

What are You Looking For?

By Barbara Henderson

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Are You Looking for a Word from the Lord?

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 1 John 5:4

What is 'born of God'?

I believe there are at least two things that are born of God.

First, we have the obvious. The things commanded to do in the Bible are born of God. These things originated with God. To do what God says to do is to do the will of God. This includes obey the commandments, love one another, treat others the way you want to be treated, and tell the world that salvation has come into the world through Jesus Christ. The Christian is able to do things we are told to do in the Bible through faith.

Second, there are specific tasks that are set to the individual to accomplish. Accomplishing these tasks is made possible through obedience to all the commandments and teachings of the Bible. When God has called someone to do a task, faith in God is what will actually get the task accomplished.

Is there a specific way that one identifies a specific task that he or she has been set to accomplish?

Not exactly, but pretty close. While Moses had the blessing of having his task to deliver the children of Israel from bondage explained to him directly by God in some detail, most people do not have such direct communication with God.

Notice that Moses had just spent forty years tending sheep and thinking on the things of God. He was close to God, and seemingly content in his life as a shepherd. God called him to go and do a specific and monumental task, but God didn't give Moses all the gory details of what it was going to take to get the job done. Moses' peaceful life was suddenly over. What I notice from this is that a special commission from God for an individual will likely totally annihilate a peaceful routine.

For us today, it is possible that God could speak from a burning bush. It is also possible, even likely, that God will just continually impress on your mind and heart a specific task. It may be something major. It may be something minor. You will find the idea of specific task or duty will not leave you alone. I suppose we have all had thoughts that seemed wonderful today, but we are unable to remember them tomorrow. It is the idea that stays in your mind that can be from God.

To discern whether it is the will of God, or just a rabbit trail that leads to nowhere requires some knowledge of the Bible. Whatever endeavor that is in your mind will not require that you step outside the rules set for every believer in the Bible. God never calls anyone to do anything that is outside the instructions given to us for righteous behavior.

After you have determined that what you want to do is within Biblical guidelines of righteous behavior, the next step is to give it some additional consideration to just see if the idea sticks in your mind, or if it fades away. It may be something that is good and that needs to be done, but it may not be your personal calling to do it.

If the idea stays with you, and does not go away over time, then it is likely that you should consider setting out to do it. That may be the idea that is 'born of God'. Moses' idea of delivering the children of Israel from bondage was definitely born of God. By faith Moses accomplished his task and overcame the world of his day. Through Moses, God showed His power. Faith is not a way of manipulating God. We cannot choose a task on our own without consulting God, and then expect God to show up and give us success. Moses had always known that he wanted to children of Israel delivered from slavery. He had first attempted to do this good deed on his own. The result was 40 years spent in the wilderness. When God was ready to set them free, Moses was ready to do it God's way.

Psalm 37:3-5 says:

3. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

4. Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

5. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

This is the key to doing God's will.

First, put your trust in the Lord and do the things He says to do. This brings blessings beyond counting.

Second, delight in the Lord, or continually walk with Him and get to know Him better. THEN, God Himself puts the right desires in your heart. He will change your heart to want the things that He knows will be best for you AND direct your path.

Once you have a desire, or calling, or goal from God, turn the accomplishment of these things back over to God. He will give you good success in the things He has called you to do.

Verse 7a says, 'Rest in the LORD, wait patiently for him:'. Moses probably knew what God wanted from him when he attempted to set the Jews free forty years prior to the burning bush incident. He set out to do God's will on his own time frame, and of course disaster was the

result. Abraham pretty much did the same thing when he had a child with his wife's maid instead of waiting for God to send them the promised child.

When a Christian is certain that God has given him or her a task to do, they must still wait on the Lord for the right moment. It can be somewhat frustrating at times.

Time spent waiting on the Lord should be spent continually doing the things all Christians are called to do.

Like Nehemiah, prepare as best you can for the time when God makes a way for you to begin your work.

Nehemiah had a list a mile long of things he would need to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, and when given the opportunity he spoke boldly to the king to secure the things he needed. There certainly would have been a different result if Nehemiah had deserted the king without permission, and set out to rebuild the walls of the city without building materials and the authority to boss people around.

