



F.Y.C.

For Your Consideration

BE THANKFUL



“... not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”

Luke 12:15

What counts in life is not possessions, but relationships. Family and friends with whom we share life experiences. Fellow Christians with whom we share a common faith. Our Lord Jesus Christ with whom we share a spiritual bond.

Be thankful for what really counts!

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

Hebrews 13:15

Psalm 100

A Psalm for Thanksgiving.

Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.

Serve the LORD with gladness;

Come before Him with joyful singing.

Know that the LORD Himself is God;

It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving

And His courts with praise.

Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

For the LORD is good;

His lovingkindness is everlasting

And His faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 105:1-3

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name;

Make known His deeds among the peoples.

Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

Speak of all His wonders.

Glory in His holy name;

Let the heart of those who seek

the LORD be glad.

Psalm 139:14

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and

wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works,

And my soul knows it very well.

‘Almost Cannot Avail; Almost Is But to Fail!’

These words are found in the chorus of a popular hymn. To almost do something is to fail. To almost do what is right is tragic. But on the other hand, to almost do what you shouldn't do is to succeed. Let's look at both instances:

Almost doing what is right, but never doing it, is to fail. At times we may know the right thing to do and plan to do it, yet never do it. We almost do it, but fail.

Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

James 4:17

“If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

John 13:17

Almost doing what is wrong, but never doing it, is to succeed. How often we are drawn toward what is alluring but wrong. Temptations often come when we are most vulnerable. This is the time to “be alert.” To realize what is happening. Being tempted is not wrong (even Jesus was tempted), but yielding is. We must not yield to such temptations, no matter how strong the pull.

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

James 1:13-16

ALMOST DOING WHAT IS WRONG

The 73rd Psalm is a good example of one who **almost but failed** to do what is wrong: The temptation to turn away from God is very strong when one sees the prosperity of the wicked.

Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart!

But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps had almost slipped.

For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

For there are no pains in their death, And their body is fat.

They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like mankind.

Therefore pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them.

Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart run riot.

They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high.

They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth.

Therefore his people return to this place, And waters of abundance are drunk by them.

They say, “How does God know? And is there knowledge with the Most High?”

Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased in wealth.

Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure And washed my hands in innocence;

For I have been stricken all day long And chastened every morning.

If I had said, “I will speak thus,” Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children. When I pondered to understand this, It was troublesome in my sight

Until I came into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end.

Psalm 73:1-17 (**Bold** emphasis mine.)

LESSON

Succeed in doing what is right. Fail in doing what is wrong.



WORD STUDY

enhance your
Bible knowledge

ARAMAIC WORDS

The wide spread use of Aramaic, along with its flexibility and adaptability, resulted in the emergence of various dialects. One dialect was Jewish Palestinian Aramaic.

ARAMAIC WORDS IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Talitha kum [cumi] 5:41. *“Little girl, I say to you, arise.”*

Ephphatha 7:34 – *“Be opened.”*

Abba 14:36– *“Father”* an affectionate term used by a son. (Also in Rom.8:15, Gal.4:16)

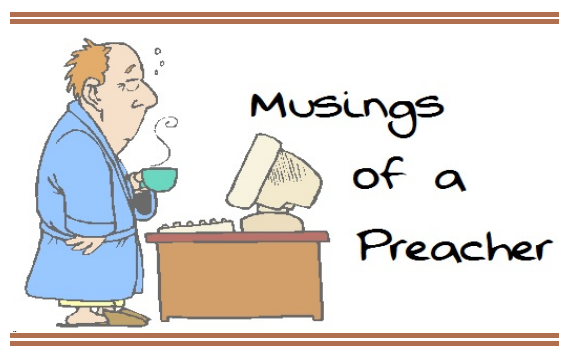
Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachthani. 15:34 – *“My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me.”*

It appears that the actual words carried special meaning, impact. Even today, words are brought over untranslated for various reasons. A number of Aramaic words came into common Hebrew usage. There are passages in the Old Testament that mention the use of Aramaic words:

Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, and Shebnaah and Joah, said to Rabshakeh, “Speak now to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it; and do not speak with us in Judean in the hearing of the people who are on the wall.” 2 Kings 18:26

And in the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel and the rest of his colleagues wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the text of the letter was written in Aramaic and translated from Aramaic. Ezra 4:7

Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: “O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation.” Daniel 2:4



Verse Plucking

The Bible is a marvelous and inspired book. It has been translated into numerous languages and many English versions are available. To make it easy for the readers to find certain passages or statements, the chapters and verses have been numbered. This makes it very convenient for referencing a particular passage.

In doing so, it has opened the door to what I call “verse plucking.” That is, one may find a numbered verse and take it out of context. Then develop ideas or teachings based on the isolated verse. The ideas are not found or supported by any other verse or verses in the Bible. And often, they conflict with other passages. The ideas “found” in isolated verses have been championed by many and have convinced others that what they say the verse teaches is Bible truth.

I have coined a phrase, *“When you find a verse, put it back where you found it.”* The context is so important in determining what is being said. Quite often when the verse is put back in its setting the things “found” in the isolated verse are determined to be the product of a fertile imagination or personal biases.

Everyone who teaches or presents lessons based on the Bible must be very careful when referencing individual verses. The teacher must be sure that the context wherein each verse is referenced clearly supports what is being said.

Sometimes it’s best to read the Bible without paying attention to the verse numbers and chapter breaks.



Ponder This

SORROW

Mental suffering or pain caused by injury, loss, or despair.

Two Kinds of Sorrow

For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

2 Corinthians 7:10

Godly sorrow is according to the will of God, rendering the heart humble, contrite, submissive; disposed to mortify every sin, and to walk in newness of life.

Worldly sorrow is according to the will of the individual. It promotes great emotional distress over what has been lost or has happened. Often it causes one to do desperate things.

REPENTANCE

A change of mind involving a change in actions.

Five Aspects of Repentance

Regret: To feel sorry, disappointed, or distressed about; look back with distress.

When there is no regret, one feels self-acquitted.

Reform: To improve by alteration, correction of error, or removal of defects; put into a better form or condition.

When there is no reform, there is a strong likelihood the deed will be repeated.

Remorse: Moral anguish arising from repentance for past misdeeds.

Moral anguish is needed as a constant reminder of the seriousness of sin.

Repugnance: Aroused disgust or aversion; offensive or repulsive.

A strong repugnance keeps sin from appearing attractive again.

Restoration. To bring back into existence or use; reestablish; to bring back to an original condition; to put (someone) back in a former position; to make restitution of; give back.

On Closer Observation

The better acquainted we become with others, the more we are able to see their imperfections. This is true in all close associations, especially in the local congregation. Herein lies the test of one's character. It takes little effort to focus on the faults, failures, and irritations of others and to comment on them.

However, it takes conscious effort to see and comment on the qualities we admire. The result of expressing the qualities we admire in others can produce dramatic results in them and in us.

We need to look for the good in others (the "bad" is obvious), just as we want them to look for the good in us! Is this not what "brotherly love" is all about?

"... walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love."

Ephesians 4:1-2

THOUGHT WORTH CONSIDERING

Friends are people who love us in spite of our faults.

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Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

Past Issues are archived at <http://ra10ar.com>

Be thoughtful and kind!

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