



Press Toward The Mark (Philippians 3:14)



What Are We Pressing To?

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). The high calling is the answer.

What Is The High Calling?

Is it that Jesus was perfect so I have no work to do? It is true that work for salvation is legalistic and it rejects Christ's Righteousness, however, because He provides the saving grace as a gift, *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?"* (Romans 6:1)

And the answer is, *"God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"* (Romans 6:2)

A high calling is not just living the status quo. A high calling is not just getting by. Heaven will not be made up of people who just got by. *"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you"* (John 15:19). *"Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God"* (James 4:4).

Now if you believe there is no work involved, try living "not of the world." For most, it requires much work. On the other hand, when you reach the point where the world hates you because you do not participate, and yet it has no affect upon you at all, then you may claim that there is no work involved.

Try not doing as the world does. Stop watching movies. Try not dressing like the world, in fact, you will find that there is just about nothing sold in stores that is suitable for women. Try not being a glutton at a group function when everyone wants you to try their food. Try not putting down a spouse while with supposed friends that talk of it often. Try avoiding music that the world listens to. Try living healthfully.

How Much Work Is Involved?

Choosing not to sin can be a chore, even work. In fact, many have yet to begin to understand the work involved. Besides, is it possible that *"ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin"* (Hebrews 12:4). Do you sweat blood fighting against the temptation to sin? Or do you just excuse yourself because you are not God?

Jesus said, *"Strive to enter in at the strait gate"* (Luke 13:24).

Do not be fooled. Sin and Satan are serious and if we take it too lightly, we could be ensnared.

"But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). So seeing Satan has been defeated, we just have to deal with sin, which is not something that is out of the blue happening to us. Temptation is used first, but remember, *"God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]"* (1 Corinthians 10:13).

So there is where the wrestling comes in. We must choose to take the escape route.

Joseph did it. He found the door quite quickly while standing before the seducing woman. The Hebrew boys found it, though it involved a furnace. Jesus found it, though it involved a cross.

Can We Confirm The Context?

"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and

The world has been given an open book exam —

Are you looking in the Book for the answers — a TSTL?

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To strengthen the faith in God's Word by enabling you to have a "Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe and do.

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Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

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if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing" (Philippians 3:12-16).

First, Paul states that he has not yet attained nor was he already perfect. So this is not talking about credit from heaven as associated with justification that many try to say sanctification works like, but rather this is talking about the work of sanctification as already stated earlier.

When Paul says he has not attained nor is already perfect, he is not referring to obeying all the light he has. Paul is not referring to that type of perfection. He is referring to the perfect, Christlike character, which will take a lifetime.

You see, perfection has two understandings, which the context of the Bible defines. One is the living up to all the light one has as being perfection, yet one can be imperfect because there are other people that know you need to grow further because of the knowledge they have over you. Then there is the perfection that you are wholly perfect in all of God's ways, which cannot be obtained on this side of the second coming because it is that which takes a lifetime to achieve. In fact, we will continue to grow in perfection beyond this life.

Are you confused yet? Look at an example. You know it is wrong to use foul language, however, after being a Christian for a period of time you still have a mouth like a sewer. It is inappropriate for you to say, "Leave me alone. Don't you know sanctification is the work of a lifetime?" Yes, but not over known sin. At first it may be a challenge to change your habits and lifestyle, but it does not take a lifetime to overcome the revealed sin. Now once you have ceased from the foul mouth, the work of a lifetime in sanctification leads you into the next step. Euphemisms are removed. Again, they are words that are softer but still foul of which are to be removed from a Christian's vocabulary.

So congratulations, you stopped saying "damn", but you still say "darn". There is no difference in heaven's eyes.

Here is a case in point. The day my wife and I learned about the sins of alcohol, we rushed home and poured into the sink every last drop. We have not touched alcohol since. It did not take a lifetime to be sanctified on that point. Nor should any sin once it is revealed.

