

# **Doing The Right Thing**

**by**

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This Christian writing deals with the importance of doing the right thing before God and man.

All Scripture references in this writing are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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## **Doing The Right Thing**

We have many choices in life, and there are so many things tugging at us for our attention. It seems we are constantly bombarded with advertising, movies and television, all trying to get us to do something or buy something. Left unchecked, we can fall prey to being manipulated by the world we live in that is all around us.

We have to properly manage our time, talents, finances, health, and many other areas. Life is a life of stewardship. We are responsible for our actions, and whether we like it or not, all our actions do have consequences! Everything we do effects other people around us. We impart either positive or negative things to others.

That is why it is so important to “Do The Right Thing” at all times. It doesn't matter who is watching us or not. We must always be moral, true, legal and act rightly. It is the breakdown of “doing the right things” that causes a society to collapse and be destroyed (from the inside out). This writing is an urgent cry for people to change their behavior to better their own selves, their country and their world. This epidemic can be fixed, if we strive to achieve a greater purpose, and work to free ourselves of the “me” or “self” attitude.

## **The Quality Of Life**

A society functions (or breaks down) by whether people treat others properly. The need for the rule of law emphasizes personal behavior, where we treat others fairly and with respect.

The signers of the Declaration of Independence, who risked their lives by signing the Declaration wrote: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. —That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

In effect, you are to be able to pursue happiness, have liberty and enjoy life, without fear of repressive people or government. Freedom (or Liberty) is a Right, that all Americans should enjoy and treasure. Freedom goes a long way to being able to experience an enjoyable “quality of life.”

Civil laws, and moral rules, were instituted to ensure that everyone is treated fairly, without fear of being stolen from, lied to, deceived or injured. If there were no rules or laws, then a person could kill someone or rob a bank without any penalty. Our society would so break down that no one would respect life anymore. People would get shot over a bowl of food, and our society would crumble into chaos and disorder.

Without penalties or consequences for our improper actions, our society would degenerate into a state of lawlessness. We must stop that with any means at our disposal. One way is through our own actions.

## **Behavior Is Imitated**

Experts have told us for years that young babies imitate those they observe. They pattern their behaviors, which they learn, from others around them. Teach your child properly, and they are less likely to depart from that proper behavior when they grow older and become adults.

Behavior is learned and imitated. Babies love to imitate what they see their parents do. Children want to “be cool” and do what they see their friends doing. It is so important for children to have good role models, that they can observe and pattern their behavior after.

Learning works best when the surroundings are safe and clear of distractions. Bad influences should not be allowed, otherwise they will impair learning and introduce bad behaviors that will get imprinted in impressionable minds, and then later be imitated by those people. It is a vicious cycle that must be stopped.

Good behavior, on the other hand, sets up a lifetime of blessings beyond imagination. People with good behavior are more apt to be better respected, promoted and treated well by others. They also are likely to feel better and be happier.

So with the choice before us, why would anyone in their right mind knowingly choose to imitate bad behavior? Some haven't had good parents, role models or friends to imitate, but anyone can overcome bad behavior, with God's help, if they really want to. It will likely take work and persistence, but the joy that comes as a reward for “doing the right thing” is worth it all!

## **All Behavior Will Be Rewarded Eventually**

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Galatians 6:7.

Do not be fooled into thinking you can “get away with things” that are wrong. Every action has a reaction. There is a chain of events that occurs for every action, just like when a smooth stone is skipped across a lake and ripples go out each time the stone skips on the water.

Every behavior, action and thought has consequences, whether good or bad. It is up to us to train our minds to plan good outcomes in life. We are responsible for our own actions. The time for blaming others for our problems is past. If you don't like how your life is going, act to change your life, as soon as you are able.

Avoid the many snares and pitfalls of life, such as bad relationships, wrong jobs, and being around the wrong people. Refuse to listen to people who aren't sowing good, positive things into your life. An ounce of wisdom in prevention, can save a life of heartache, misery and pain. Choose a course for your life that you were destined to follow, where a lifetime of good things shall be birthed. Use your skills, talents and gifts for positive, productive things.

Doing wrong, stealing and cheating are never permissible or beneficial. If you engage in this kind of behavior, you will pay a serious penalty in your life. You might not get punished right away, but you are sowing into a harvest of misery, pain and deception in your life.

My word of advice to all who would hear me is: never do wrong, even when you think no one is watching your actions and behavior. For God is watching everything you do, and He will reward you based on what you do to others. Do good always, and never sow bad or negative seeds into the lives of others.

“The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but *he that is* cruel troubleth his own flesh. The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness *shall be* a sure reward. As righteousness *tendeth* to life: so he that pursueth evil *pursueth it* to his own death.” Proverbs 11:17-19.

### **An Important Example**

Stealing is never right, for you are taking something that does not rightly belong to you. If something belongs to someone else, what right have you to take it without their permission or without fairly compensating them for their work? The Bible says “...for the labourer is worthy of his hire...” (Luke 10:7) and “Thou shalt not steal.” (Exodus 20:15). It is very plain and clear that God is against those who steal from another.

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

Clearly thieves and stealing (among other things) are covered by the above verse in Scripture. It is a dire warning to all those engaged in the above unrighteous acts.

