

LOVE

Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

47 – Preplanning – Goals & Dependency

PRE- PLANNING

TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17b (NIV)

The basic concept ...

Cautious pre-planning; thinking about it ahead of time, so that you can respond appropriately.

Can also be translated as ...

- Focus your thoughts on ...
- Consider ...
- Try to do ...

Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17b (NIV)

THIS COMMAND IS A...

- **GENERAL PRINCIPLE:**
Applies to ALL SITUATIONS in life.
- With a **SPECIFIC APPLICATION:**
Our response to EVIL (first part of the verse):

Do not repay anyone evil for evil.

Romans 12:17a (NIV)

OTHER VERSES WITH A SIMILAR FOCUS:

"DOING WHAT IS RIGHT"

Includes doing what is right in GOD's sight.

We intend to do what is right, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of people.

2 Cor. 8:21 (GW)

- The world often has a **corrupt** concept of "good."
- Doing it for God will prevent us from slipping into the world's ways.

"IN THE EYES OF OTHERS" (1)

A necessary qualification for church leaders.

He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

1 Tim. 3:7 (NIV)

- Sometimes the world has a **correct** concept of "good." Such goodness must be evident in the lives of leaders.
>> ALSO <<
- Leaders must be an example for the rest of us to follow.

"IN THE EYES OF OTHERS" (2)
A focus on integrity.

We reject all shameful and underhanded methods. We do not try to trick anyone, and we do not distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know that.

2 Cor. 4:2 (NLT)

- All that we do should be characterized by genuineness, not filled with pretension.

"IN THE EYES OF OTHERS" (3)
[A reminder that integrity includes motives.]

Be careful not to do your good works in public in order to attract attention. If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you.

Matthew 6:1 (GW)

- The issue is not "visibility," but "our reason for being visible." (God requires us to be visible! Matthew 5:14-16.)

GOALS
WHEN DOING
WHAT IS RIGHT

- **To glorify/honor God in all that we do.**

... do everything for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (ISV)

- **To be a light in a morally dark world.**

You are the light of the world.

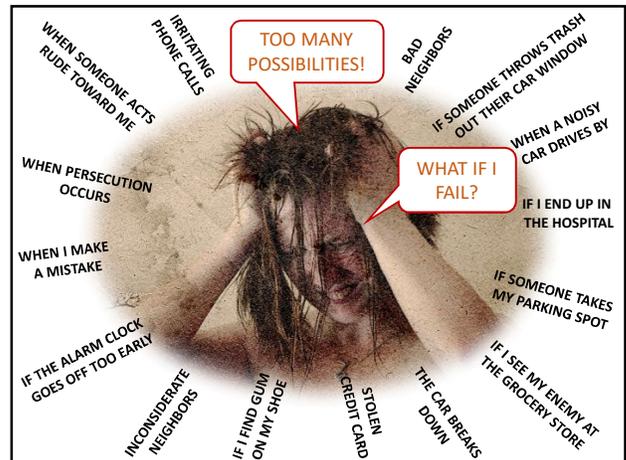
Matthew 5:14 (ISV)

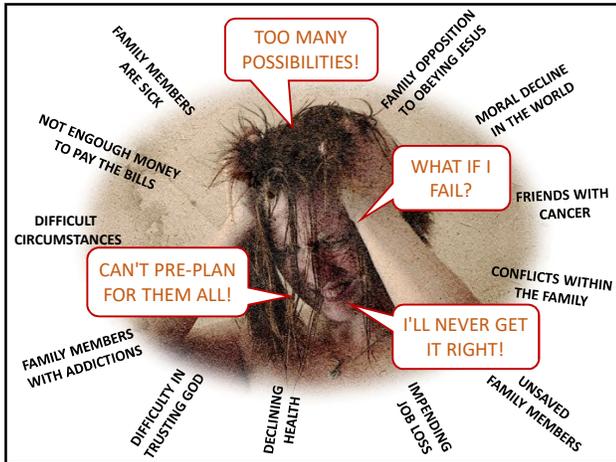
- **To live a godly life that will shame false accusers.**

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)

HOW
DO WE
PRE-PLAN?