But since then, God has revealed so much more to us in the same category, step-by-step. Since giving that up, we were faced with meat eating contributing to the same disease of mind. Those things God called unclean were not just symbolic. Those animals are totally unfit for creating good blood for the body. After giving that up, then there were the rich spices. After that, there was the food combinations that could cause alcohol in the stomach preventing digestion. And so on and so on.

In fact, agreeing with Paul, the closer you come to Jesus, the more you will actually feel unworthy because you will see how sinful sin really is and how righteous Jesus is.

The second point is that it is a partnership. As we apprehend or take hold of Christ, He apprehends us. But when we say partnership, keep in mind that someone else thought about the partnership between themselves and Jesus and then noticed the amount of effort that had to be put forth in both directions. Was it an even amount of energy put forth?

"And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind [him], and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour" (Matthew 9:20-22).

When we apprehend Jesus, it is but a touch for we are a finite being. But then Christ gives us something in return that we *"might be partakers of the divine nature"* (2 Peter 1:4).

It is a lopsided partnership in our favor.

What Is Necessary To Gain The Prize?

Now we all should know that to gain the prize is not possible without Jesus. Jesus is our provider, our Savior. This is absolutely true.

But what is necessary on our part according to the verses in Philippians? Do not get caught up in being told that Jesus did it all. According to the verse, we do have a role to play. The Bible says, *"Forgetting those things which are behind"* (Philippians 3:13).

Why do people fail at reaching the prize of a sanctified life? They are not forgetting those things that were left behind.

When people learn that alcohol is poisonous

to the mind, specifically the thinking and decision making part of the mind, many cease to drink it ever again. But why do some return to the bottle? Because they recall how it made them appear to feel good – a buzz. They liked the environment associated with it, such as, going out Saturday night and drinking with their friends. Since giving it up, the friends may have also been sacrificed by this choice. But even if they are not, if the friends are no longer friends, they may be missed.

What of the old worldly music and even of the worldly Christian music? Many recall how life appeared to be easy going back then and like that the songs stir up such memories.

What of those that gave up being angry and forceful? They may recall the feeling of power and the “in charge” feeling from exercising it.

You name anything you used to do and ask yourself if you have returned to it or not. That could be a belief or a sin. Then ask why you returned to it. You will find out that it is because you have decided to remember the things that you left behind.

A second thing that is necessary is the opposite of the first thing. To gain the prize, one must always be “reaching forth unto those things which are before” (Philippians 3:13).

That is great that you decided to be a Christian, now reach for the things before (in front of). A Christian does things different than the world. They eat, dress, participate, and are involved in things that the world just does not understand.

You may have changed your diet in that you no longer eat unhealthy foods, including pork products and shell fish. Praise the Lord! Now press on and reach forth for those things that are before you to make you even healthier so as to be the best instrument in God’s hands.

We pause to address something important. Many of our articles deal with diet, and you may wonder why or wish that we not spend so much time on it. Well, that is not going to happen. You see, diet is the biggest battleground to have victory over. In fact, if you have victory over diet, all else should fall into place.

How do we know it is the most important issue? Adam and Even fell over appetite. Jesus’ first battle was over appetite. In a

time of crisis, Daniel’s first step in fighting back was appetite.

So, whatever you struggle with, first stop remembering how good it tasted, viewed, felt, listened to, or smelled. Secondly, continue pressing on to be a better life.

What Is The Result?

If one stops remembering the old ways and looks forward to the new, the result in the next verse is, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). It is the prize, in Jesus!

And Satan knows it. That is why sin seems so enjoyable. Face it, most, not all, but most foods provided for us are not as stimulating as the spiced up, high fat, and body destroying foods that Satan provides. Although some get enjoyment out of a good salad or a good bowl of fruit, overall Satan spices things up. For many, entertainment is much more interesting than listening to sermons. And go ahead and look up the word Entertainment. You will find by piecing the definitions together that it is the diverting of the mind into a form of captivity. Therefore, it is true – Jesus sets us free. Seek not to be entertained by a minister but “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33).

Also, Satan gives rewards here and now, and in this fast paced society, here and now is winning out. But remember, Satan’s gratification is only temporary, while if one waits for God’s reward of heaven, it is eternal.

