

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Dave and Catherine are beginning their trip to the Philippines today. They plan to be away about 2 weeks.
- Barbara Riggs, a friend of the Wards living in Arkansas, is having some serious complications from an open heart surgery. She has been in and out of ICU and remains in the hospital.
- A few have been battling the flu bug this week.
- Bible class tomorrow night at Chad and Kass' on evangelism.
- The Christians in the Philippines.

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

Today Bible Study – Tom Mitchell Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	Wednesday Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward
Next Sunday Bible Study – Tom Mitchell Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Lord's Table – Tom Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	Next Wednesday Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:
Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ / Blackfoot,

Volume 5 Number 4

January 28, 2018

DO THE ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS?

Joel Raulerson

Do you pause to consider what the Lord would have you do? Have you ever considered how the Lord wants you to serve Him? Many claim they are acting in obedience to God, yet they do not pause to learn what He would have them do. Jesus said:

Mt 7:21-23, Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity

They think that the “end justifies the means!” Some make excuses that what we are doing is in harmony with God’s will. However, serving God your way rather than as He commands is never the right answer.

King Saul was guilty of thinking that the ends justify the means. When Saul’s army was about to flee because of the might of the Philistine army that stood before them, he was willing to contradict God’s law to appease the people (1 Samuel 13:6-8). The context of 1 Samuel 13 reveals that Samuel was supposed to have come from Gilgal to offer a sacrifice for the people, but he was late. Saul, in an effort to quell a potential rebellion that he feared was coming,

offered the sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel or even conferring with the Lord (1 Samuel 13:9-12). Saul gives us a great example of trying to excuse his actions because the ends justify it. No matter how hard we try to justify what sounds good to us, if we act where God has not spoken we will pay the price as Saul did. Saul tried to justify his actions to Samuel by saying that if he had not offered the sacrifices, the people would have fled. Saul offered an excuse similar to what many attempt to offer today when they say, “the ends justify the means.”

The excuse that the ends justify the means has never been a scriptural concept. God’s word teaches us the exact opposite. In the case of Saul attempting to keep the army together, he sinned before the Lord and was told he would suffer the consequences. Samuel says

1 Samuel 13:13-14, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”

If Saul had simply waited on the Lord and consulted Him, all of this could have been avoided. He would have been blessed with victory and God would have blessed him and his family. Instead, the kingdom would now be taken away and he would lose his throne because He did not consult the Lord.

Many people today might say that Saul did not do anything wrong. They might suggest that Saul was doing his best to raise morale and keep the army together before the Philistines saw their cowardice and swept in to destroy them. However, we must remember that we do not see as God sees (1 Samuel 16:7). No matter what ideas we may have, God’s plans are always the best. Even if it looks like we have figured out a way to serve Him in a “better” manner, the ends never justify the means (Romans 3:8). Let us strive to do only as God commands and never go beyond those boundaries (Jeremiah 10:23

Fleeing Oppression

Joe R. Price

Another North Korean soldier braved the DMZ this week in a desperate attempt to flee North Korea. With the aid of a thick fog, the soldier escaped unharmed. On Wednesday, two North Korean civilians were found in a fishing boat, who also sought to defect. South Korea reports more than 880 North Koreans have defected to the South this year. Most have done so by way of China, rather than the demilitarized zone, which “features landmines, barbed wire, surveillance cameras, electric fencing and thousands of armed troops on both sides” (“North Korean Soldier Defects to South Across DMZ; Defections Up 3-Fold,” Reuters, christianpost.com).

Just as these souls escaped the oppressive regime of North Korea, we must flee the oppressive regime of sin.

Fleeing sin requires a decision that changes your life forever. These people risked their lives to reach freedom. We must make an uncompromising decision to sacrifice ourselves to obtain freedom from our sins. We must deny ourselves and obey the gospel from the heart to be freed from sin’s bondage and death (Lk. 9:23; Rom. 6:17-18).

Fleeing sin means never going back. The souls who defect from North Korea can never return to their old lives, nor do they want to do so. When we escape sin by God’s gracious salvation, we must never return to it. “Shall we continue to sin, that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” (Rom. 6:1-2).

Fleeing sin means we will pursue a new life. These defectors risked their lives for a new life. Likewise, we are taught to “flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness” (1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22). When we escape the clutches of sin through the gospel of Christ, we must put on “the new man” and live holy lives.