Then, once you do begin your work, don't measure your success as the world counts success. You may gain fame or even fame and fortune doing the will of God. Then again, you may not. What you will gain is a level of contentment and peace that is not available any other way.

If you are looking for something more to do for the Lord, keep looking. Seek Him continually. Hebrews 11:16 says, *'but without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.'*

Are You Looking for Satisfaction?

Salvation + Surrender + Attitude adjustment = Satisfaction!!!

How would you rate your overall satisfaction with your life? To be on the positive side of satisfaction you need to feel like at least 60 percent of everything in general is going your way. You can break that down to your personal life, your professional life, your social life, and your religious life. If any one of those is causing you more than 40 percent trouble – it isn't going well.

A recent article in the Sun-Sentinel has this quote.

"Clergy ranked tops in both job satisfaction and general happiness,' according to the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.

The most satisfying jobs are mostly professions, especially those involving caring for, teaching and protecting others and creative pursuits," said Tom W. Smith, director of NORC's General Social Survey, a poll supported by the National Science Foundation.

The worker satisfaction study, set for release Tuesday, is based on data collected since 1988 on more than 27,500 randomly selected people.

For the most satisfied workers, intrinsic rewards are key, the study suggests."

What do the clergy have that the other jobs don't have? They have 'A CALLING' from God. Clergy are not most satisfied because they are clergy – they are most happy because they believe God has called them to a purpose, and they are fulfilling their destiny – or they are doing that for which they were created.

But there is a great deal more to the story of 'A Calling From God'.

Years ago my grandmother told me that when she went to 'teaching school' at the age of seventeen – the preacher in charge of preparing the students to teach school spent one week of the six weeks course stressing that if you were not there at the express calling of God, that you should go home. He said a 'teacher is called to teach, just as a preacher is called to preach'. Grandma said a number of students went home after considerable counseling. Grandma stayed for the full six weeks course, got her teaching certificate, and went on to teach the next three years in a one room school house. She said she knew in advance that she was called to teach, and was surprised that some people had come without knowing they were called in the first place.; or that they are doing a specific job or task on the way to doing something else.

So now we have preaching and teaching as callings from God. However, I believe every human being is called by God to do many things. The greatest level of satisfaction (and success) will always be found in doing something that God has called you to do.

The first thing the individual is called to do is to be saved. This gains adoption into the family of God and eternal life in heaven with God.

The next thing the individual is called to do is to surrender his or her life totally to God. Two things can make this difficult.

First – the calling to surrender can be mistaken for a calling into full time ministry. That is not the first thing God will call you to do. First surrender to what ever God asks of you – then you get details.

The second difficulty arises when people think that they don't want to surrender their life to God because He will ask them to give up everything they love and give them some horrible job they will hate. God created you to do specific good things. It is built into your heart. God will not call you to do anything outside the boundaries He has set as acceptable behavior. Don't speculate in advance that God will ask you to do something you really don't like doing. He put in you the good things He wants you to do – so chances are you already love doing some of the things God will ask you to do.

The article listed as the top five professions providing the most satisfaction for the people involved.

clergy,
physical therapists,
firefighters,
education administrators,
and painters and sculptors

Listed as the five most dissatisfying careers were

roofers,
waiters/servers,
laborers (not construction),
bartenders,
and hand packers/packagegers.

This information will be analyzed, and some obvious conclusions will be made.

‘More educated people are more likely to have a higher level of job satisfaction.’

‘Artistic and creative endeavors are more satisfying than menial labor.’

‘Exciting and dangerous jobs (such as firefighting) provide more satisfaction than ‘safe’ jobs.

“Administrative jobs provide a higher level of satisfaction than merely following orders.”

But I think these conclusions are wrong.

I think the difference is that the jobs like clergy and educator are more likely jobs that someone feels a calling to do. Maybe it’s just a ‘gut feeling’ for some – a ‘this is what I’m supposed to do’ feeling. The wise person will spend time talking it over with God – and not rely on ‘just a feeling’.