What Else Does God Reveal?

According to Philippians 3:15, it says, “Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.” Another verse can easily explain this one. “For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart [is] not with thee” (Proverbs 23:7).

So if you struggle with sinning, the reality of this verse is that you are what you are doing. If you keep trying and failing at cutting out sweets, you may be thinking how good those sweets are and therefore you are really a sweets eater.

If you struggle with watching movies and find yourself wasting away hours in front

THINK ON THESE THINGS

(Philippians 4:8)

False Teachers (2 Peter 2:1)

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (2 Peter 2:1)

Continuing from the Cover Message section, the Bible is clear – there are false teachers amongst us. There are going to be heresies including one of denying the Lord, but that is not the only heresy. That would be too easy to spot.

Now being nearly two thousand years from the cross, do you think it is possible for Satan to have snuck in very subtle heresy thoughts, which appeared innocent at first, but have grown to full fledged heresy? Not only that, but could it be that the changes were so subtle that we do not know what those heresies are?

It is very possible because Jesus tells us that there would be false teachers and prophets in the last days leading right up to the second coming. He states it three times! (Matthew 24:4-5, 24:11, Matthew 24:23-24).

So what is the answer? “Try the spirits whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1). “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

If we do not make the Bible the standard for the testing, then what are we really building upon? It is not the Rock!

Debt Reduction Progress

Over our 10 year history, \$80,000 accumulated in ministry debt both from short periods of time of not being able to cover all of the expenses and the over 4 year period (Jan. 2004 - May 2007) when we personally could not sustain this ministry.

He had lost his employment due to religious conflict. Without that income we were not able to sustain this ministry and so the debt accumulated.

Now financial blessings are occurring in his employment, but in order to recover financially it requires him to work very long hours. Can you help eliminate this ministry debt faster?

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- 16,320 Readership
- 57,680 O'Donnell's
\$ 6,000 Current Balance

NOV. STATS:

\$ 8,888 Starting Balance
680 Readership
2,208 O'Donnell's
\$ 6,000 Current Balance

LET'S WIPE THIS LOAN OUT BY YEAR END!!!

We projected it would take five years to pay this off, but praise the Lord, it will only be less than three years with your help.

Thank you!

of the television or spending God's money on a movie while there are people needing to hear the gospel, it could be that you dwell upon knowing what the latest movie release happens to be, therefore you are really a movie and television buff even though you try to convince yourself that you do not want to be.

So if you really want to be perfect, be minded as previously described. Forget what the old television and movie life was like and the interest in Hollywood and look forward to being filled with spiritual messages on audio, video, at church, in Bible studies, etc. Forget the past and look to the future.

And if you say that you do not fall into the description of dwelling upon these things but you find yourself involved in such despite not wanting to be, then maybe you need to allow Jesus to reveal other things to you. Maybe it is the conversations around you that you need to excuse yourself from. Maybe it is the other sources of content coming into the home in the form of magazines with advertisements.

What Other Counsel Is Given?

In the context of our paragraph, the last verse says, *"Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing"* (Philippians 3:16).

The use of "us" is that we should all be supportive of one another. Now when we say supportive, we are referring to those that are willing to press on. Being understanding of those that want to stay in their old life is not what we are referring to. And too many times we cater to such, making them feel comfortable. Remember, everyone needs God's Spirit to be saved. And if you truly have His Spirit, *"he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment"* (John 16:8).

Now notice what we and us are to do. We are to live by the same rule and think the same thing. Whoever came up with the poisonous concept that sin is not sin to someone unless they are convicted of it is utter nonsense *"for it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known [it], to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them"* (2 Peter 2:21). So when you become aware of the truth, it applies to you as well as all others exposed to the truth.

We all have the same rule. We are all to

think the same thing. So the conflicting beliefs that some feel it is all right to listen to worldly music while others declare that such is of Satan ought to be understood as to what the truth happens to be. One thought only. *"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"* (1 Corinthians 14:8)

Now of course we are not addressing non-salvation items. What color Jesus' sandals were is not important.

