

LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD

Christian Character in Action: Lesson 29

9 September 2022

An important lesson that God teaches us in the Bible is that our actions today will determine where we will end up tomorrow. God wants us to look ahead and take steps today and every day that will get us where we want to be later in life and help us to stand confident at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

1 Chronicles 22:1-12, King David's Desire and Preparations to Build a Temple for God

- David wanted to do a great thing for God. He was not commanded to do so.
- He began to stock up on materials that would be needed to build the temple.
 - Every day he was doing something to prepare for the future temple in God's honor.
- God would not allow David to build the temple because of his reputation as a man of war.
- David still wanted to honor God and do whatever he could to prepare for the building of the temple.
 - He began to train his son, Solomon to build the temple. Solomon had a clean reputation, serving as king during a time of peace and quietness. God accepted Solomon for the task.
 - David devoted his life to training up his son to do something for God that he couldn't do himself.
 - Though the temple was David's idea, and his preparations and supplies made it possible, it doesn't bear his name. The temple is known as "Solomon's Temple."
- Each of us has something in our past that would disqualify us for a particular ministry or service to God or the Church.
 - If our past were found out, it would raise questions and suspicions and doubts about the church or Christianity as a whole.
 - We can still serve in other ways.
 - We can prepare our own children to do what we are not able to do.
 - We can prepare another young Christian to do the work and continue after we're gone.
 - A church will eventually fade away if only the older, experienced members are doing the work. It is vitally important to train up the younger Christians to fill the spots that we are eventually going to vacate when we die. Look down the road.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof."

- People begin as children and end up as adults.
 - The godly activities we subject our children to today will contribute to them becoming better adults down the road.
 - It is important to start our children on a road that you want them to end up on later in life.
 - Don't start them out on a road that you don't want them to stay on.
 - It will be very difficult to get them to turn back in the right direction.
 - They may not fully appreciate church activities in the beginning, but if you get them on that road, it will be "better" in the end.
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Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

- Train your child the way he should go today—so he’ll end up where you want him to be down the road.
 - If you’re a Christian who reads and believes the Bible, then you know which way your child should go. Start training them up early. Don’t wait till it’s too late.
 - Your objective is not just today, it’s tomorrow. Look ahead and begin training today toward the desired end.
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James 5:7-8 The example of the patient husbandman (farmer).

- It requires a lot of work and a lot of time before a farmer enjoys a harvest of fruit. He can’t quit or slack off in the early stages or he’ll never see any fruit.
 - As we patiently await the Lord’s return and His accompanying rewards, we are to serve Him today for those rewards that we’ll receive down the road.
 - Ministries don’t grow and thrive overnight. They require years and years of hard work and dedication to the Lord.
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Galatians 6:7-10 You will reap what you sow.

- The bad choices you make today will affect you later in life.
 - If you make good choices today but doubt that God will really give you good things tomorrow, you may end up quitting on God and cease to do good.
 - Do as much well-doing today as possible. Trust that it will pay off. Stay on track. We shall reap if we faint not.
 - When making life decisions (marriage, employment, education, etc.) make sure you consider (and pray about) where that decision is going to take you in the long run.
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Hebrews 11:13-14 The Roll Call of Faith

- Those men and women listed in the roll call of faith lived their lives with God’s promises in view.
 - They didn’t receive the promises in their lifetime, but they saw them **afar off** and it effected the way they lived every day.
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1 Peter 1-2 and 2 Peter 1:1-4 lists some of the wonderful things we presently have in Christ Jesus

- God wants us to add to those things as we proceed down the road of life (**2 Pet 1:5-9**).
 - If you lack those things, it is because you don’t see afar off (the long view).
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