

Assurance of Salvation Part 60

Self-Denial

&
> and FREE TIME! <

"Self-Denial"

&
Free time

All people have a "#1" value:

- That value will be either: **God** or **Self**
- That value will influence:
 - All we do
 - All we consider important
 - What interests we have
 - Our use of "free time"
 - Etc.



Yes, even our "free time"!

- Even when we're doing "good" things!



Of all the "good" things we could do,
OUR #1 VALUE
will determine which we choose.



"DEFINITION"

"FREE TIME" IS ...
NOT time you can throw away,
but time you can express your values.

- It is YOUR opportunity to prove what is most important to you.
- **The sad reality is this:**
 - What most people prove isn't what they claim.
 - Their actions contradict their words.

Consider these Scripture passages

You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Cor. 6:19b-20 (NIV)

Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise,
making the most of every opportunity,
because the days are evil.

Ephes. 5:15-16 (NIV)

We will answer to God
for every thing we **say** or **do**.

I can guarantee that on judgment day people
will have to give an account of every
careless word they say.

Matthew 12:36 (GW)

God will judge us for everything we do,
including every secret thing, whether good
or bad.

Eccles. 12:14 (NLT)

Even now our **thoughts** are being
judged by God's standard.

For the word of God is living and active.
Sharper than any double-edged sword, it
penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit,
joints and marrow;
it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the
heart.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

? Some ?
QUESTIONS!
?

**How do YOU respond to the idea of
using your time wisely?**

*But that's
no fun!*

- When a person becomes a follower of Jesus, his values change.

Oh really?

- This causes his concept of "fun" to change.

**IF: You don't consider actual
sin to be an option...**

*In my free
time, I ...*

- ~~Go shoplifting.~~
- ~~Vandalize the neighborhood.~~

- ~~Go to the mall and "watch" women.~~
- ~~Invent computer viruses.~~
- ~~Disobey my parents.~~
- ~~Cheat the government.~~

> NOT AN OPTION <

**THEN: What choices
would you make?**

*In my free
time, I ...*

- Go fishing.
- Learn a skill.
- Play computer games.
- Memorize Scripture.
- Watch news and weather on TV.
- Pray for each person listed in the church directory.

What excuses would you make?

*But I like computer games! **

I'd play them all day long if I could!

This is exactly what we're talking about!

You value it more than you value other things!

* Or choose some other activity.

Would you "invent" free time that doesn't exist?

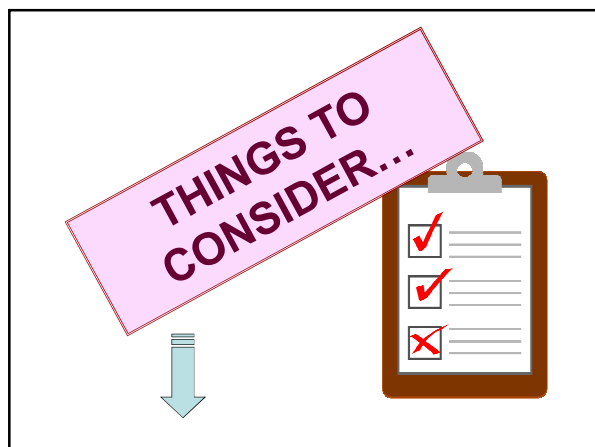
*I need to do the chores! **

But I'd rather go to the mall.

This is exactly what we're talking about!

You value it more than you value other things!

* Or choose some other activity.



"CONTEXT" – the reason you do it. (1)

In my free time, I ...

The reason you do something is part of the issue!

- Get involved in "fund raising" activities.

WHY do it?

- To help persecuted Christians around the world.
- To raise the "standard of living" for cats.

"CONTEXT" – the reason you do it. (2)

In my free time, I ...

- Sleep.

WHY do it?

- I think it's fun.
- This month I've had to work 15 hours a day. I need some sleep!

- Read a book.

WHY do it?

- I'm addicted to "romance novels."
- My goal is to learn a skill.

HOW OFTEN you do a specific activity... (1)

In my free time, I ...

- Time #1 – Walk in the park.
- Time #2 – Read about persecuted Christians.
- Time #3 – Fix a broken chair.
- Time #4 – Sleep.
- Time #5 – Help a neighbor.

A variety of things...

HOW OFTEN you do a specific activity... (2)

In my free time, I ...

... or just one thing all the time?

- **ALL Times** – Help my neighbors and read the Bible with them.

> OR <

- **ALL Times** – Eat ice cream.

Some things might not be good if done ALL the time.

What you DON'T do can be a very significant factor.

In my free time, I ...

- Go to a sports event.
- Weed a garden.

- Collect stamps and learn about the world.
- Watch TV.

Read the Bible?

The REPLY:

I'd like to, but I'm too busy.

The REAL issue:

I don't value it much.

Do we always need to be studying and memorizing Scripture ?

In my free time, I ...

- Read the Bible.
- Memorize Scripture.
- Listen to sermons.

Maybe / maybe not.

– It depends on your gifts and abilities, your calling in life, etc.

– **But these things must be a part of your life in some way!!!**

God's Word **MUST** be a part of your life.

Any other option is sin.

- You owe your life to God.
– **You need to get to know him!**
- You will be held accountable for what you do with your life.
– **You need to know how to live!**

READ this Scripture passage! A refusal to obey it is sin!



But **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

A **follower** of Jesus values learning how to **follow!**

Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.

Psalms 86:11 (NIV)

Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God; ...

Psalms 143:10a (NIV)

A **follower** of Jesus
loves to **follow!** *

Because I love your commands more than gold,
more than pure gold,
and because I consider all your precepts right,
I hate every wrong path.

Psalms 119:127-128 (NIV)

* (Even though
his sinful nature
hates it and will
fight back.)

Oh, how I love your law!
I meditate on it all day long.

Psalms 119:97 (NIV)

YOUR MISSION

Follow Jesus!!!

- It's not your words about free time, but
your use of free time, that proves
if your desire to follow is genuine.

NEXT WEEK... "Self-Denial" and your use of Money!

NEXT WEEK...

"Self-Denial"
and
Your Use
of Money!



OH NO!!!
Not that
topic!!



If you're a follower of Jesus,
it won't be too painful.

(Besides, if you're a "follower," you do want to "follow"!)

Credits (1)

SCRIPTURE

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