I believe that someone can be very satisfied with any job so long as they are convinced that God Himself has called him or her to do that job. That is why preachers and missionaries are so satisfied. If they took the time to be certain that God called them into the ministry, they have the fortitude to face difficult times and disappointments. When you see someone in the ministry struggling with what they are doing – it may well be that they made the first mistake mentioned above. When God called them to surrender to His will above their own will, they assumed God was calling them into the ministry. If you are seeking what to do in your life, be careful. Surrender everything to God, and THEN see what He calls you to do.

So – the situation is this. IF God had a purpose for putting someone in one of the jobs that the study says provide the least satisfaction – God would give His laborer satisfaction in that job. A roofer doing what God has called him to do is going to be satisfied with his work. A clergyman who is not satisfied has probably misunderstood exactly what God was calling him to do in the first place. Keep in mind that if you are currently doing what some would call a ‘lowly’ job, it may very well be just a stopping place. You still need to do the job heartily as to the Lord. He has better things for you just like He had for Jospheh.

The solution to personal satisfaction is simply this – ask God ‘WHAT ARE YOU CALLING ME TO DO? Now – God may call you to do something great – but He will probably not start you out at the top. David was called to be king – but he still had to do his duty as a shepherd! Don’t be impatient and lose the satisfaction in your life today.

People tend to think that God only calls people into positions like clergy, teachers, political leaders, and important positions.

Truthfully, God calls people into everything. My husband was called to be a mechanic. Does that sound unimportant to you? It happens to be a very important job. It is also a very difficult job requiring endless training and practice to stay at the top of the field. At 65 Jerry is still at the top of his field. He is also a star in a number of 'hands on activities' as well. Actually, I think he could have chosen a number of careers that would have suited him – carpentry, electrical, master woodcraftsman, even glass art – but the opportunity was in auto mechanics. So the rest of the things he is good at were relegated to 'hobby' and 'helpful to know how to do'. But 'opportunity' was how God directed Jerry. That is one of the main ways he directs people in exactly what He wants them to do.

Another way God directs people into a satisfying career and life is through circumstances and events. A quick study of the life of Joseph gives us someone who surrendered to the will of God early in life. Joseph knew God had something special for him, but he went through great trials before he was acclaimed as 'great' to the general public. Joseph was always 'great' to God, because Joseph surrendered his life to God early on. Then God took Joseph through his 'years as a slave', and 'then his years as a jail bird'. Joseph actually prospered – even in prison. He knew God was with him. He was called to do God's will. He did God's will even in prison. Joseph's level of satisfaction with even his 'prison job' was probably much greater than some of the most wealthy and influential people of his time, because Joseph knew that God was with him –even in prison. I think Joseph also knew that God was taking him somewhere beyond prison - eventually.

Where are you standing today in your level of personal satisfaction?

Have you 'arrived' at your 'destiny'?

Are you still on your way to the top?

Are you still struggling to even get a clue what God wants of you?

Do you want the highest possible level of satisfaction in your life? It all begins with 'surrender'. Surrender your will to God's before you know what He is going to ask of you. God loves you. He wants good things for you. Whatever He has for you will bring good things. God will be with you through the hard things.

A final item for surrender to God is your ATTITUDE. You can do everything right outwardly, but if your attitude is not right, then nothing will be right. Your personal level of satisfaction depends on this. God has a very satisfying life for you. If Joseph had spent his time in Egypt with a 'poor me' or 'I'm doing what I'm supposed to do – but you can't make me like it' attitude – I don't think he would have ever risen to be ruler of Egypt.

So this is the equation we have come up with....

Salvation + Surrender + Attitude adjustment = Satisfaction!!!

Of course – the more complete the surrender of your heart is to God, the better your attitude will be, and the closer you will be to God. The closer to God – the greater your level of satisfaction will be.

The song for this article is: “Be Thou My Vision”.

The tune is a little difficult – but worth the effort to put the tune and words together. It is an old Irish song and tune.

“Be Thou My Vision”

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tow'r:
Raise Thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whate'er befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

http://junior.apk.net/~bmames/ht0112_.htm

Are You Looking for A Refuge in the Time of Storm?

