’s **ACTIONS** as a result of remorse or contrition OF HEART for one's sins
- A. When, by the preaching of the gospel, we come to realize that a change needs to be made in our lives, we are face-to-face with what the Lord demands of us in REPENTANCE: **Acts 2:38.**
1. It is the **LOVE of Christ and the blood He shed on the cross** that leads the heart through repentance and back into fellowship with God - **I John 1:6-7**- “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
  2. Those who have **NOT CHANGED THEIR MINDS** by the *evidence of the gospel* and **through which** we’re led to **CHANGE OUR LIVES** by walking in keeping *WITH that gospel* will **NOT BE ABLE** to **COMPREHEND THE POWER** which is available to transform them into a new relationship with God through Christ. Do you want to know who has this power? The Bible tells us the exact number! **John 1:12**- “But **as many as received Him**, to them gave He **POWER (THE RIGHT THROUGH THE GOSPEL)** to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name!”

3. Even though we are created in the likeness of God's image, our **ATTITUDE**, our disposition of heart, needs to be renewed for us to become acceptable to our Creator. We need to be more like God in character!
  4. The Power of the regeneration process in changing a sinner into a Christian is illustrated metamorphically in the physical world!
    - a) Transformation of a caterpillar into a Monarch Butterfly brings into existence that which isn't like the larva or pupa at all!
    - b) The tanning process affects the skin of an animal as it is transformed into leather so that it doesn't even seem to be the same piece of hide.
  5. Conversion to the **NEW SPIRITUAL** man doesn't bear a resemblance to the **OLD SPIRITUAL** man.
- B. **A genuine change** is seen as that renewed mind brings about a godly transformation in our lives, viz., **REPENTENCE!**
1. The mind must be transformed FROM an attitude of serving SIN, SATAN or SELF, into a disposition of PLEASING THE LORD! **Heb.11:6.**
    - a) Cannot **MAKE OVER** the old person, but must die to sin, and be raised as a completely new person in Christ. This all **STARTS IN THE MIND (heart) OF MAN!**
    - b) To understand the **power of conversion**, let us recall how the inspired N.T. writers said the transformation would come about.
      - 1) **Rev.20:4-6.** "*Blessed and holy is he who has part in the **FIRST RESURRECTION.***"  
Everyone of us must experience this in life in order for us to have a hope of eternal life.
      - 2) This is a spiritual resurrection from a spiritually **dead-life** to a resurrected **new-life-style** as a learner of Christ. **Rom.6:3-4, 11, 7:4, 8:9-14; Eph. 2:1-5**
    - c) We become **dead to sin**, and are **born again by the spirit and water** in order to enter the kingdom of God. **John 3:5**
    - d) We die to our old sinful life and start a new life as a babe in Christ when we're buried in the watery-grave of baptism for remission of every past sin, and then raised to walk in a new kind of life!
- C. What is it that's transformed? **(text) Titus 3:5-** "*...He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing the Holy Spirit.*"
1. The **intellect is changed by testimony**. A lawyer attempts to change the jury's mind to think, reason, and be persuaded that his client is innocent, as he endeavors to produce the testimony that will have such an affect upon them.
    - a) The **facts of the gospel** will change the sinner's intellect. **Jno.20:30-31.**
    - b) But these facts must be **revealed, received, and respected** in order to benefit us with the salvation of the Lord. **cf. 1 Cor.15:1-3.**
  2. The **emotions are changed by appeals and demonstrations**. A young man wins the affections of a young lady by being on his best behavior and goodness. Divine love, when properly considered, will change the sinner's feelings toward God. **John 3:16.**
  3. The **will is changed by motivational incentives** (influences that prompt us into action). A parent changes the will of a disobedient child by instruction, correction, and patience love which will demonstrate the parent's intentions.
    - a) The powerful influence of the gospel overturns the sinner's will. **Acts 17:24-31.**
    - b) It's power comes not in an "**irresistable force**" but as a **persuasive influence for righteousness** in that story of God's LOVE!
  4. The **conscience is changed by conviction**. When a man is troubled because he has stolen money, he may have his conscience cleared by making restitution.
    - a) Everyone has sinned against God, and obedience to the gospel is the only thing that will change the sinner's conscience. **Acts 2:36-38; Rom. 6:17-18; I Pet. 3:21.**

b) To maintain a good conscience there must be sanctification. **I Pet. 3:15**

5. The **status with God is changed by the new birth**, a culminating affect of our faith, repentance and baptism, making us a new creature, or a BABE, IN CHRIST!

## **II. OUR TARRIANCE IN OUR EARTHLY-EXISTENCE IS A SERVICE-TASK TO JUST SHOW THAT WE'RE TRULY PLEDGED TO HONORING GOD HERE!**

[Just has to do with continued faithfulness, showing we're pledged to consistent adherence to the gospel in our lives: commitment; allegiance; stedfastness; honor --- THIS is what Jesus Christ wants today **FROM EACH ONE OF US: C A S H!** (NOT talking about the collection plate!)]