There is only one allowance to not live up to the same rule or have the same mind. *"If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider [it]? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth [not] he know [it]? and shall [not] he render to [every] man according to his works?"* (Proverbs 24:12) You cannot be held responsible for something you did not know.

What Is The Prize?

According to the paragraph we are studying, it is *"the high calling of God"* (Philippians 3:14). We have now come full circle. As we began this article we end it because that was actually our focus. Between the introduction and the conclusion is just the background information that many lack and would not understand the main concept if directly approached.

How are we doing with our high calling? Compromise is not a high calling. Compromise is Satan winning step-by-step. Therefore, in an encouraging way, *"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong"* (1 Corinthians 16:13). *"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand"* (Ephesians 6:13). Do not give ground. Clearly, compromise is not allowed.

We want to prepare people to stand and be strong. We must come to the point that we want to be part of those who would rather die because *"they loved not their lives unto the death"* (Revelation 12:11) than perform a wrong act and to *"give diligence to make your calling and election sure"* (2 Pet 1:10).

Said another way, *"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."* (Hebrews 11:25-26)

Will you stand and stand up?

DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.



What Can Happen Quickly?

1. What can people turn away from quickly? **Exodus 32:8**
2. What shall quickly happen to those that serve other gods? **Joshua 23:16**
3. What were the women at the tomb to do quickly? **Matthew 28:7**
4. What should those who are servants of God, do quickly? **Luke 14:21**
5. Where did Mary go quickly and we ought to as well? **John 11:29-30**
6. What happened quickly to Peter when in prison? **Acts 12:7**
7. What was Paul to do quickly? **Acts 22:18**
8. What ought we do to avoid the vengeance of God? **Revelation 2:16**
9. What is Jesus going to do quickly? **Revelation 22:20**

ANSWERS TO LAST STUDY:

The Great Temptations (Deuteronomy 29:3)

1. What ought we to do to be protected from temptation? **Matthew 6:13** "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." [Pray]
2. In addition to prayer, what else ought we to do? **Matthew 26:41** "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak."
3. What can happen to a Christian who is not rooted in Jesus? **Luke 8:13** "They on the rock [are they], which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away."
4. What are we doing when we suffer temptations? **Acts 20:19** "Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews."
5. During a temptation, what ought we look for? **1 Corinthians 10:13** "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]." [God's plan of escape for us is not always desirable. It is the solution to not give in. Even if it costs us our earthly life.]
6. What are we to consider temptation as? **James 1:2** "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations."
7. What are we if we endure temptation? **James 1:12** "Blessed [is] the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."
8. Who is not responsible for our temptation? **James 1:13** "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man." [God.]
9. What is the root of temptation? **James 1:14** "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."
10. If we keep God's Word, what shall God do for us? **Revelation 3:10** "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."

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**WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT?
AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?**

(Isaiah 53:1)



▶▶The Washington Times, November 15, 2009 - Preschoolers pacified with TV programming

What do American kids ages 2 to 5 do an average of 32 hours a week? It's watching TV, according to a new report released by Nielsen, the ratings company.

COMMENT: Proverbs 22:6 *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* Who is training the child? If a child spends more time in front of the TV than with a parent, the TV is the trainer, which promotes everything that is actually against God's way. Now do not take this as a warning to keep a balance between TV and parenting. In all actuality, a parent should have no co-trainer. Giving a child an hour a day of TV is still allowing Hollywood to teach that children, not as much, but enough to undo a lot of the parent's work.

▶▶The Age, November 9, 2009 - Girl, 12, gives birth to boy

In Australia, a 12-YEAR-OLD girl from central western NSW who became pregnant to her 15-year-old live-in boyfriend has given birth to a boy. In June it was reported that the girl, from Dubbo, was pregnant and was 11 years old when she conceived. In an interview to be published in Woman's Day today the girl's father is quoted as saying he did not think his daughter, now 12, was up to the task of being a mother.