The lost die as fools, without entering into the refuge of Jesus Christ. Many Christians LIVE as fools, without accepting the refuge available to them in Jesus Christ.

In the Bible time of Joshua, we are told of six cities of refuge. Matthew Henry's Bible Commentary gives the names and interpretations of these cities as:

Kedesh - signifies holy and our Refuge is the holy Jesus.

Shechem, a shoulder, and the government is upon His shoulder.

Hebron - fellowship, and the believers are called into the fellowship of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Bezer - a fortification, for He is a strong hold to all those that trust in Him.

Ramoth - high or exalted, for Him hath God exalted with His own right hand.

Golon - joy or exultation, for in Him all the saints are justified and shall glory.

These cities were places of refuge for someone who had unintentionally caused the death of someone else. The cities were positioned so one city could be reached in less than a day's journey from any part of the land. Matthew Henry's commentary says that once inside the city, a trial was held and if acquitted - the man's life was saved. However, the man must live inside the city until the death of the high priest. Of course, this reminds us of Jesus Christ, the High Priest who died that we might go free.

The Bible tells of a man named Abner. At one time, Abner had killed Asahel, the brother of Joab, a leader of David's armies. Abner set out to form a confederation with David, and then left to go to the city of refuge Hebron.

Joab had not forgiven Abner for killing his brother Asahel, and set out after Abner. The Bible says, *'And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother (II Sam. 3:27).*

Read the whole chapter for the whole story. I am skipping ahead to verse 33-34 which says, *'And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth? Thy hands were not bound, nor they feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou. And all the people wept again over him.'*

Abner behaved foolishly in that he tarried at the gate of refuge rather than entering in quickly while there was yet time. In this, he lost his own life and brought sorrow to those who loved him and his country as well. Today, any lost soul who understands that the way to everlasting life is through Jesus Christ - and yet tarries in deciding to enter into the safety of Jesus Christ - is risking dying as a fool.

Those who are born again have obtained an eternal refuge in Jesus Christ; but while we remain in the flesh, we have trials. In these trials we can find rest in safety in Jesus Christ in whom we find all the things found in the cities of refuge of the Old Testament.

Kedesh - signifies holy and our Refuge is the holy Jesus. In Christ we are innocent. I John 1:9 says, *'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'*

Although a Christian is born again, the flesh is still sinful. Sin will enter into the life of every believer. Sins, no matter how small, need forgiveness, which can only come from Jesus Christ. Many Christians spend their time worrying over the sins of the world, and the sins of the unsaved, believing their own sins are too small to cause them any grief. This is wrong. II Corinthians 10:12 tells us, *'For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.'*

Verse 18 says, *'for not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.'*

Shechem - a shoulder, and the government is upon His shoulder. Isaiah 9:6 tells us, *'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The might God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.'* I find this very comforting today, as we watch governments around the world falter and act foolishly and maliciously against the children of Israel, and Christians. We are helpless to stop the tide of evil decisions and policies spewing from leaders around the world. Yet, this burden is not on our shoulders. Jesus Christ bears the burden of government for us on His own shoulders. Today is the day to take these burdens to Jesus Himself. Christians must always take care to avoid making the Gospel of Jesus Christ a mere social gospel. That is like trying to make a diamond necklace from lumps of coal.

Hebron - fellowship, and the believers are called into the fellowship of Christ Jesus our Lord. I Corinthians 1:9 says, *'God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his son Jesus Christ our Lord.'*

We not only have fellowship with Jesus Christ our Lord, but we also have fellowship with the brethren. I John 1:7 says, *'But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.'*

Bezer - a fortification, for He is a strong hold to all those that trust in Him. Nahum 1:7 says, *'the LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and knoweth them that rust in him.'*

We can say that Jesus Christ is undoubtedly THE Strong Hold that will never fall. This cannot be said of any strong hold on earth. There is no nation or city that cannot be breached by the enemy. History is full of strong cities and kingdoms that fell. Notably, in the days of Daniel the great prophet, Babylon fell in one day.

Ramoth - high or exalted, for Him hath God exalted with His own right hand. Acts 5:30-31 says, *'the God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.'*

Webster's online dictionary defines 'exalt' as:

1. to raise in rank, power, or character.

