

PUTTING FEET TO GOD'S WORD

Ezekiel 33:31; James 1:22

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Every parent has had the experience of telling his/her child to either not do something or to do something and the child refused to obey and do what he/she was told. Children grow up to become adults and parents themselves and continue to act the same way in not always doing what is best or what they have been told to do or not do. God has the same trouble with His people. All through history God has sent prophets and preachers with messages but the people would just blink their eyes or shut their ears, hardening their hearts to God's message. Nothing has changed in today's time for God's people (Christians) still do the same thing, they hear only but do not do what they have heard.

I. CHRISTIANS DELUDE THEMSELVES BY NOT DOING WHAT GOD SAYS

1. *"...Everyone that hears these sayings of mine and does not do them, shall be likened to a foolish man who built his house upon the sand..." "If you know these things, happy are you if you do them." "You are my friends if you do what I command you." Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and don't do the things I say?"*
2. The chief sin among Christians is hearing without doing.
 - *"...to him that knows the good he ought to do and fails to do it, it is sin..."*
 - All through the Old Testament there are times when God's people heard the preacher, even complimented him, told others about him, but did nothing about the message.
 - Today Christians listen to their pastors, invite others to hear them, congratulate them on preaching a good message, but do nothing about it.

II. GOD'S WORD ACTS WHETHER ONE DOES ANYTHING ABOUT IT OR NOT

1. As the sun melts ice and at the same time can harden clay, so the Word of God either humbles the human heart or hardens it.
 - If God's Word is not put into action, there will be a disastrous reaction/effect.
2. Many Christians have become emotional addicts:
 - Many attend every religious meeting, every Bible conference, attending every service their church offers, being constantly stirred up about what they have heard but do nothing about it.
 - They gradually lose their capacity for being aroused into action.
 - Many hear the best preachers, read the best books, having their emotions stirred, get all excited about what they heard or read but fail to do anything.
 - As hearing an alarm clock every morning day after day can cause one to eventually pay no attention to it or any other routine pattern, so it is with those who constantly are exposed to God's Word in some form or fashion and never take any action.
 - Those who habitually hear the Word of God and do nothing about it are only fooling themselves.
3. Today's Christians have become spectators:
 - They are addicted to sports and watch for hours games in stadiums and arenas.
 - They spend hours on their computers or i-pads playing games or texting.
 - On Sundays many go to church and are but spectators again, expecting their pastor to perform with no intention to do anything about the sermon than they do than at sports and computers.
 - They are spectators, not participants.

4. Christians today find it easy to hear the Word of God and do nothing about it.
 - Preaching is all around them - church services, radio, television, magazines, books, telephones and it is taken for granted.

III. GOD ALWAYS EXPECTS HIS PEOPLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIS WORD

1. From start to finish the Word of God stresses: ***"...cursed be he that handles the word of God deceitfully..."*** which is done by hearing it and not doing it.
2. It is not the Word of God hidden in one's head but in his/her heart that keeps him/her from sin.
 - One can have a head full of Scripture and heart full of sin, one can backslide with a Bible under his/her arm.
 - One can be very familiar with Bible terms but lack knowledge of Biblical truth.
 - Most Christians have a lot of God's Word stored in their heads and if obeyed, America would be turned upside down and restored to oneness with God.
3. Something has to be done about God's Word.
 - God's Word will not return unto Him void.
 - Pastors/preachers are responsible to preach God's Word BUT the hearers are responsible to put it into action - to "put feet to what they have heard."
 - Christians indeed have faith but is that faith OBEDIENT faith?
 - ***"...Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded..."***
 - ***"...When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures..."***
 - ***"...Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger..."***
 - ***"...Humble yourselves in the light of the Lord, and He shall lift you up..."***
 - ***"...Speak not evil of one another, brethren, ... Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed..."***

CONCLUSION:

1. How about it Christian? Are you a "hearer" of God's Word only and not a "doer?"
2. What have you done about God's Word lately?
3. Have your prayers been unanswered because of sin?
4. Are you critical? Is there someone to whom you owe an apology?
5. ***"...Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them...." (John 13:17)***
6. Christian, how about putting feet to God's Word!