

DID YOU GIVE GOD ANY LEFT-OVERS THIS PAST YEAR?

Isaiah 44:14-17

Introduction: History has revealed that man is resourceful. The Bible tells of a man who used a left over piece of wood to make for himself a god. We are always using our left overs for this or that and in the kitchen food that is left over from a meal is usually put away to be used over again at another time. Did you ever stop to think that we do the same thing with God? This past year has just flown by and much of what we had planned to do was never done and we had to "stretch" ourselves in a lot of areas to even do a lot of what we did. Let's take a look at how we may have given God some "left overs" this past year.

I. WE MAY HAVE GIVEN GOD WHAT WAS LEFT OF OUR LOYALTY (*Matthew 6:33*)

1. Every Christian knows that God expects and demands to be first in his/her life.
2. Think back, was God first with your family? Job? Television? Ball Games? Entertainment? Etc.?
3. Can you think of something you deliberately placed God ahead of, something that you gave Him first place, some place where you were loyal to God?

II. WHAT ABOUT GIVING GOD WHAT WAS LEFT OF OUR TIME? (*Ephesians 5:15-16*)

1. The most precious thing we have is not our family, it is our soul, for it is eternal.
2. The second most precious thing we have is our time, for it is what our lives consist of and everyone has the same amount of it in any given day.
3. Think of something that you deliberately made time for that belonged to God. Just how much time did you give God this past year?
4. It is sadly normal for everything to come before God in most people's lives. What about yours?

III. SOME GAVE GOD WHAT WAS LEFT OF THEIR MONEY (*1 Corinthians 16:2*)

1. Everybody has bills. Utilities, Payments, Food, Clothing, Education, Medical, etc.
2. Everyone also spends money for personal pleasures, eating out, movies, hunting, fishing, etc.
3. For many, if there was anything left, then some of it was grudgingly given to God. Usually 20% of a church's membership carries 80% of the church's financial needs. The other 80% gives how?
4. It has been made clear by God that His part, a minimum of 10% is to be given to Him first. Is it?

IV. WHAT ABOUT GIVING WHAT WAS LEFT OF YOUR ENERGY? (*Matthew 25:14-30*)

1. Most of us have to run to keep up with the pace of living today. We have to be at more than one place at the same time, taking our kids here or there, job demands, personal interests, etc.
2. In a sense we "run ourselves ragged" every day and come home exhausted, often late at night.
3. Have you been too tired to attend church services and just stayed home?
4. Isn't God supposed to come first? Why didn't He?

V. SOME GAVE GOD WHAT WAS LEFT OF THEIR LIFE (*Ecclesiastes 12:1*)

1. Have you ever heard someone say that "religion was for children, women and the old?"
2. Or someone say that "religion is for later years?"
3. "Everybody needs the chance to sow their wild oats without religion getting in the way."
4. "Religion can come anytime later on, when I'm ready for it."
5. All of these sayings are of course untrue, false and can cause one to be forever, permanently separated from God with no chance for ever "getting religion."

CONCLUSION:

1. How did you do this past year with God and your Christian life? Did God get many "left overs?"
2. If you are a Christian then don't give God "left overs." Give Him your full everything.
3. As you go through this new year, make yourself remember, "God Comes First" and then do it!
4. Remember that old hymn, "Give of Your Best to The Master?" Go back and reread/sing it and pay close attention to the words you are saying. May the Holy Spirit help you do what the hymn says.