

Taking Responsibility

- I. Introduction:
 - a. (**Ezek 18:20-21**) “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the **righteousness** of the **righteous** shall be upon him, and the **wickedness** of the **wicked** shall be upon him. But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.”
 - b. Ezekiel portrays the concept of responsibility
 - i. Man is responsible for their actions
 - c. Travel at your own risk – warns the traveler of his responsibility
 - i. Journey of life – we travel at our own risk
 - ii. I am the responsible party – not others, not circumstances.
 - iii. I have my own life to live, and I am the one accountable for the way I direct it, for my mistakes and failures.
 - d. Life’s road has its flashing lights of green, amber and red. There are crossroads, and here and there a ‘Y’, sharp curves, dead ends, rocks and holes, dust and mud, but I am still responsible for my pilgrimage.]
 - e. Proper attitudes:
 - i. I am the master of my fate;
 - ii. I am the captain of my soul.
- II. You are responsible for your life and destiny
 - a. You are accountable for your actions
 - i. (**Gal 6:5**) “For every man shall bear his own burden.” (**vs. 7**) “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”
 - b. Don’t play asleep
 - i. Illustration:
 - 1. A storm blew up in the middle of the night; and the windows were up in the house where several were staying. A wife punched her husband and said, “Don’t you think you should put the windows down?” He whispered, “If we lie still and play asleep, maybe somebody else will.”
 - a. You can either play asleep, or be responsible in life
 - ii. (**Ephesians 5:14**) “Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead.”
 - iii. “Let someone else do it!”
 - 1. Philosophy of irresponsible people
 - 2. (**Isa 6:8**) “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, **Here am I; send me.**”
- III. Attempting to shift responsibility!
 - a. Some attempting to shift responsibility
 - i. Adam and Eve

1. (**Gen 3:11-13**) “And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.”
2. Couldn't shift responsibility – they were yet punished for what they did
 - a. (**Gen 3:16-17**) “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;”

ii. Saul

1. (**1 Sam 15:20-23**) “And Saul said unto Samuel, **Yea**, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and have gone the way which the Lord sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. **But** the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in Gilgal. And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, **he hath also rejected thee from being king.**”

b. May try to shift but we can not escape our responsibility

IV. Some Examples of our Responsibilities

a. Responsible for our livelihood

- i. (**1 Tim 5:8**) “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

1. If not providing – denied the faith

ii. The Faith commands us to provide – if not do then denied

1. (**Luke 11:11-13**) “If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil,

know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

- a. Those that are not religious (evil – not righteous) will provide – someone that doesn't provide is worse than an infidel
- iii. **(2 Thess 3:10-12)** "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any **would not work**, neither should he **eat**. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread."
- iv. An able bodied person ought not expect handouts
 1. **(Eph 4:28)** "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."
 2. Work so that you can help those that are truly in need
- b. Responsible for the way we handle the Bible
 - i. **(Deut 4:2)** "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."
 1. Can't add or diminish from the word of God – Changes it into perversion
 2. **(Gal 1:6-8)** "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is **not** another; but there be some that trouble you, and would **pervert** the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."
 - ii. **(Rev 22:18-19)** "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."
- c. Responsible for our Words and Deeds
 - i. **(Col 3:17)** "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."
 1. All things are to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus
 - a. By his Authority
 - b. Know his Authority by the word of God

- ii. **(Rom 15:18)** “For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles **obedient, by word and deed,**”
- iii. We are responsible for our actions
 - 1. **(Gal 6:8-10)** “For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”
- d. Responsible for our salvation
 - i. **(Acts 2:40)** “...Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”
 - 1. It is your responsibility to come to God
 - ii. I thought salvation was a gift from God?
 - 1. It is!
 - 2. **(Eph 2:8-10)** “For by **grace** are ye saved through **faith**; and that **not of yourselves**: it is the **gift of God**: Not of **works**, lest any man should boast. For we are his **workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
 - a. Saved by grace through faith
 - iii. What is grace?
 - 1. “Unmerited divine assistance given humans for their regeneration or sanctification” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary
 - iv. How are we saved by grace through faith?
 - 1. The same way Noah was.
 - a. **(Heb 11:7)** “By **faith** Noah, being **warned of God** of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, **prepared an ark to the saving of his house**; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”
 - b. Warned of God – God’s Grace
 - c. Noah listened and Trusted in God’s plan – Prepared an ark to the saving of his house
 - 2. Christian is saved in this same way
 - a. God has given his grace – sent his Son – gave his plan of Salvation – gave his commandments
 - b. **(Acts 16:30-33)** “And brought them out, and said, **Sirs, what must I do to be saved?** And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved**, and thy house. And they **spake** unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the

night, and **washed their stripes**; and was **baptized**, he and all his, straightway.”

- c. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ
 - d. What did Christ say that we needed to believe?
 - i. (**John 8:23-24**) “And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
 - 1. Must believe that he is the Christ – died for our sins
 - ii. (**Luke 13:3**) “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
 - 1. Christ taught us we must repent – Change our ways
 - iii. (**Matt 10:32-33**) “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”
 - 1. Christ taught us we must confess him before men
 - iv. (**Mark 16:16**) “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
 - 1. Christ taught us that we must be baptized to receive salvation.
 - 3. We are saved by his grace through faith in what he taught us.
 - a. Noah – build an ark according to the specifications that God gave
 - b. Christian – Believe, repent, confess, be baptized.
 - v. Salvation is the Gift of God – He made the way – Will you be responsible enough to obey him?
- V. Take Responsibility
- a. Conclusion:
 - i. Can’t pass the buck when it comes to responsibility
 - ii. Responsible for the Physical and Spiritual aspects of Life
 - 1. Physical
 - a. Livelihood
 - 2. Spiritual
 - a. Your words and deeds
 - b. The way you handle the Bible
 - c. For your own soul

iii. In your souls salvation

1. You have sinned
 - a. (**Rom 3:23**) “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
2. You have died
 - a. (**1 Tim 5:6**) “But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.”
3. You must be born again
 - a. (**John 3:5**) “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
4. Live faithful until death
 - a. (**Rev 2:10**) “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”