

WHY DO YOU BEHAVE THE WAY YOU DO?

Why do you behave the way you do? Did your mother ever tell you, “You know better than that!” What did she mean? She had taught you how you should be behaving, but you did not behave that way. You chose to act differently! Did your mother ever ask you, “Why did you do that?”

The reason you did not follow your mother’s instructions was because you **wanted** to do something else! That’s right! You had a mind of your own. In fact, it still doesn’t matter who tells you how to behave, if you think you can get by with doing it your way, you will. You see, when it comes to my life, I live by my own standards. There is no respect when you misbehave. Too many people give God no respect at all! Why are humans this way?

Well, we’re all rebellious aren’t we? Whether it’s right or wrong, if we **want** to do something, we will. Human desire is strong! And you know what? We will attempt to justify it after we have done it! Barbara Mandrell used to sing a song in which were the words, “if loving you is wrong, then I don’t wanna be right.” I wonder if that’s how David felt when he looked out upon Bathsheba. People have written a new version of that song by the way they live. The new version goes like this, “if loving you is wrong, I will think of a way to make it right.” And so people set out to justify their own desires, and their own misbehaving! They are doing what people did way back in Isaiah’s day where inspiration predicted, “²⁰ Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! ²¹ Woe unto *them who are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!” (Isaiah 5:20-21, KJV.) Words, words, words. All the wise and prudent have to do is to think of a good sounding explanation for behaving the way they please.

This is what mankind attempts to do by teaching atheism and evolution. These teachings eliminate standards! You see, if man is no more than a monkey, then who is to say what is right and what is wrong? Who can erect the standard? So many of our scientists and professors continue to teach our young people that society should become just what the wise and prudent want it be. Take God out of

the equation. Take Judgment Day out of your future. Take religion out of the market place, out of politics, out of societal life, out of mind, and out of your personal life! Take God out of your life and there are no restraints; you can then be happy doing what you want to do! But, in the words of Isaiah, friends, “**woe** unto you.” The word “Woe” means great sorrow, grief, trouble. (Webster) When a person lives according to his own human standards he or she will experience great sorrow, grief, and trouble.

“Woe unto them that call evil good,” the prophet predicted. Great sorrow will be the result when a person calls something that is evil, good. Can flying planes into the World Trade Center be called “good”? Some call it good. Can the genocide of Muslims in Yugoslavia be called “good”? Some call it that. Can Hitler’s extermination of Jews and Russians during World War II be called “good”? I wonder how Hitler explained that to his constituents. Did he think it was good? He called the “final solution.” Great sorrow will come because to do evil is sin! And sin has its consequences no matter what **you** believe about it. Your ignorance is no excuse! The standard-bearer, God Almighty, will not excuse sin! Words, words, words. You can’t talk fast enough nor long enough to get around your sin.

If you leave your wife to follow some Bathsheba...you can’t talk fast enough nor long enough to get out from under that sin. Only repentance and obedience to God’s will can get you straight with God, the standard-bearer. It’s His standard that you have broken and you must answer to Him. How persuasive will your words be when He finds you guilty. Friend, you will be speechless.

Over and over our American society finds a way to call evil good. Homosexuality is called “gay”. The word “gay” means “joyful”, “happy”. Homosexuality is sin. Woe to the one who switches the words in order to justify sinful behavior. And then there are those unwanted babies. What to do!? Words, words, words. Call murder “choice”. Call a baby a fetus. Every woman has the right to choose, they say. I know God wants me to happy, she says! “woe” awaits! Great sorrow will be the result of going against the standards God has given the world.

We hear nowadays about children taking parents to court because of what is called child abuse. The Bible says that God chastens every son that comes to Him, and God illustrates what He does with human fathers who love their children. That's right! God asks, "What father does not discipline his son?" Well, call it by a different name, "child abuse", and the prosecutor has grounds for sending you to jail. Is there such a thing as "child abuse"? Yes, there is. And so we need clear distinctions and clear understandings. Great grief awaits those who mix up evil and call it good.

Isaiah also wrote that it would result in "woe" when people trade light for darkness. Light and darkness are metaphors; light represents understanding; darkness represents ignorance. Light also stands for righteousness; darkness stands for sin. Paul discussed this in Romans chapter 1 when he said, "although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened." Ah, here is darkness. It happens in the mind, in the heart. The thinking becomes futile. "Futile" means worthless, vain, or useless. The word literally means "easily poured out." That which is poured out is of little or no value. My mother used to throw dish water out the back door! The water was no longer useful. Friends, when our thinking becomes worthless, when we concoct our own logic to justify our wicked behavior, when we think we can get away with this, then our thinking has become futile. Our minds are darkened because our thinking has become worthless. This, friends, is the power of sin. Jesus said, "take heed that the light which is in you be not darkness." (Lk 11:35.) What is your guiding light, neighbor? Is it the light that shines from heaven in God's revelation, the Bible?

Matthew wrote that when Jesus came preaching repentance around Galilee one of Isaiah's prophecies was being fulfilled, "¹⁵ [In] The land of Zabulon, and [in] the land of Nephthalim, *by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;* ¹⁶ The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**" (Matt 4:14-17)

Friends, do you have an interest in the light. Don't you want to see where you're going? The preaching of truth is necessary if people are to turn from darkness to light! And a big piece of truth is repentance! That's right! "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The kingdom of heaven, friend, is still near your hand. It is within your grasp, but you cannot take hold of it unless you release your grip on darkness. That's right! If you are happily ignorant of God's Word then you will never come to a knowledge of the truth. The apostle Paul described people who were ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Tim 3:7, KJV.) Those people were happily ignorant; they had just enough religion to make them comfortable. Paul said they had a "form of godliness" but were denying the life-changing power of it. The gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to change lives. In the good news of Jesus is the power of salvation. (Rom 1:16.)

But even beyond that, the word of God battles the best ideas that we humans can come up with! That's right. Why do you do the things you do? Because you believe in them. Your faith rests in your own desires. You are happily pursuing what makes you happy; you are living according to your own fleshly desires. That will lead us to sin. It will cause us to attempt to think up ways to justify our sins.

Neighbor, what you need is to take God at His word. You need to believe the Bible. You need to study the Bible. The Bible's message needs to go with you through the day. It is a lamp for your feet, a light for your path. (Psa 119:105.) From it you can be made wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. The Word of God is living seed that can enter your heart so that you are begotten of God. James 1:18 says, "of His own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first-fruits of his creatures." James went on to say that we must be "doers of the word, and not hearers only." (Jas 1:22, KJV.) Peter said that your soul could be purified when you obey the truth, "being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever." (1 Peter 1:22, 23, KJV.) Peter went on to say that "the word of the Lord endures forever." "And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby." (1 Peter 2:1-2, NKJV.)