COMMENT: From the context of the story, it appears mom and dad do not live together. Further, it looks like mom is a bit too allowing to have the boyfriend live with the young daughter. Though it appears in the article that the two lived together under mom's roof prior to pregnancy, it is not certain exactly when. But even so, the assumption should be addressed. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 says, *"For this is the will of God, [even] your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication."* Yet, the Bible is too old fashion they say. Well, people who ignore the principles of the Bible create too many problems. Another good statement would be, what was the mother thinking if it be the case of living together at a young age prior to the

inception? And this is why parents living together or carelessly joining together in marriage and then divorcing is not an acceptable lifestyle. A single mom cannot guard a daughter like this all day and every day. The pregnancy easily could have happened under a latchkey situation. No matter how one looks at it, society needs the Bible more and more as it constantly rejects it more and more.

▶▶KLTV, November 6, 2009 - Polk County teacher suing state over fingerprinting

A Polk County teacher is suing the state for requiring her to be fingerprinted for a background check, saying it violates her religious freedom. According to her attorney, Scott Skelton, of Lufkin, Pam McLaurin believes the book of Revelation literally and that getting a fingerprint would bear her the mark of the beast and she would be "be tormented in burning sulfur."

COMMENT: Her first mistake is missing Revelation 1:1 *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified [it] by his angel unto his servant John"*. The word is SIGNIFIED, which means that Revelation is not literal, which means the Mark of the Beast is not a physical object, although you must have it to buy and sell. We know it sounds contradictory, but knowing who the Antichrist is and what has been declared to be the Mark of the Antichrist in the Antichrist's own words, one is able to know that fingerprints are not it. Further, if one takes it literally, the next mistake is that fingerprints require both hands. Actually, it is only the fingers. Some checks require all ten while others use two fingers from each hand. Nonetheless, spiritual or physical, she is incorrect. However, with that said, the government ought not to be forcing her to break her religious belief or be fired. All of us should not condemn her position, though she is wrong, and let the government get away with it. Today, it is her and her beliefs the government is coming after. When will it be our turn? We ought to believe in freedom of choice for everyone, not just what we believe to be true. We encourage much prayer and support for her.



ART THOU IN HEALTH (2 Samuel 20:9)

In All Things Shewing Thyself A Pattern Of Good Works (Titus 2:7)

For about two years we shared various health principles that God wants us to practice and is incorporated in that one commandment, *"Thou shalt not kill"* (Exodus 20:13). But one can only repeat certain principles for so long. So this is

the summary of what the Bible provides to us so as to be in good health *"And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things"* (1 Corinthians 9:25). And if one truly has the Holy Spirit, then they will be in "temperance" (Galatians 5:23). This includes being balanced. It also includes abstaining from al-

cohol, tobacco, caffeine, drugs, and not being a glutton or the many other intemperate actions.

“For he spake in a certain place of the seventh [day] on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works” (Hebrews 4:4). *“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God”* (Hebrews 4:9). If you are working all kinds of hours and not getting a full rest day from the world, one is just asking for problems. If all practiced this principle, we would see less divorce, less children running wild, less heart attacks, less road rage, less of all kinds of problems related to the lack of sleep. This does not only cover a rest day, but one ought to get the optimum amount of rest each night.

“There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink” (John 4:7). Proper amount of water inside and outside is very important. Though you cannot see the dirt nor do you even smell the stench, a body washing a day is highly recommended if not twice a day. And no, all liquids are not the same. Water is what flushes the system. Make sure you consume pure water and not just liquids.

“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it” (Genesis 2:15). If we were meant to lie around, God would not have put them to work right away. Physical exercise is very important.

“And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which [is] upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which [is] the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat” (Gen. 1:29). A properly balanced diet consisting more of the fruits, nuts, grains, and vegetables is very important in keeping the organs and blood in good condition.

“And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Gen. 2:7). What we breathe is also important. Make sure exposure to fresh air is on a frequent basis. Get out in the country away from city smog and experience the crisp, fresh air.

“He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good” (Matthew 5:45). Everyone needs sunlight. Make sure you get some each day.