The rank, power, and character of Jesus Christ is high above all that we can understand.

2. to elevate by praise or in estimation - to glorify.
3. to raise high - to elevate.
4. to enhance the activity of - to intensify.

Praising God stirs God to act on our behalf.

Golon - joy or exultation, for in Him all the saints are justified and shall glory.

Titus 3:7 says, *'That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.'*

Romans 8:17 says, *'And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him that we may be also glorified together.'*

Abner died as a fool because he did not enter into the city while he had the chance. If you are not saved, you are risking dying as a fool. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31. Romans 10:9)

I know that most people reading this are saved, so the thing to consider is this,

'ARE YOU LIVING AS A FOOL?'

Have you entered into eternal life through the door of Jesus Christ, only to spend your life starving for the good things of God? Consider again the cities of refuge and how these refuges are available to each believer in Jesus Christ.

Kedesh Christians will hang onto their own sins instead of confessing sins and turning from them. This will withhold blessings from the sinner and their family and their country and the world. If God shows you a sin in your life, turn from it. Repent. Don't let it keep you from resting in the refuge of Jesus Christ. Don't let your sins bring hurt to your families. In holding onto sin, the Christian is choosing to eat the bread of bitterness and sorrow. Remember, there is no sin so small that it does not require repentance.

Schechem Jesus Christ bears the burden of government on His shoulder. Dear Christian, this means:

He is the governor of **your life**. He is the Righteous Governor. Be careful to be obedient in all the teachings of Christ. Love one another as He loved you. Forgive one another as Christ forgave you.

He is the governor of **your home**. Your house should be run as though the Lord were with you in the flesh all the time. I cannot say this strongly enough - **the way you treat your family is the way you really are**. If you are 'mister or miss' congeniality at work and church, but you are a terrifying ogre or tyrant at home, then in reality, you are just an ogre or tyrant. Our Blessed Governor will enable us to love our families as He loves them. If you find yourself on the grumpy or demanding side to often, confess this behavior as sin. Jesus will help you to treat your family the way He wants them treated.

The burden of government in your nation is on Jesus Christ. You can do what the law allows to promote godly government. You can try to elect godly leaders. But the burden of the outcome is on Jesus Christ. Do not let a social gospel replace Jesus Christ. Don't let the sins of the world distract you from watching for sin in your own life.

Hebron Are you willing to walk in the light of Jesus Christ? Or are you stuck living in the shadows? In the shadows, you will be ruled by relics from your past and fears for your future. Turn from these sins and repent.

Bezer Do you run to Jesus in the time of storm - or do you sink beneath the waves? Actually, our whole lives are spent either walking on water or sinking into despair. Are you willing to take your eyes off the trouble your face and focus on Jesus?

Ramoth Have you exalted Jesus to be the Lord over all of your life? Or are you still holding on to power here and there? Jesus Christ really IS your boss. He may put you under authority or obligation to family, church, and work, but He is still the top authority in your life. Live to please Him. That is ultimately the best way to do right by those who depend on you.

Golon Do you see Joy in your future as a joint heir with Jesus Christ? Or are you too busy trying to find complete satisfaction in your life right now? 'But seek ye first the kingdom of god, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.' (Matthew 6:33)

The song for this article is 'A Shelter in the Time of Storm'.

Thank you for reading my article. God bless you.

Barbara Henderson

Asked God to help you:

Be thankful

Repent

Believe Him more

And answer you prayers.

A Shelter in the Time of Storm

The Lord's our Rock, in Him we hide,
A Shelter in the time of storm;
Secure whatever ill betide,
A Shelter in the time of storm.

Refrain

*Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land,
A weary land, a weary land;
Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land,
A Shelter in the time of storm.*

A shade by day, defense by night,
A Shelter in the time of storm;
No fears alarm, no foes afright,
A Shelter in the time of storm.

Refrain

The raging storms may round us beat,
A Shelter in the time of storm
We'll never leave our safe retreat,
A Shelter in the time of storm.