It is common today, as I write this, that many people who claim to be Christians, or followers of Christ, are stealing from the rights of others regularly. You might say, Adam, how can this be? Heaven forbid. But you err if you confess that you follow and serve Christ, yet on the other hand you steal from others and take what does not belong to you.

I am talking in this case about the rampant piracy of books, software, music and videos. With a computer it is fairly easy to steal and copy what does not belong to you. God is not mocked! He sees every download and every illegal pirated copy you have.

There is NEVER any excuse for piracy or theft of any goods or services. I don't care if you download a movie just to watch it. You should know it is wrong.

God is not pleased with this kind of behavior. What kind of example and testimony are you as a follower of Christ? Not only is it illegal and carries a very stiff fine, but it is stealing, and God will not permit thieves to be in His Presence.

I publish Christian worship music, books and other resources. Many people choose to think it is OK to steal from me, and from my labors, where I have spent time creating and compiling quality Christian resources. I am worthy of my hire.

God showed me in a vision one day, that many people who call themselves Christians regularly try to worship Him with stolen Christian worship music. He showed me how He could not bless people who worshipped Him with stolen worship music. They have no access to Him. God is not mocked. Whatever you sow, you shall reap. You can't fool God!

My eyes were opened to this major problem of disregard for righteousness, that of using stolen books or music to learn about or worship God. Heaven forbid. What hypocrisy! Repent, and pay the rightful owners for what you have stolen.

### **Environment**

Our environment is so important. It is the incubator, where our decisions are formed and our behavior is birthed. It is how we know "right" from "wrong." Without a clean, positive environment, our conscience may become "seared" over time, and cause us to lose the proper focus about what is right or not.

You must surround yourself with a positive environment, uncluttered with the cares of this life. Also surround yourself with genuine, positive people who can encourage you to advance in your relationship with God. No one wants to be surrounded with people or an environment that drags on them and brings them down. Avoid people who encourage you to partake in unrighteous behavior at all costs.

Seek out godly role models, who have true wisdom and who really care about you. It is wise to help others, as you are able, to grow in the knowledge of God.

### **Distractions And Dangers**

Avoid distractions and things that cause pain at all costs. They will only lead to your ruin and destruction. There are too many things to avoid to list them all, but a sensitive spirit within you should alert you to any potentially problematic things.

Time is too precious to waste on unproductive things. Seek wisdom, truth and righteousness.

"Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33.

God will reward you for following after His righteousness. The enemy of your soul desires to kill or destroy you, and never wants you to learn the benefits that God has for you by following after Him.

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:" Psalm 103:2.

## Presence Of God

One of the results of doing the right thing is that we open the door to qualify for acceptance into the Presence Of God. We have to have right standing before God to enter into His Presence, and many people fail to realize that only when His Righteousness is so pulsating through us can we qualify for this special privilege.

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.” Psalm 24:3-5.

When God's Righteousness is in us, it will produce fruits of righteousness that can be clearly evidenced by others. One of those fruits is a state where we are “doing the right thing.” If we truly love God, worship Him, and fear His commandments, then out of respect for Who He Is, we should, at a minimum, long to do the right thing.

Jesus said: “Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:19-21.

These are strong words, and should give us all pause.

“Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. *He that* backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.” Psalm 15:1-3.

## Faith Without Works

I encourage you to read James Chapter 2 in the Holy Bible (King James Version). This chapter is full of examples where faith must be accompanied by works.

Works are to be an outpouring, and serve as an evidence or example, of your faith in Christ. You can not “earn your way” to God or Heaven, but just as a tree must bear good fruit as a demonstration that it is worthy to live, so you also must bear fruits of righteousness, as evidence that you belong to Christ.

“What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?” James 2:14.

“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” James 2:17.

“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” James 2:20.

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:26.

## Decisions Decide Rewards

Every decision we choose to make (or not make) brings us either a blessing or a curse. There are both good decisions and bad ones. The goal in life is to learn to avoid the bad ones, and practice good decision making abilities.

Life is a result of the decisions we have made. It is the “fruit” or reward of the various seeds we have sown to others. Whether we are truly happy in life or not depends upon whom we have chosen to trust. Did we get good advice or bad advice. Who were our teachers? Where did we pick up our behaviors from? Who inspired us to imitate them? Is our imitation of them producing good fruit or not?

Examine yourself and decide what behaviors are good, and which ones “have to go.” You will make yourself a better person, and help make our society better, when you work to improve your behavior. Discover the rewards of “doing the right thing” in every area of your life, and never look back to the old ways of destruction, unhappiness and pain.

## A Continual Doing

Be about continually doing the right things in life. Never compromise in doing what is honest, pure, right and true. The rewards and benefits of doing the right thing far outweigh any temporary gains that doing wrong may dangle before you.

Consistency produces habits. Habits produce behavior. Start continually doing what is right, and watch how your life will begin to change for the better. You will likely be happier and healthier than you have ever been before. The closer you get to God, the more rewarding and pleasurable life will be for you. Abide in His Presence, and seek His direction for your life. May God continually be glorified!

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.” Philippians 4:8.