We CAN'T know all of life's possibilities... [Peter] said to [Jesus], "Lord, You know all things; ..." John 21:17b (NASB)

> BUT <
(if we're following Jesus)

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Hebrews 4:13a (NIV)

We CAN know the One who does.

He is greater than us in all good ways.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:9 (NIV)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how fathomless his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has first given to God, that God needs to repay him? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever! Amen. Romans 11:33-36 (NET)

His Word shows us how to plan!

- Direct instructions, principles to apply, examples of godly people, etc.
- Learning his ways is part of what it means to have a "renewed" mind.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Like ALL of salvation, it is a growing process.

- As you grow in your understanding and obedience to God's Word (and your trust in God) ... you will grow in your ability to obey the Romans 12:17b command.

[Thanking God] because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. 2 Thes. 1:3b (NIV)

... growing in the knowledge of God ... Col. 1:10b (NIV)

GROWING!

Desire God's pure word as newborn babies desire milk. Then you will grow in your salvation. 1 Peter 2:2 (GW)

... but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18a (NASB)

NOT stagnant.

The more you grow like this, the more you will become productive and useful in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:8 (NLT)

NOT shrinking

BEING DEPENDENT ON GOD

(For growing in our understanding and obedience.)

We must NEVER forget our dependence on God for this growing!!!

- We who are saved are called the "body of Christ."
- It is only in connection with Christ, our "head," that we can grow!

For we are joined together in his body by his strong sinews, and we **grow** only as we get our nourishment and strength from God.

Col. 2:19b (NLT)

THE MORE we grow, aware of our dependency on Christ... **THE EASIER** it will be for us to obey this command.

Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17b (NIV)

- Aware of our imperfections...
 - Aware of God's grace and power.

IF we remain dependent on Christ, we will have a fruitful life

** characterized by doing what is good and right. **

- Like a branch is dependent on the vine... as Jesus says:

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father.

John 15:5, 8 (NLT)



Your Mission...

Focus this week on being dependent on Christ...

since being DEPENDENT is the only way to do what is truly good and right!

Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17b (NIV)

Credits (1)

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Your Mission...

"Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody."
Romans 12:17b

WE MUST DEPEND ON GOD...
NOT JUST FOR
THE ABILITY TO "PRE-PLAN" A RESPONSE...
BUT FOR EVERYTHING THAT IS GOOD...
EVEN LIFE ITSELF!



JESUS TAUGHT US DEPENDENCY ON GOD.

- In the way he lived - John 5:19.
- In what he taught - John 15:1-8. (Note the contrast between being fruitful and being burned.)

WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO LIVE ACCORDING THIS FACT.

- He created and is growing our "new selves"; we are to "put on" our "new selves" - Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10.
- He strengthens us; we have an obligation to "be strong" - Ephesians 3:16; 6:10.
- God's sovereignty and human responsibility work together: We will be willing and doing; and he will be empowering and enabling - Philippians 2:12-13.

**ULTIMATELY, WE WILL GIVE GOD CREDIT FOR
ALL THE GOOD THAT OCCURS IN OUR LIVES.**

Originally, we were born in sin and were slaves to sin, but...

- He chose us - Ephesians 1:4.
- He made us into "new creations" - 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- We are his workmanship, created for doing what is good - Ephesians 2:10.
- He is working on conforming us to the "likeness of his son" - Romans 8:29.
- He teaches us to *not* sin - Titus 2:12; but to live a life of love - 1 Thessalonians 4:9.
- His power is the source of our strength - Ephesians 1:19; 3:16; Colossians 1:11.
- He gives us power and strength to do well in *all* circumstances of life - Philippians 4:12-13.
- His grace and power is displayed even when we are weak - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.

GOD has enabled us to live godly lives ...
OUR responsibility is to do it.

Sovereignty has guaranteed that
his "enabling" and our "doing" will both
occur in the lives of those who are saved!