

LOVE

Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

52 – Preplanning & the results

Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
Be careful to do what is right in
the eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17 (NIV)

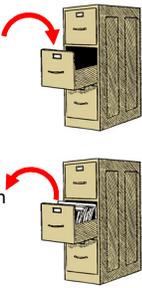
BASIC CONCEPTS

<p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px;">Be careful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus your thoughts on ... • Consider ... • Try to do ... 	<p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px;">Do what is right:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing what is good ... • Doing what is noble, honorable ...
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WHAT MUST WE DO?

Here's a summary:

- **LEARN God's Word.**
 - This is like putting information into a file cabinet.
 - If it's empty, there's nothing to work with.
- **OBEY God's Word.**
 - This is like finding and using the information in the file cabinet.
 - The more you use it, the easier it will be to find it when needed.



PART #1: LEARN GOD'S WORD → THE FOUNDATION



PART #2: OBEY GOD'S WORD → THE BUILDING



WE NEED TO ACCEPT AND APPLY ALL OF GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS

> not just the parts we want <

I ONLY NEED
HALF OF A
FOUNDATION!



RESULTS of doing this?

There are many good results...

★ But UNLESS you learn and obey God's Word, you won't experience them. ★

— And —
knowing the results will be of no value to you.

1. It's evidence of spiritual growth.

- ✓ It distinguishes between those who love Jesus and the church-going fakes.

Jesus replied, "**ALL those who love me WILL do what I say.** My Father will love them, and we will come to them and live with them.

ANYONE who doesn't love me WILL NOT do what I say. And remember, my words are not my own. This message is from the Father who sent me.

John 14:23-24 (NLT)

GOD says this is so!

- ✓ God's people are willing to grow up.

THESE LOVE JESUS

... **the mature**, who by constant use [of God's Word] have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5:14 (NIV)

THESE ARE FAKES

... those who hear and accept the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they **never grow into maturity.**

Luke 8:14b (NLT)

2. There will be fewer times when you won't know how to respond.

- ✓ Increasing in knowledge is a *moral* obligation.

But grow in the grace and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18a (NIV)

- ✓ This refers to knowledge that comes from God, by way of his Word.
(It's not just knowing *facts* about Jesus.)

THE NEED TO KNOW ...

- ✓ Often, the issue isn't the *absence* of a good response, but our *ignorance* of it.

AS YOU GROW IN KNOWLEDGE ...

- ✓ You may be able to determine the exact way to respond.
- ✓ If not, you'll still be able to narrow down your options.

As you grow in knowledge, you can make it your goal to be CONSISTENT!

- You will be able to narrow down your options to those that are *compatible* with Scripture.
- This will increase the likelihood of a good response!

THERE IS NO DIRECT STATEMENT ABOUT THE ISSUE I'M FACING!

BUT I KNOW WHICH RESPONSES ARE COMPATIBLE WITH SCRIPTURE!

3. You will develop godly habits and increase in spontaneity of response.

MEANING? Your response will become quicker, easier, more habitual, etc.

- ✓ It does NOT mean that you will never have struggles and impulses to do what is wrong.
- ✓ Natural abilities will also influence your spontaneity. Some people will grow faster than others in this matter.

✓ You need to develop godly habits.

- IN THE PAST:** We spent a lifetime developing and reinforcing sinful habits.

You spent enough time in the past doing what unbelievers like to do.

1 Peter 4:3a (GW)
- NOW:** We need to be developing and reinforcing godly habits.

But now you must rid yourselves of all such things ...

Col. 3:8a (NIV)

HOW?

- If you are saved, you HAVE the ability.**
 - God has sent his Spirit to give you the ability.
 - You need to trust him and use the ability he has given you.
- Responding well in BIG issues often requires "practice" in LITTLE issues.**
 - It's the same way people tend to develop "big" sinful habits... by beginning with "small" ones.
 - It's the moral fool who thinks that laziness now will result in skill later!

✓ When we develop godly habits, we increase the likelihood that we will have godly responses.

- When we build a foundation,** our past (and present) learning and obeying Scripture will prepare us for future responses.
- When there is no time** to carefully plan a response, we will have a better chance of responding the right way.

(We may still make mistakes, since learning right responses is a growing process.)

NOTE THAT RESULTS #2 AND #3 ARE INTERRELATED
 [#2 focuses on our knowledge; #3 focuses on our actions.]

BOTH ARE IMPORTANT IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE.



I'M NOT SURE HOW TO RESPOND!

I'M GLAD I LEARNED WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS!

