

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Michelle, Brenda's Daughter has Bells palsy.
- Dave and Catherine are in the Philippines and will be traveling arrive back tomorrow night.
- Keep April in your prayers.
- 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 – Ross Ward Sermon – Ross Ward	Wednesday Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward
Next Sunday Bible Study – Tom Mitchell Song Leader – David Porter Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	Next Wednesday Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom 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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Becoming All Things to All Men

Joe R. Price

The apostle Paul wrote,

“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; 20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; 22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.” (1 Corinthians 9:19–23, NKJV)

Paul willingly served others to advance the prospect of their salvation (1 Cor. 9:22). He did this by relinquishing personal rights and privileges to improve his access to those who needed the gospel he preached (1 Cor. 9:15; 2 Cor. 11:7-9). He did this by giving up personal liberties to protect the weak in conscience from sin (1 Cor. 8:7-13). Foregoing personal liberties, and using personal liberties to advance the gospel and salvation, is what it means to “become all things to all men.” Doing so demands discernment (Phil. 1:9-11).

Becoming all things to all men does not mean compromising truth and righteousness to accomplish a godly goal. Doing evil that good may come is not the Lord's will; The end does not justify the means (Rom. 3:8). It is



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worldly thinking that says the way to win souls for Christ is to remain silent about the sinner's sin, instead of exposing it (Eph. 5:11; 2 Jno. 9-11).

How can we tell the difference (1 Thess. 5:21-22)? How do we become "all things to all men?" The answer is found in the nature of the activity in question, and in the association it produces. Is the activity sin? If so, we cannot participate in it (Rom. 12:9; 1 Jno. 3:4). Is the activity morally acceptable, yet, does engaging in it show allegiance to, and encouragement of, sinners in their sin? If so, we cannot participate (1 Cor. 5:11-13; 15:33-34). Remember, we do not advance righteousness by violating God's word. Becoming all things to all men requires sacrificing self, and serving others (1 Cor. 9:19). It requires a humble heart, that considers others before itself (1 Cor. 9:20-22; Phil. 2:3-4). And, it requires the primacy of devotion to the gospel, and to its power to save (1 Cor. 9:23).

STAY COMMITTED TO THE END

Richie Thetford

In 2 Chronicles 14-16 we can read about King Asa of Judah who reigned for 41 years, 35 of which was dedicated to God. In the beginning he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places. It was said of him that "Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God" (14:2). His first battle was against Zerah the Ethiopian in which Asa and Judah were outmanned almost 2-1. But before he began to fight the battle, he cried out to God to ask for His guidance. As a result, "the Lord struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled" (14:12). The prophet Azariah came to Asa and told him that "The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you" (15:2). These words inspired Asa and he became even more courageous, continuing to remove the abominable idols in the land. He proved himself to be a good and righteous king, motivating Judah to collectively engage in a "covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul" (15:12). There was great rejoicing at the oath and as a result the "Lord gave them rest all around" (15:15). Things were going so very well for Asa and all of Judah. Asa was well respected by the people and they were proud to serve a King who was first willing to serve his God. God blessed Asa and the people for 35 years because of their righteousness and faithfulness to Him. However, in Asa's 36th year, after 35 years of faithful service, he made a grave mistake. Perhaps apathy and pride had

become part of his mind set, but whatever the case, Asa neglected to consult God when Baasha, the king of Israel came up against Judah and built Ramah to keep those in his kingdom from coming to Asa in Judah. Instead of crying out to God for help and guidance, he made a treaty with the wicked king of Syria, Ben-Hadad. He bribed him with gold and silver from the house of the Lord to fight against king Baasha of Israel. Ben-Hadad caused Baasha to cease his work at Ramah but the prophet Hanani came to king Asa and said to him: "Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the Lord your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand" (16:7). The prophet told Asa that from this time on he would have wars. Asa became so angry that he threw the prophet into prison and oppressed some of the people. In the end, Asa became diseased in his feet, still did not seek the Lord, but rather the physicians, and he died in the 41st year of his reign. King Asa served God for 35 years and in the end proved himself to be unfaithful to Him the last 6 years. This is a sad commentary for a king that had so much going for him, but in the end he lost it all.

We should learn some valuable lessons today from this king from long ago. We need to ensure that we seek God on a daily basis (Matthew 6:33), and when we do we are promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). We must never forget God when we encounter various trials in life (James 1:3). With every temptation God has promised us that He will make the way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). We must also learn that no matter how long we have been a Christian that we too can fall from God's grace and be cut off if we do not remain righteous and faithful to Him (1 Corinthians 10:12; 2 Peter 2:20; Romans 11:22). If we get caught up with pride, we must understand that it will lead us to destruction (Proverbs 11:2; 16:18; 29:23). Finally, we must remain loyal in our work and service to the Lord to the very end of our life (1 Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10).

May we never be guilty of quitting God and falling short of our eternal home with Him (Matthew 7:13-14). The prophet Hanani said these words to Asa, words that certainly apply to each one of us today: "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (1 Chronicles 16:9). We must make sure that we stay committed to God until the very end of our life. Our eternal destiny depends on our commitment to Him each day that we live.