- A. **HOW WE RESPOND** to the **requirements of God** might well be compared to how the reality of obedience was faced by some BIBLE notables--
1. **JOSHUA:** His task was to free the land of Canaan from those who would pollute the Israelites! And it took **C A S H** for him to fulfill his purpose to God! **Josh.24:15**
  2. **SOLOMON:** His task was to build the Temple of the Lord, as the most magnificent structure on earth that had ever been erected by a man to his God! It took a lot of **C A S H** for him to build the temple, didn't it?
  3. **APOSTLE PAUL:** His task was to carry the gospel to the Gentiles. And again, as with the others, it required a lot of **C A S H** on the part of Paul to fulfill the desires the Lord had of him!
- B. This is the **C A S H** that God wanted from Joshua, Solomon and Paul, and that He wants from each of us! **God Wants OUR C A S H, to the extent that:**
1. **God wants OUR COMMITMENT:** (1) We are to be PLEDGED, to belong to HIM; (2) We are to be determined, devoted, disciples; (3) We are to be a **dwellingplace** as well as a **source** for His righteousness.
  2. **God wants OUR ALLEGIANCE:** (1) We are to be FAITHFUL to HIM; (2) We are to maintain a consistent devotional behavior toward HIS eternal plan [His scheme of redemption]; (3) We are to be TRUSTWORTHY and LOYAL and TRUE in our stewardship in His service. **Rev.2:10; 1 Cor.4:2;**
  3. **God wants OUR STEDFASTNESS:** (1) We are to keep the PRESSURE ON in our efforts to benefit His cause; (2) We should have a harmonious aggressiveness toward accomplishments in His service; (3) No goldbricking, no AWOL, no absenteeism, no tardiness; **1 Cor.15:58; Gal.5:1-** "Stand stedfast (firm/ secure) therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage." **1 Cor.16:13** - "Watch, stand stedfast (firm) in the faith, be brave, be strong."
  4. **God wants US to HONOR HIM:** (1) We can only do this with our *praise & tribute & accolades*; (2) He wants it to be EXPRESSED, from the deep feelings that are within us [*Such as love & sincerity & totality of effort*]; (3) He has revealed ACCEPTABLE, EXPLICIT WAYS we CAN declare it; (4) God still looks favorably on those who honor Him. We may never be as wise, nor as wealthy, nor have even a small measure of as much income as Solomon, but we can be EVEN RICHER as we are assured of **spiritual prosperity in Christ** **IF WE SERVE GOD FAITHFULLY** wherever we are! **1 Tim.1:17-19; 6:12-16.**

## **III. IN THE FINAL THOUGHTS OF THIS STUDY WE ARE GOING TO FOCUS ON SOLOMON AS A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE FOR OUR EFFORTS OF**

**OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WILL: 1 Kings 2:2-3-** "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. 3 "And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;"

- A. **God caused Solomon to prosper greater than anyone before or after him.** Israel also grew rich and prosperous under his rule. **Solomon even got to build the temple as a dwelling place for God,** and the Israelites lived in peace as long as he ruled over the largest kingdom in Israel's history.
1. The **temple** that Solomon built for the Lord was a **service-task** that showed he was plighted to **honor God!**
  2. The temple was not large by our standards today, being only approx. 2700 sq. ft. in its 90' X 30' dimensions. However, **it was 45 feet tall,** which gave it an awesome appearance.
    - a) The temple was the most magnificent and glorious that had ever been erected by a man to God.
      - 1) The grandeur of the temple was **not in its size,** as we've just noted.
      - 2) **NOR was it in the opulence** of the rich woods and precious metals that adorned it.
    - b) **The resplendent glory of Solomon's temple was mainly because it was the House of Jehovah, and the Lord was pleased with it, and it served as a symbol of His holiness to that ancient world!**
    - c) **And it SIGNIFIED HIS PRESENCE among His people!**
  3. With all the workmen involved and all the cooperation in obtaining the materials and the desire of all to complete the job, **it still took SEVEN YEARS to complete it!**
- B. The splendors of this great temple could picture many things between those who were involved in it.
1. The **QUALITY** of it could positively show the provisions of God for His people.
  2. The **GLORY** of it assuredly is representative of the relationship that existed between God and the one He allowed to build it!
  3. The **UNIQUENESS** of this temple could also be a display of the importance of this **SPECIAL people** who had been set apart by their **SPECIAL GOD** for a **GREATER DEMONSTRATION** of even **GREATER REVELATIONS** of His **POWER!**
- C. **UNFORTUNATELY, but perhaps prophetically, ALTHOUGH THE TEMPLE HAD A GLORIOUS HISTORY, it was extremely short-lived!**
1. Over the years it fell into neglect and disrepair, showing an attitude of diminished significance in the eyes of the leaders as well as in the eyes of the people.
  2. Much of its wealth was removed long before the temple itself was destroyed, again showing that, **to them, the urgency of worldly things** was more important than **preserving the honor and dignity that had previously been shown to God.**
    - a) For one thing, because of disobedience to Jehovah, the kingdom of Israel lost its power and often came under the rule of other countries, such as Assyria and Babylon, who would pillage and scavage everything of value.
    - b) Also, the temple treasures were sometimes **looted by the Israelite kings themselves** to pay tribute or **RANSOM** to those greater powers **around them** to try to forestall an invasion and complete takeover.
  3. Finally, though, king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon destroyed the temple about 586 B.C.
    - a) This was some 375 years after Solomon had built it **TO THE GLORY OF THE LORD!**
    - b) At the same time, the city of Jerusalem was also destroyed and the final segment of the Israelites were taken into captivity.
    - c) Two different temples later were built on the very spot where Solomon's temple had stood, but never with the magnificence his had known.
      - 1) The temple in Jerusalem in Jesus' day was known as Herod's temple.
      - 2) It was the last temple to be built on this site, and in our modern age, no trace has been found of **SOLOMON'S temple!**
- D. Solomon's accomplishment in completing the temple was a manifestation of his dedication to **SERVICE** to the God in Whom he believed, and God continued to bless him with **riches,** and **fame,**

