

Doing What is Right vs. Doing What Is Easy

Dr. Greg Bourgond

A recurring theme in the latest Harry Potter movie entitled *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* poses an age old dilemma--doing what is right versus doing what is easy.

It may be simpler and initially less stressful to do what is easy. Doing what is right may be harder and more stressful. Nothing in life worth having is easy to obtain. I suspect the things we are most proud of in our life did not come easy.

Two roads lie before us—the right road and the easy road. It is impossible to live life in neutral. Decisions have to be made every day. Will we do what is right or will we do what is easy?

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus describes these two roads. *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it (Matthew 7:13-14)."* The easy way is wide and broad but leads to destruction. Many choose the easy way. The right way is narrow but leads to life. Few choose it because it is not easy. Being a follower of Christ is not easy but it leads to life.

TV and radio adds promise little effort and great rewards. I am sure you have heard many 'get rich quick' schemes that promise wealth by following simple steps with little cost. Further investigation yields the truth. There are no easy ways to wealth and prosperity. Winning the Lotto doesn't make life easier. It often creates more problems.

What does the Bible have to say regarding doing what is right versus doing what is easy?

- *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is **right**, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you (Philippians 4:8-9).*
- *And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is **right** (2 Thessalonians 3:13).*
- *If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is **right** has been born of him (1 John 2:29).*
- *Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is **right** is righteous, just as he is righteous. He who does what is sinful is of the devil,*

*because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is **right** is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother (1 John 3:7-10).*

- Where can we go to find out what is right? Where do we go to find out how to do what is right? We are not left without help. God's word, the Bible, gives us the answer.
- *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).*
- *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).*

Life is full of decisions. Will you choose to do what is easy or do what is right? The first road leads to destruction, the second to life. Which will you choose this New Year? The quality of our life depends on the decision.