“Trust in the LORD, and do good; [so] shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed” (Psalms 37:3). Although we may follow all the principles above, we are still living on a planet that is dying. We still need to trust in God. And if we do not live according to the principles above because scientists and doctors prove otherwise or you were brought up differently or you see examples of people living to a hundred breaking these principles, we need to trust in God. His ways are the right ways – period.

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FOR MY THOUGHTS [ARE] NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER [ARE] YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, SAITH THE LORD. (Isaiah 55:8)

Which came first, beasts or man?

Genesis 1:25-26 *And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

Genesis 2:18-19 *And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought [them] unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that [was] the name thereof.*

First, it is assumed that every use of “and” is a chronological sequence of events. That is not true in all cases. It can refer to the fact that all these things happened in close proximity of each other, and like a child who is anxious to tell about it, the events are simply told with lots of “ands”.

Keep in mind that Moses wrote both sets of verses. So it is not like comparing different writers. The fact that Moses placed the items in a different order attests to the fact that one of them is just a collection of thoughts. Genesis 1 is mostly sequential, especially when the fowl were created on the fifth day.

The second possibility is to keep in mind that our English rules today are far different than when originally translated and even first recorded. It is the use of modern rules applied to old style writing that is actually the contradiction.

Here is a possible intent for Gen. 2:18-19:

And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will appoint him an help meet for him. So God, who had out of the ground formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air prior, brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

According to the Hebrew word shown as “make”, the meaning allows the use of “appoint” in addition to “bring about”, “to

acquire”, “ordain”, and “institute”. So it is possible that we have the wrong word.

And then there is the third possibility. God knowing the future could actually predict that after showing all the animals to Adam, that God had created the past two days, He would end up making Eve anyways. So do not get caught up in the use of “make” being applied to the creatures that He already made.

And that is exactly what is revealed in the context. Genesis 2:20 *“And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.”* According to this verse, Adam was simply looking at the existing creatures for a helpmeet.

Then God, in the subsequent verses, makes Adam the helpmeet that He said He would make. In other words, if one of those creatures were suitable, then God would not be correct in saying He would make a helpmeet, but He did end up making Eve keeping His Word but people are distracted by the parade of already created creatures.

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ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH

(Daniel 10:21)



QUESTION: Does God forsake people?

ANSWER: Many quickly say, "No!" But what if this person asked the question, "Does God let us to our own choices to experience the consequences?" "Does God pass over people to be used of Him if they choose not to want to be used?" Then the obvious answer is, "Yes!" Then you just admitted that God forsakes.

Read quickly, Deuteronomy 4:30-31 may give the impression that God does not. *"When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, [even] in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God [is] a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them."* But read slowly, God places conditions on His promises. If one is obedient, He will not forsake them is the short version.

How do we know? Isaiah tells us that we cannot just pull a verse out and use human understanding, but rather we are to take *"precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and]*

there a little" (Isaiah 28:10).

According to Deuteronomy 31:16-17, we get a different picture than what most are used to. *"And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go [to be] among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them. Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God [is] not among us?"*

It is clear that God forsakes people when they go away from Him. The good news as declared in the earlier verses, *"For thou, Lord, [art] good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee"* (Psalms 86:5).

But even David knew that God forsakes when we choose to sin and if left unconfessed, we would die in our sin. *"Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me"* (Psalms 38:21).

And if there be any that understood the relationship of sin and being forsaken, it is Jesus. *"And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* (Mark 15:34)

The answer to Jesus' question is *"For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"* (2 Cor 5:21).

Basically, *"if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"* (1 John 2:1), however, *"if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins"* (Hebrews 10:26). The latter is having a lifestyle of sin, including the sin, confess, sin, confess, sin, confess, etc. over the same sin, day after day, month after month, year after year, and never overcoming. Something else must be wrong, including possibly setting up a type of different god.

So yes, God forsakes practicing sinners or allows them to taste the result of continuing therein but is always ready to save them that call upon Him (surrender all).