Refrain

O Rock divine, O Refuge dear,
A Shelter in the time of storm;
Be Thou our Helper ever near,
A Shelter in the time of storm.

Refrain

<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/s/h/sheltime.htm>

Are You Looking for Success?

To look away from the task at hand will give you a 'broader view' of the world, but will it help you reach your goal?

Conservatives are now 'Narrow Minded' according to the dictionary.

There is an article on Worldnetdaily.com that goes into detail on this matter. Conservatives are called all sorts of bigoted and prejudiced names, and insulted as unreasonable. However, the truth is that conservatives who stand on Jesus Christ are the ones who are on the Narrow Way that leads to life everlasting. I say that the most successful people are those who are narrow minded in their faith in the God of creation, and narrow minded in their goals for the future and their business as well.

Those who build a financial empire, or amass a great deal of wealth, whether conservative Christian or not, are narrow minded. Take for instance someone like Donald Trump. He is certainly not a man to be admired from any viewpoint except that of adoring money and worldly success. However, does anyone doubt that by the rules of the world, he is a success? And, how does anyone think he gained such success without being narrow minded? He has kept his eyes on the prize that means most to him. His goal is making money. He looks neither to the right nor the left. Everything in his life is considered first from the question, 'Will this make me money?'. Or, 'What is required of me that I make money out of this situation?'. That is the way it works with anything important. If you have an idea of what you want to achieve, whether it be good or bad, you must keep your eye on that particular goal, and turn neither to the right or the left.

People of the liberal mindset really accomplish nothing lasting or worthwhile. Everything they seem to have accomplished is entirely temporary and sits on shifting sand. One of the funniest things that liberals do, or most pathetic, depending on how you look at it, is to seek to 'save the planet' from mankind. What a crock. They are walking around in circles, and actually accomplish nothing except keeping bazillions of people in a constant state of fear. Then, their followers do ridiculously useless things like spend a ton of money to make bio-fuel. This makes them feel good, but it actually accomplishes nothing and even makes for a greater problem as bio fuels use much more energy to produce than they save in energy costs. Still that allows people to feel better about themselves because they have 'done their part' in saving the planet. Have you noticed that 'global warming' is now called 'climate change'? That is because the outrageous claims of 'global warming' have proven to be nonexistent, so these broad minded liberal people have become even more broad minded, and decided that the climate must be changing; they

just don't know if it is getting warmer or colder. Either way, earth is headed for disaster, and mankind must do something to stop it.

It turns out that being broad minded or liberal actually just leads in circles. No one reaches a goal of anything lasting or good through liberality or broadmindedness. They just go in silly little circles, are distracted by everything, cause problems to all of mankind, and 'feel' quite good about themselves as they progressively grow more delusional.

On the days that they actually notice they are NOT changing the world for the better or gaining personal wealth and fame, they look for someone to blame instead of examining their own shortcomings and false values on which they have built their lives. Now, who do you think gets the blame for their failures? If you said 'conservative Christians' then you are correct.

For the narrow minded conservative Christian, the goal or prize is a 'Well done!' from Jesus Christ when we reach our heavenly home. We cannot turn from the absolute truth of Jesus Christ in any way if we expect such a prize. As with any successful endeavor, the goal must be continually kept in the line of vision if the goal is to be reached. That means you are looking at your goal and continually striving to go forward in the completion of a specific task. To look away from the task at hand will give you a liberal or 'broader view' of the world, but will it help you reach your goal? I think not!

Today, the architects or manipulators of the government, society, and the economy are quite narrow minded in their goals. They want to control everything, and they will not turn from their goal. They have no thought for what is actually right according to the absolute truths of the Bible. Their eyes are fully on their goals, and God have mercy on those who get in their way.

And, who is more narrow minded and bigoted than a liberal who demands that everyone change into their image, OR be subject to ridicule, bias, and even hate from liberals.

Liberals see conservatives as what is standing in the way of them reaching their goals. However, the conservative Christian is only a front. The REAL enemy of the liberal is God Almighty. God instructs His children to walk the 'narrow way that leads to life everlasting'. He instructs His children to stay off the 'broad way' that leads to destruction.