I'VE ALSO BEEN ATTEMPTING TO DO IT!

BASED ON WHAT I'VE LEARNED AND DONE, I'LL TRY TO DETERMINE A GOOD RESPONSE!

✓ If we are unwilling to build a foundation of learning and doing, we guarantee an increased failure rate.

Seek the Lord while he may be found.
Call on him while he is near.
Isaiah 55:6 (GW)

✓ We might even blame God for it!

**WHERE ARE YOU, GOD?
GIVE ME AN ANSWER!**

**WHY ARE YOU
SO FAR AWAY?**

**DON'T
FAIL ME!**

**I NEVER
KNEW YOU! ***

* Matthew 7:23; 25:12.
Contrasted with:
John 10:14, 27-30;
2 Timothy 2:19.

4. People will see and glorify your Father in heaven... either now or later.

✓ We have looked at this issue before.

... they will see your good actions and glorify your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16b (ISV)

... by seeing your good deeds they may glorify God on the day of visitation.
1Peter 2:12b (LEB)

And finally...

5. You will be persecuted.

DON'T SAY THAT!

IT WILL TURN PEOPLE AWAY!

JESUS SAID IT!

AND ONLY THE FAKES TURNED AWAY!

✓ Jesus warned about persecution.

Remember what I told you: 'A servant isn't greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.
John 15:20a (GW)

JESUS was honest about it...

**JESUS was honest about it...
So why shouldn't WE be honest?**

So why shouldn't WE be honest?

✓ God's people know it will happen.

Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
2 Tim. 3:12 (NLT)

✓ Fakes tend to leave when it happens.

When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.
Mark 4:17b (NIV)

✓ God's people know that persecution cannot separate them from God's love.

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death?
No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.
Romans 8:35, 37 (NLT)

✓ The fakes cannot comprehend God's love (or else they distort it).

Your Mission...

"PRE-PLANNING"
It's part of godly living.

**DO IT AS AN ACT OF LOVE...
FOR BOTH GOD AND PEOPLE!**

Credits (1)

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Your Mission...

**"Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody."
Romans 12:17**

PERSECUTION

In most of the world, Christians *know* it's a part of what it means to "follow Jesus."

In our country, people get *offended* by the idea.

There are many blessings associated with doing what is right and good. But persecution may also come. This sometimes confuses people, especially when Scripture passages associate it with *blessing* (as in Matthew 5:10-12).

This is one of the reasons for commands such as Romans 12:17a.

PERSECUTION IS A REALITY.

Some of the reasons that God's people are persecuted:

- Ultimately, it is because of humanity's sinful nature - Galatians 4:29 (an allegory describing unsaved and saved).
- People persecute because they hate God / Jesus Christ - John 15:18, 20-25; they do not know the true God - John 16:1-3.
- They persecute us because we are no longer one of them - John 15:19; they hate godly behavior - 2 Timothy 3:12.
- They may be religiously motivated, with a misguided zeal - Acts 13:50; 26:9-11; Galatians 5:11; 6:12.

How God's people should respond to persecution:

- We should not be surprised when it happens - 1 Peter 4:12; 1 John 3:13.
- Fleeing from persecution (when possible) is a legitimate response - Matthew 10:23; Acts 8:1-4. (Wherever you go, you must continue to live a godly life, as the "light of the world" - Matthew 5:14-16 - which may result in more persecution.)
- You must be patient and maintain an attitude of prayer - 1 Corinthians 4:12; Matthew 5:44; Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:18.
- You must honor and glorify God by the way you act toward both the persecution and the persecutors - 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 4:16; Romans 12:17 (and other verses in the context). Follow Jesus' example - 1 Peter 2:20-23.
- You can rejoice - not in the persecution itself, but in what it signifies - Acts 5:41; what it accomplishes - Romans 5:3-5; and what the final outcome will be - 2 Thessalonians 1:4-5.

MANY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES CONNECT SUFFERING NOW WITH HONOR AND GLORY LATER.

- Jesus suffered and was later glorified - Luke 24:26; Hebrews 2:9-10.
- Those who *share* in Jesus' suffering (persecution, hardship, etc.) will also *share* in his glory - Romans 8:17-18; 1 Peter 4:13; 5:1, 10.



ONE LAST COMMENT ABOUT "PRE-PLANNING" TO DO GOOD.

- Knowledge and obedience are not only what it takes to become proficient in pre-planning, but they are also directly connected to salvation itself. Those who don't have these will suffer eternal destruction and separation from God. Note their final outcome in 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10.