and continued **wisdom**, and **great influence** throughout his world! All the while Solomon's reputation, wealth and power grew abundantly! The scriptures tell us in **1 Kings 10:23-24**- "*that he was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. The whole world sought ... to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.*"

- E. What made that temple it so magnificent? Not because it superceded the pyramids in financial costs, or in engineering competence, or in size, or in longevity of presence: **BUT BECAUSE IT SIGNIFIED THE PRESENCE OF GOD!**

-- **THAT'S WHY** --

**WE, WHO ARE purchased by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, are called the Temple of God, Because WE [indiv. & collect.] are the dwelling place of the Lord -- see 1 Cor.3:16; 6:19-20; Jno.14:23**

1. **AS WITH SOLOMON**, God continues to bless His faithful servants today, like in the **JOY OF RELATIONSHIP** we share with Him! **Rom.5:10-11**- "*For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*"
2. **AS WITH SOLOMON**, one of the basic needs of man is **HAVING A GOOD FEELING ABOUT HIS PURPOSE, A MEANINGFUL REASON FOR LIFE**, and this certainly comes from our conscientiously and deliberately serving God. **Eph.6:5-6**- "*Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, 6 "not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but doing the will of God from the heart."* **Heb.12:28**- "*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."*
3. **AS WITH SOLOMON**, also involved in serving the God of Heaven and a further blessing is the **ASSOCIATION AND FELLOWSHIP AND STRENGTH AND EDIFICATION WE RECEIVE FROM WORKING TOGETHER WITH GOD'S OTHER CHILDREN** around us! **Psa.133:1**- "*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!"* **1 Cor.15:58**.
4. **AS WITH SOLOMON**, finally, and most importantly, *God's devoted servants* will **RECEIVE HIS REWARD: ETERNAL LIFE** with the redeemed of the ages. **1 Jno.5:11-12**- "*And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."* **Heb.5:9**.

## **CONCLUSION:**

- A. That gospel message which changes the heart, will in turn overthrow & separate us from the old life. Why should we be so concerned about serving God faithfully? **WHY NOT LIVE JUST HOWEVER WE CHOOSE?**
1. The prophet Samuel gives good insight to this question in those inspired words we find in **1 Sam.12:24**- "*Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you."*
  2. There's always great blessing in serving God faithfully -- *even though obviously he doesn't make all of us kings on golden thrones with great wisdom and riches, as in the case of Solomon!*
  3. Sometimes His **greatest blessings** may be in the forms of adversity or turmoil in our lives -- **just to get us on track to heaven, or to keep us there!**
- B. And if we know the right thing to do and have not done it, we are **NOT transforming our lives** [we're NOT REPENTING!] **Jas. 4:17**- "*if a man knows to do good and does it not; to him it is sin."* **1 John 4:4-5**- "*You are of God...and have overcome the world, because He Who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world, therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them."*
- C. A person's integrity & disposition is transformed to receive the temperament of Jesus Christ: **1 John 5:2-4** - "*We love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For*

*whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith."*

D. AS WE ARE RIGHT NOW, are we really the SERVANTS of the Lord's --- just like He'd want us to be? The garment of worldliness is filthy and corrupt. It is the acceptable time for changing your image into the image of Christ! **2 Cor.6:1-2**; **Gal.3:27-28**