

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

By Pastor Steve 1/7/2018

Few will debate the fact that change is inevitable. Even things that are left alone will eventually deteriorate with the passing of time.*



Left to chance, things seldom improve. Resting on our laurels rarely reaches goals. Leaning on Lady Luck leaves a long trail of losers.



So, why do so many choose “a hands-off approach” when it comes to their own lives – especially when it is almost always a recipe for disaster? Wouldn’t it make more sense to take what control we can and try to “steer ourselves” in the right direction?

Now admittedly, there are some things that are beyond our control. There can be a lot of stuff along the path that we didn’t bargain for or could not have avoided. Yet, using this as an excuse to “aimlessly cruise along” is not only irresponsible, it can be downright self-destructive.

As members of God’s kingdom, we especially should recognize some key principles and think seriously about how to apply them in this new year. After all, of all people we ought to know that our lives “have purpose” and are to be lived “on purpose.”

As the Scripture reminds us:

I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. (Jesus in John 15:16)

For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:10)

So, each day of this new year we need to...

Choose whom we will serve.¹ This is huge. It gives us our bearings and helps us set our course. Serving self will almost always have us heading in a different direction than serving God will.

Determine to follow Christ.² The path we’re to take is clearer than we may think. Christians made the commitment to follow Jesus the rest of their lives, but it’s still a daily decision. We can look at what He did for indicators of what we’re to do now. (WWJD?)

Keep on course, led by the Spirit.³ Praying for insight and guidance is key to keeping on course. There will be forks in the road and obstacles in our path, but with God’s help we can maneuver through them all.

So, as we move forward in **2018**, let’s “take some personal responsibility” for this journey. That doesn’t mean we set aside the grace of God, but that we fully embrace it, pressing forward toward our goal.⁴

References:

*The 1st law of thermodynamics or the principle of entropy.

¹ “Choose this day whom you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15)

² “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23) / “To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.” (1st Peter 2:21)

³ “Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14) / “Since we live by the Spirit, keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25)

⁴ “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me... Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-14)