

## WHAT THE CHOSEN SERVANTS SHOULD DO TO UPHOLD THEIR SERVICES TO GOD UNTIL JUDGMENT DAY

### ISSUE

We must plan and ensure that the things we do are in accordance with God's will so that we will always do what is right and good and be able to uphold our services to God until we receive salvation on Judgment Day.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Teach the advantage if we do what is right and good because they are based on God's will and show the evil consequence if what we are doing is not right.
2. Make the brethren understand that God wants young members of the Church Of Christ to be wise in His laws and obey them.
3. Emphasize the importance of God's laws and statutes so what His servants plan to do should be based on them.
4. Convey the great blessing that will come to the life of God's servants who fully obey His will.

### EXORDIUM

We fully understand and firmly believe that we received such a great blessing when we became members of the Church Of Christ. It gave us the right and privilege to render true service to our Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ and the firm hope of receiving salvation on Judgment Day. We consider our membership in the Church Of Christ as beyond compare to anything or anyone in this world. Because of such understanding, we are willing to sacrifice even our welfare in this life so as not to ruin or lose the divine calling we received. It is our ardent desire to uphold our services to God until the end so we will receive salvation on the appointed time.

### INTRODUCTION:

#### WHAT SHOULD GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE DO TO UPHOLD THEIR SERVICES TO HIM UNTIL JUDGMENT DAY?

1. *Plan what to do—right, straight,  
away from evil* ..... *Prov. 4:26-27 TEV*

<sup>26</sup> Plan carefully what you do, and whatever you do will turn out right. <sup>27</sup> Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way.  
(*Good News Bible: Today's English Version*. New York: United Bible Societies, 1976)

! What are we instructed to do if we want to uphold our services to God and to be saved on Judgment Day? According to the Bible, let us plan carefully what we do. What will be the result if we follow this instruction? Whatever we do will turn out right. What is one proof that we plan carefully what we do? We avoid evil. What should we never do? We should not go even one step off the right way.

! The words of God are the right way that we should tread and walk on by means of obeying them. Let us not violate or disobey any of the things that God commands us to do.

Q. What does our doing the good and the right things have to do with our relationship with God and what will happen if we do wrong?

2. *Who will be accepted and in whom  
sin will enter* ..... *Gen. 4:7 NIV*

<sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.

(*The Holy Bible: New International Version*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: International Bible Society, 1984)

! What will be the result if we do what is right? God will find us acceptable or pleasing in His sight and, because of that, we can expect to receive His blessings and our relationship with Him will become much stronger. On the other hand, what will happen if a servant of God does not do what is right? Sin will enter and consume him. He will be removed and will not be able to uphold his services to God.

Q. How can we make sure that we are always doing what is right and good so God will be pleased with us and we will not be overcome by sin?

A. *Seek His will in all you do..... Prov. 3:5-6 NLT*

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

(Holy Bible: New Living Translation. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1996)

! Let us not be self-willed nor depend on our own understanding. How do we consult God or seek His will? One way is by praying. We can also seek or consult God by seeking His laws and commands. If what we are planning to do is against God's teachings that we have received, let us not push through with it.

! For example, if a Church member is planning to work in another country where the Church has no worship service there yet, he or she would be violating God's command not to forsake the congregational worship service. Or, if a brother or a sister is in the right age to marry and plans to settle down but the person he or she is going to marry is a nonmember, such member will be violating or disobeying God's command—not to have romantic relationship or marry someone who is not of our faith. What should one do to ensure that when he enters a new chapter in his life, everything will turn out well? Make sure that what he does is according to God's will and he conducts devotional prayers as proof that he entrusts his welfare to God.

! What is the benefit if we consult God or seek His will in all that we do? He will direct or show us the path to take.

## I. WHOM DOES GOD CALL THEIR ATTENTION SO THAT EVEN NOW THEY WILL THINK ABOUT THEIR LIFE?

1. *The children or the youth..... Prov. 23:19 NLT*

<sup>19</sup> My child, listen and be wise. Keep your heart on the right course.

! What are the children or youth instructed to do? Listen to what God teaches. Don't listen to just anybody else, especially if what he or she is saying are against God's teachings. How can we listen to what God teaches? Through the Administration He placed in the Church. Why is listening to the Church Administration equivalent to listening to God? Because the Church Administration is the one whom God has given the right or authority to proclaim or make His words or message fully known (Col. 1:25 HCSB).

! What does God want the youth of His nation to be? To be wise in His laws and to keep their heart on the right course. Such are the characteristics of God's servants who give serious thought on where their life is heading.

Q. What else is the identifying trait of God's servants who give serious thought on where their life is heading?

2. *They protect themselves*..... *Prov. 16:17 CEV*

<sup>17</sup> God's people avoid evil ways, and they protect themselves by watching where they go.

(*The Holy Bible: Contemporary English Version*. Broadway, New York: American Bible Society, 1995)

! Not only do they avoid evil ways, but also they protect themselves by watching where they go. Can a brother say that he is being careful or watchful if he makes friends with drunkards or drug addicts or those who are fond of sinful pleasures?

