

Doing Right in Our Own Eyes

Obama's SOTU – "My only agenda for the next two years is the same as the one I've had since the day I swore an oath on the steps of this Capitol: to do what I believe is best for America." Even if you believe that, his agenda doesn't agree with his oath, which was "to defend and uphold the Constitution".

Many on the Supreme Court say the Constitution is a "living document". i.e., it doesn't mean what it says, but what they in their "enlightened understandings" think it should have said.

Many religious people see the Bible the same way – it is out-of-date; it can't be taken for what it clearly says; it must take second place to our "enlightened understanding" in the light of modern society and "PC". This is why we have so many "translations" – they want to change the Word itself to agree with their agenda. A paraphrased Bible is just commentary masquerading as Scripture.

The time between Joshua and Samuel was a continuous cycle of sin, foreign oppression, crying out to God, and deliverance under the hand of a judge. Jdg. 21:25 – "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

What happens when we "do what we think is right"?

- Adam and Eve – "saw that the tree was good ..."
- Cain's sacrifice
- Abraham and Sarah having Ishmael
- Aaron and the golden calf
- Nadab and Abihu and their "strange fire" – Lev. 10:1-2
- Saul making a sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel – 1 Sam. 13:7-14
- Saul saving the Amalekites – 1 Sam. 15:17-23
- Uzzah steadying the ark – 2 Sam. 6:6-8

All these examples were supportable by "good intentions" but were harshly judged.

Some think they "don't need to be saved" because they "believe in God" and "try to be good". When pressed, they say this means that they do what they think is right in their heart.

Prov. 28:26 – He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool"

Jer. 17:9 – The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Sometimes a child will do something **they** want to do to please you, but in the process do not do what **you** told them to do. Or they excuse an offense, saying, "But I didn't mean to hurt her". We want to be judged, not for our obedience or actual results, but for our intentions. God sees much deeper though, and sees what is really motivating us.

We obviously should not do what is wrong in our own understanding (that would be sin), but why is it wrong to be guided by what we think is right? It is not a question of what we think is right, but what we think is right. We are making ourselves the standard.

Our own minds and hearts are unreliable, fallible, inconsistent, even deceitful. We can even fool ourselves into thinking we are acting nobly, responsibly, and righteously, when we are actually trophies of self-will. e.g., Pharisees and Sadducees

God put into each of us a conscience, and we are responsible to it. But all it does is prompt us to “do right”, it doesn’t tell us what is right. We need to be enlightened by the Word. Where does our understanding of right come from? God, or merely our human and finite understanding?

The unbeliever is spiritually dead, and his understanding is darkened by sin. Even as believers, we need to have our minds continually renewed and cleansed (Rom. 12:2).

When we “do what is right in our own eyes”, it is self-will. It is setting ourselves above God. Mk. 7:5-13 (“Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own traditions.”)

Conclusion: We deceive ourselves to do merely what WE think is right. We must do what GOD says is right, and the only way to do that is to read, study, meditate on, and obey His Word, and to truly make Him LORD in our lives.