Good or Best?

Greg Kline · Romans 14:1–23

INTRODUCTION

- Sometimes we have to go from good to best.
- It's good to say, I want to read the Bible. I want to be in the Word of God. But it's best to have an action plan.
- There's a real temptation for a Christian, for a non-Christian to say, I know what God says and I do good things.

1 We Answer to God for Our Own Choices

Romans 14:1–12; Luke 9:23

- The first four verses teach us there are matters of liberty or freedoms, or we might be familiar with the phrase choices that Christians can make.
- Paul says it starts by realizing we answer to God for our own choices.
- Each must be fully convinced in his own mind, we are to be what is best, not just good or good enough.
- Jesus says in Luke 9 23, the starting point of that line is to deny self, to take up our cross and follow after him.

2 Good: Do Good, Put God First, Know What Is Right

Galatians 6:10; Matthew 6:25–33; 1 Peter 3:15–17

- So then as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially those of the household of faith.
- Paul says we are to do good to everyone as we have opportunity. And that means opening our eyes and seeking out in some cases this opportunity.
- Verse 33, seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, that all these things shall be added to you.
- Which of you by being anxious can even add a single hour to a span of life?
- Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

3 Best: Proactive Concern and Care for Others

Romans 14:13; Romans 14:19

- It's good to do good things for people. It's best to have a heart that truly cares. If we have the heart, the actions will follow.
- Proactively make the decision, the choice, the heart change to never be a stumbling block.
- Pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

- Jesus cared about people, and not just because he knew he was supposed to, but because he had love and concern for their needs, even at the direct expense of his own.

4 God Needs to Be First and Only

Romans 14:20–23; 2 Timothy 2:22; Luke 9:23

- If you are thinking that something is sinful, verse 23 teaches you, avoid it.
- 2 Timothy 2 22 doesn't just say we should not do some things. It says, flee youthful lust. Run the opposite direction.
- To be a Christian doesn't just mean putting God first. It means recognizing God is the only thing that matters.
- It's not going to be just put in God first. It's going to be saying nothing else can possibly stand in the way of me serving God.
- God will never want my selfishness. He wants my self-denial. He wants my whole and devoted self.

5 Not Only Know What Is Right but Do It

Romans 14:7–12; Matthew 7:24–27

- We need to not only know what is right, we have to be willing to simply do what is right.
- For if we live, we live to the Lord. And if we die, we die to the Lord. This is everything.
- Knowing what is right, being prepared to teach others about the holiness of God and the need for the salvation of Jesus Christ is pivotal and critical in and of itself. But doing what is right is everything.
- The one who built his foundation on the rock, he was the one who heard the words of Jesus and did them.
- Both heard. Both seemingly understood. But only one changed.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **Will you allow yourself to be changed this morning, this evening, this year, if God blesses you with it?**

MY NOTES