! It is high time that we need to be much more careful now because our Lord Jesus Christ warned that as Judgment Day draws nearer, wickedness will be more rampant than ever. The devil will take advantage of such situation to make people grow cold in their love for God. So, what will we see in the people of this world especially the youth? They are lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of things pertaining to God. God does not want the *Iglesia Ni Cristo* youth to be like that.

! With God using the Church Administration as His instrument, His teachings are abundantly being taught to us to guide us all in the right path. Serving as helpers of the Church Administration are the officers of *Buklod*, *KADIWA* and *Binhi* in caring for all those belonging to each Christian family organization. For us to benefit from this noble aim of theirs, we must unite and participate in all the activities of our respective organizations.

Q. What is the instruction of the apostles to all the chosen people of God so they will triumph over the devil's schemes and receive the salvation we yearn for on Judgment Day?

A. *What should be done according to the apostles*..... *Rom. 12:2 MSG*

<sup>2</sup> Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

(*The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*, by Eugene H. Peterson. Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress Publishing Group, 2005)

! Just because it is the trend does not mean we should follow it. We should think about it to determine if such is right or wrong. What standard should we use in determining whether a certain culture, custom or practice is right or wrong, or if it should be accepted or not? The teachings of God being taught to us by the Church Administration.

! If in the country or place where we live or reside there are some culture, customs or practices that are against God's teaching, we should not adopt or follow them. Why? Because according to the Bible, such will drag you down. Therefore, not only does such culture hinder us from reaching spiritual maturity but also drags us toward the perdition of our souls on Judgment Day.

! Why is it very important for us to ensure that anything we plan and do are in accordance with God's teachings?

## II. IN MAKING PLANS FOR OUR LIFE, WHAT SHOULD WE ALWAYS CONSIDER SO AS NOT TO END UP ON THE WRONG PATH?

### 1. *The laws and statutes* ..... Ps. 119:137-138 & 128 NIV

<sup>137</sup> Righteous are you, O LORD, and your laws are right. <sup>138</sup> The statutes you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy.

<sup>128</sup> and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path.

! So valuable indeed are our worship services. Let us not forsake them because it is during such occasions when we are taught God's laws and statutes. What is their value? According to the Bible, God's laws and statutes are righteous, fully trustworthy, and are all correct or right. By using them as our standard in all the things we do, we will surely not end up on the wrong path. We will live righteously in God's sight.

Q. What can we hope for if we live righteously?

### 2. *The promise to the righteous*..... Prov. 2:7-11 NIV

<sup>7</sup> He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, <sup>8</sup> for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. <sup>9</sup> Then you will understand what is right and just and fair-every good path. <sup>10</sup> For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. <sup>11</sup> Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

! Let us fully believe in this promise. God holds victory in store for His upright servants. He is the One who guards and protects His faithful ones whose walk is blameless. Therefore, it is not a loss but a great advantage on our part if we live in righteousness and holiness, amid the rampant wickedness in this world.

! What else is the advantage of this to us? We will understand what is right and just and fair and every good path. So, we will not end up following the wrong path and we can avoid making wrong decisions.

## III. WHAT HAS BEEN THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S TRUE SERVANTS WHO FULLY OBEY HIS WILL?

### 1. *Their needs were satisfied*..... Isa. 58:10-11 NIV

<sup>10</sup> and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. <sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

! The experience of God's servants before will also be our experience if we will also follow His will. What can we hope for? The Bible says, our night will become like the noonday, the Lord will guide us always, He will satisfy our needs, and He will strengthen us. The Church Administration deeply wants us to receive all these blessings. So they exhort us to submit to God's will by being obedient to His commandments.

! How does the Bible describe the outpouring of such blessings to those who are obedient to God's will? According to the verses we read, "You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." Therefore, God's graces will continue to flow in us, if we remain obedient to Him.

! So, if we have problems in life, will our being obedient to God's commands be of help to us?

Q. What does the Bible teach that we should not do whenever we have problems in life so that we will not weaken in faith?

2. *This should bring us comfort and gladness ..... Ps. 94:18-19 GNB*

<sup>18</sup> I said, "I am falling"; but your constant love, O LORD, held me up. <sup>19</sup>

Whenever I am anxious and worried, you comfort me and make me glad.

*(The Good News Bible in Today's English Version, Second Edition © 1992. Manila, Philippines: Philippines Bible Society, 1995)*

! Though we are servants of God, there are times when we are also bothered by many difficulties—whether personal or family problems—and they cause us worry, sadness, and anxiety. What commonly upset many of us are financial and health problems.

! What is necessary for us to solve our problems in life? We must make sure that we have God's constant love. How important is it to have God's constant love? God's servant David said, "I said, 'I am falling'; but Your constant love, O LORD, held me up. Whenever I am anxious and worried, you comfort me and make me glad."

### CONCLUSION

May this be what we experience today as we approach God in prayer. May He grant solutions to our problems and comfort those who are sad. May He continue to make us feel His constant love so that we will become much stronger in our conviction, whatever happens in our life until we receive the promised salvation.

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