

# INVOLVEMENT

2 Tim.2:1-4

## INTRODUCTION:

**Involve:** “a transitive verb meaning to complicate, entangle, surround, embroil”. Many religious people are so implicated in the affairs of this life that there’s very little **TIME/ ENERGY/ MONEY** at their disposal to devote to the Lord and His cause!

YET, the text points out that just the **OPPOSITE** attitude should ensnare US, that we might be wholly resigned to do the will of **JEHOVAH!** the word literally means to “weave in”; metaphorically - “to be involved”!

## I. THE BIBLE EMPHATICALLY SETS FORTH THE NEED FOR A PROPER CONTROL OF ONES SELF!

A. **FIRST**, there is an **EXHORTATION:** **Gal.5:1-** “Do not be entangled....!”

1. This verse points out in **WHOSE POWER** the decision rests.
2. All the Lord’s support, and encouragement, and enticement, is not only necessary to let us know we **SHOULD** make right choices, **BUT ALSO THAT WE ARE THE ONES, PERSONALLY, WHO DETERMINE OUR OWN COURSE OF ACTION!**
3. This involvement/ entanglement is not something we can step **INTO** or **OUT OF** as the notion may strike us! It is **POSSIBLE** to be **OVERCOME** in entanglement, cf. **2**

**Pet.2:20-22-**“For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

B. **THEN**, there is also a **WARNING:** Satan’s efforts will ensnare [TRAP] us, if **PERMITTED!**

**Matt.22:15-**“Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle [ensnare] Him in His talk.”

1. A fatal mistake that so many of us make is in thinking that Satan is not interested in gaining us --- “He knows I’ve been baptized so he doesn’t even try to get me...”! If **that’s the way** we’re thinking, it’s because he’s all ready **GOT US!**
2. In this verse Satan was using his disciples [the Pharisees] to try to entrap Jesus.
3. **Matt.4:1-11.** Satan **KNEW He was the Son of God,** yet **TEMPTED HIM** any way! You think he’s stopped trying you, just because you meet with the saints?

C. Now, reconsider the **TEXT**> The “**passive voice**” is used in stating this **FACT:** ***the wide awake Christian will not be over-involved with the affairs of this life!***

1. “**No man that warreth**” - Are we really set to the task of Christianity?
2. “**Entangleth himself...**” - Whatever gets us into an unacceptable circumstance is **OUR OWN FAULT!**
3. The **OBJECTIVE** in the text is **PLAIN**, and **SHOULD BE** our personal objective”  
**“...PLEASE HIM who hath chosen him...”!**

## II. EVERY RELIGIOUS PERSON IS CONSTANTLY FACED WITH DECISIONS REGARDING PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT!

A. Many worthwhile projects are constantly demanding our time and attention, ***in every facet of our lives!***

1. Family Activities: PTA, School programs, recreation/ vacations, etc.
  2. Vocational/ Educational Activities: Union activities, Schooling, Overtime on weekends.
  3. Civic/ Social Activities: Political, Clubs, etc.
  4. Our own personal HABITS and HOBBIES.
- B. Do you remember that our RELIGIOUS LIFE is to be incorporated into every one of the facets of our personal lives, and into all of our activities?
1. And **IT MEANS MORE** than just NOT CUSSING on the job!
  2. It means that we're still to be taking advantage of every opportunity to SERVE GOD, viz.
    - a) Setting a **RIGHT EXAMPLE** before all whom we might influence. **Matt.5:16.**
    - b) Taking every opportunity to talk with others about the Scriptures. [Paper article.]
    - c) **PUTTING GOD FIRST IN EVERY ONE OF OUR ACTIVITIES!**
  3. This is exactly what we see in the life of Paul in Corinth while he was making tents for a living! He continued to SERVE GOD, first and foremost!

### **III. A PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF A LESSON REGARDING INVOLVEMENT MIGHT FIND MANY OF US "WANTING" IF WE WERE TO BE "WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES"!**

- A. Without making any "new" laws, or stretching what the Lord has actually said, notice just what He expects of His brethren, regarding our---
1. **Responsibilities to OTHERS**: **Matt.25:31-46** [*Dividing sheep/goats at Judgment*]
  2. **Responsibilities to OURSELVES**: **Matt.25:1-14** [*the Foolish Virgins*]
  3. **Responsibilities to the LORD**: **Matt.25:15-30** [*the Talents*]
- B. NOW, TODAY, is there any involvement of life that keeps YOU, or ME, from faithful and steadfast adherence to the expectations of GOD?
1. Have you allowed family activities to have a greater hold on you than God's Service?
  2. What about your vocational/ educational activities?
  3. What about your perceived Civic or Social obligations?
  4. How about your personal HABITS or HOBBIES? [Read letter to Ann Landers re. smoking.]

### **CONCLUSION:**

**Gal. 5:1**- "*For freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage.*" This LIBERTY/ FREEDOM in Jesus Christ is a result of F+R+C+B= FREE TO BE HIS SERVANTS because we've been made FREE FROM SIN! **Rom.6:17-18.** We mustn't allow Satan to entice us to be his servants, even though he may appeal to us through our family, or job, or school, activities. **James 5:8**- "*Be ye therefore patient, stablish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh!*"