

PLEASING GOD BY DOING RIGHT

By: Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Cor. 10:31.

I will be eternally thankful for my college training at Bob Jones University. In those days the leadership was very strong, and Dr. Bob Jones was my evangelist hero. His great sayings like "It is never right to do wrong in order to do right," or "Do right till the stars fall," have stuck always in the foreground of my mind. I learned that right decisions are crucial to one's life for God. The title of this sermon pictures what is crucial for every believer to do. Examine now some of the things that must be right if you are going to please God. Obey the Bible rules of God, and you will be known as one who does right. **(1). Be Absolutely Sure You Are Saved:** I mention this often but it is so true. *"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* John 3:3. Jesus' words to Nicodemus, were very clear. Since all men are born sinners they cannot make right decisions until they have been born again. You will never do right until you choose Christ as your Saviour, and give Him full charge of your life. He alone knows the events and the details of your life, even before they happen. With His leadership you can learn to direct your life, engaging it in right decisions. Without allowing Jesus to fill your life, your decisions are mostly going to be based on self, and the desires of your heart of flesh. Pause, think, and be sure you are truly saved, and willing to let Christ control the decisions of your life. Without knowing Him you cannot serve God acceptably and cannot know His will. **(2). Don't Trust Your Own Understanding:** *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own*

understanding." Prov. 3:5. *"He that trusteth his own heart is a fool; but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered."* Prov. 28:26. *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"* Jer. 17:9. If you follow your own understanding you will make the wrong decision every time. That is what the verse just said. Our fallen hearts do not have the ability to decide rightfully. Only through the Bible can we know God's mind (I Cor. 2:16), and learn God's will (Psm. 119:105.) You must learn through faithful reading of God's Word, right things, and those that are prohibited. Attend a good Gospel preaching church regularly, with open ears and pen in hand to understand and record God's truth. Take every opportunity to grow, and to learn the do's and don'ts of Christ honoring decisions. Remember if you please God you will know you are doing right. **(3). With Much Prayer Trust In God's Guidance:** *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not to thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* Prov. 3:5&6. Only the Lord has wisdom and guidance for the many things that face a believer today. We must seek His leadership and not presume upon it. We must acknowledge Him in all our ways. He will keep our feet on the right path and work all things out in His will for our good. His leadership does not come automatically, but through His Word and prayer, as we earnestly seek His will. One of the many marvels of this life is that the Creator of the universe cares greatly what we do. He seeks to shield us from error, and lead us in the right. Our commander-in-chief observes the battle, and knows best where to put His troops. Constantly seeking to please Him will put you in range of His daily direction, and you won't make mistakes. **(4). Confess Your Sins And Lean Upon His Wisdom:** He is the light that will guide every step we take as we place ourselves in the glow

of His direction. " *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son, cleanseth us from all sin.*" I John 1:5-7. When you choose to walk in the things of darkness you will walk in sin. If you are a young person and disobedient or sassy to your parents, stubborn or critical or bitter toward authority, gossiping, lying, stealing, loving worldly things, your prayers won't do much, and your wisdom to make good decisions will be gone. If you make decisions in a backslidden state it is a recipe for disaster, and failure. Some young people arrange a marriage, accept a job, or a field of education that brings them great regret. They leave home and deeply mess up their lives in the desire to do their thing. When will we ever learn that true happiness comes from letting God do His own thing with us. Be sure to walk in the light and you will not stumble in the darkness. **(5) Live By Faith And Never Make A Decision That Causes You To Disobey The Bible:** "*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*" Heb. 11:6. By faith, you must learn to obey God's will. In fact that is the proof of your relationship to God. Now hear this! Any decision that causes you to disobey plain Bible instruction is causing you to break from God's will. God expects you to exercise faith and listen to Him. "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" Rom. 10:17. Living by faith is simply to believe, and obey the Word of God. Learn to make decisions based on the Bible, rather than your feelings, human thinking, and the opinions of self, or others. God warns you not to enter into fellowship with evil or idolatry.

(1). Look up and study (I Cor. 15:33; Rom. 12:2; II Cor. 6:14-18; and Eph. 5:11). You are required not to associate with all kinds of evil. Don't look at it, or listen to it, or participate in it. Worldly parties, attending a pagan school, or a job in a wicked place which tempts you to commit evil are bad decisions. You must be careful about the atmosphere you put yourself in daily. Put yourself faithfully in the atmosphere of a good Gospel church. This will build your faith, and warn of evil. Any decision that causes you to skip your church services is instantly suspect. A job that keeps you out of church is a tragic choice, no matter how much your need for work. If you live by faith, you will never take a job that causes you to disobey the Word of God. (2). The Bible further teaches us to honor church leaders. (I Tim. 5:1 & 17; I Thess 5:12-13). Many leave good churches and lose out spiritually because of church fights. Anything that causes you to do less than your best, is wrong without a doubt. Never get bitter at a church leader and refuse to repent. (3). The Bible forbids marriage to a sinner. (II Cor. 6:14). No reason allows you to disobey the Word, and marry an unsaved person. No amount of argument will make it right. Darkness and light cannot exist together. Your whole happy lifetime depends on your finding God's choice partner for you. Perhaps I have room and time for one more warning. (4). Never associate with those who believe and teach false doctrine. (Rom. 16:17; II John 10-11). It is never God's will for you to attend a church where false doctrine is taught, false teachers are allowed or even to develop a close relationship with one who holds to false doctrine. In closing, remember you cannot disobey the Bible, and expect God's blessing on your life. Don't make your own plans, and then ask God to bless them. Make certain that your plans are in accordance with God's will. Then the decisions you make will be Biblical, and honoring to God. God always knows what is best for all of us.