



What Do We Believe?

Lesson 36

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 36: Christian Behavior: Doing Right, Being in God's Will

Scriptures:

Proverbs 28:5; Habakkuk 2:4b; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:6, 7:21, 18:14, 22:35-40, 25:31-46; Mark 3:35; Romans 1:17; 5:19; 12; Ephesians 5

Lesson Goals:

To help the learner understand that we must do the right thing
To help the learner understand that faith has a part in good behavior
To help the learner understand that good behavior isn't the only thing it takes to be in God's will.

Scripture Memory:

I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart. Psalm 40:8

The Lesson:

Lisa asked, "What is the right thing?" Heather said, "Well, have you prayed about it?" Lisa: "Why should I pray about it, I know that it's wrong?" Heather: "If you know that it is wrong, why are you asking if it is the right thing?" Lisa: "I just wanted a second opinion." Heather: "Well, getting someone else to say that it's right, won't make it right! ...especially if God says it is wrong." Lisa: "I know. I just want to do it so badly...I just need someone to make me feel better about it." Heather, "Just remember, even if everyone you know says it is okay, if it is not all right with God, then it is a sin."

Lisa was struggling with what all of us face regularly. We want to do the right thing, but some things tempt us almost beyond resistance. We don't know what Lisa wanted to do, but we do know that it was not the right thing. There is a word that is used often in English translations of the Bible. It is the word "righteous." The original word, used in the Hebrew Bible, described someone who had been declared innocent, like in a court. All the evidence was submitted, and the judge ruled that the person was innocent of all charges. The word righteous also has to do with things being correct, or exact. The last meaning is more the way we use that word righteous these days. It applies to a person who wants to live correctly, who does good, and who makes a commitment before God to live like Jesus. It is not like the person is in court defending themselves, they are just living right...doing the right things...without the threat of judgment. They do the right thing because they want to do it.

So, Christian behavior is about doing the right things all the time. The kings in the Old Testament were expected to be righteous. King David was said to be "faithful to (God) and righteous and upright in heart." (I Kings 3:6) The king's responsibility was to "maintain justice and righteousness." (I Kings 10:9)

Jesus said that righteous people feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, provide a place for the homeless, give clothes to those who have no clothing, take care of the sick, visit those in prison, and live as good citizens, among other things. It is obvious that He didn't think those were the only good things that we could do, but He wanted us to know that helping other people was at the top of His priorities.

The Scripture word for becoming a better Christian is "sanctification." It means growing to be like Jesus. The great thing about this is that we don't have to do it alone. God's Holy Spirit, living in us from the moment we accept Christ as our Savior, helps us grow. The Bible says in I Peter 3:12, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer..."

In preaching what is now called "The Sermon on the Mount," Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness..." He was saying that Christians who really want to do the right things will be blessed and happy. If you do wrong things you are guilty. You hurt yourself, and most of the time,

you hurt others. When we do wrong things, we always hurt God. So, if we do the wrong things, we may get what we want, we may feel better for a little while, we may have a good time temporarily, but those things won't make us happy for long. Only doing good things, the things that God wants us to do, will make us truly happy. We call that being in God's will. So, today, have faith to ask God to guide you by His Word, meet you in prayer, and be honored by your worship. Ask Him to strengthen you through His Holy Spirit as you depend on Him to be your partner in righteous living.

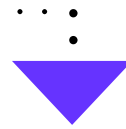
Life Application:

Did you know that righteous living apart from God is impossible? Why is that? Do you remember the meaning of the original word for righteous used in the Hebrew Bible? It described someone who had been declared innocent, like in a court. All the evidence was submitted, and the judge ruled that the person was innocent of all charges. And do you remember our lesson about Jesus Christ as our Judge and Advocate? Jesus pleads our case for us; not only that, He paid the price for our sin. It was His sacrifice on the cross that declared us innocent. His death on the cross made the way for you to be right with God. Will you come to Him believing and trusting that you, too, can be declared innocent of the wrong things you have done? He's ready to rule in your favor!

What else does the word righteous mean? It also has to do with things being correct, or exact. It applies to a person who wants to live correctly, who does good, and who makes a commitment before God to live like Jesus. Is that you? Maybe you have been declared innocent, righteous, before God because you have chosen to give your life to Him, letting Him be in control. How are you living now? Are you choosing to do the right thing, even when what you really want is to do the wrong thing? God can help you. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 10, verse 13 that, "No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; He'll never let you be pushed past your limit; He'll always be there to help you come through it." (MSG) Trust God to show you the way out and then take it, choosing to obey Him.



Planning for Lesson 37
Christian Family:
Established by God



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Encourage your students to bow their heads in prayer. Prayerfully read the memory verse, phrase by phrase, as your students repeat you in prayer. Do this several times, pausing for thought and then close in prayer for strength to be obedient and do what is right.
- ◆ Bring Dictionaries and Concordances to Bible Study. Look up the word “sanctification.” Discuss your findings and use the word sanctification to make an acronym.
- ◆ Read through the supplemental Scriptures. Make a list of the things we, as believers, are expected to do.
- ◆ Sing “Micah 6:8,” “Trust and Obey,” “Love Lifted Me,” “Rescue the Perishing,” “The Lord Has a Will,” “Just A Closer Walk,” “Search Me, O God,” and “Higher Ground.”
- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** Read Matthew 5:6. Talk about hunger and thirst. What are their characteristics? Conclude your discussion by reading Psalm 42:1.
- ◆ **Dig Deeper Still:** Read Matthew 7:21-29. Discuss what it really means to follow Christ.



**I desire to do your will,
O my God;
your law
is within my heart.**

Psalm 40:8

Use the word sanctification to make an acronym.

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Word Search



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 O D O O G O W A L S T S I R E C G
 R T S N O I O S E R G S A C R T I
 D D H R O I V A H E B D O O G D R
 O N G E O P P R E S S N D C O R P
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 U D F S A L K C L U F H T I A F A
 S O I Q A M A L B N E S S R I D T

righteous

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God's will

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exact

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Word Search



S S E N S U O E T Q C O R R E C T
 W K S A N C T I F I C A T I O N H
 O D O O G O W A L S T S I R E C G
 R T S N O I O S E R G S A C R T I
 D D H R O I V A H E B D O O G D R
 O N G E O P P R E S S N D C O R P
 F E N T O Q O D C E N I L H D O U
 T G N I H T T H G I R B M O S W T
 R S G E O I T U D H L A N U W S L
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 U D F S A L K C L U F H T I A F A
 S O I Q A M A L B N E S S R I D T

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