God also says '*Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil*'. (Isaiah 5:20)

This is what liberals do.

They call followers of Jesus Christ 'narrow minded' and 'bigoted'.

They call surrender of individual rights the right thing to do.

They call the murder of unborn children right.

They call taxing the rich to give to the poor right – when in truth they take from everyone and keep it all for themselves.

They seek to build a society like that built at Babel, which clearly did not please God.

They seek to build a society that relies entirely on government to supply all their needs instead looking to God for help. In fact, liberals want worship of the government in place of God.

Liberals want to control money, religion, and government with an iron fist.

Liberals see individual rights as having no value, and actually causing the world's problems.

Liberals would like to outlaw and ban worship of the God of the Bible.

The liberal mindset definitely calls evil good and good evil.

Liberals call those who cling to the Rock of Jesus Christ and His absolute truths bigots. In rejecting the followers of Jesus Christ, liberals are expressing their rejection of Christ Himself. They have gone the way of Cain, attempting to go to God on their own terms instead of following the instructions for approaching God.

To try to fit into the liberal world and still keep your focus on the Christ is impossible. It is like trying to walk north and south at the same time. It cannot be done. If you have chosen God, then follow Him! If you have not chosen God, then are following the devil to hell. Do not continue in such folly. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved!

This sort of wishy-washy faith was a problem in the days of Joshua of old. In Joshua 24:15 Joshua says, *'And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.'*

Don't mess up your own life, confuse your family, and aid and abet the devil by trying to fit into both the world and the family of God. It cannot be done. Say as Joshua said, 'Me and My house will serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15)

Are You Looking for an Attitude Adjustment?

Circumstances versus Attitude

Change your attitude to change the world - for better or worse.

Contentment and joy in someone's life never comes from their circumstances.

Think about it.

Being rich and independently wealthy does not guarantee either happiness or unhappiness.

The perfect job or lack of a job at all does not guarantee either satisfaction and happiness or dissatisfaction.

The most agreeable, faithful, and attractive spouse does not guarantee satisfaction or contentment in a marriage.

Healthy, intelligent, obedient children do not guarantee an appreciative or loving parent.

NOTHING is about your circumstances.

EVERYTHING is about your attitude.

Originally, Adam and Eve lived in a perfect Garden where neither sin nor death was allowed. Then sin entered in, and the whole of creation fell from grace with Adam and Eve. Eve was beguiled by the serpent because she became discontent or bored with her circumstances. Circumstantially speaking, Eve had it all, but it wasn't enough. She wanted more. Lucifer really had it all. He was the highest of the angels, good looking, and lived in a perfect place. His circumstances were not enough to keep him happy and satisfied.

Lucifer, Adam, and Eve all had something in common. They had a bad attitude. They didn't enjoy what they had.

For anyone to enjoy life, they must first look at life as a gift from God of immeasurable value.

God created you.

God is with you.

God has a plan for your good.

God has a perfect and eternal future for His children with Him.

A person with a negative attitude is probably the most difficult person in the world with which to fellowship. They have a black cloud following them around that can be so overwhelming that it seems to obstruct YOUR breathing just having to be near them. I don't know what you can do

for them except pray for them and avoid them like the plague. Don't confuse those going through grief with negative people. Do not expect them to shrug off their grief. Grief and loss happen, and the bereaved must have their time to mourn before they can adjust and move forward with their lives. There is a danger of letting grief redefine one's life in the negative mold, so when you face grief or loss personally you do have to be careful. Turn it over to God immediately, and He will lead you through.

A person with a positive attitude is a joy to be around for most people. That person just gets up in the morning and plans to face whatever the day brings with a good attitude. I have read that survivors of concentration camps in WWII tried to face each day with a positive attitude. I don't know what they were 'positive' about, but that was how they got through it. I am sure those with the best attitude were able to encourage those around them as well.

Now, we don't face the dire circumstances of the those in concentration camps, but many today are facing some dire circumstances. It may be an illness in the family. It may be grief. It may be impending financial disaster, or financial disaster may have already struck.

No matter what you are facing, here is what you need to do. Just get up in the morning and live your life. When you have that first cup of coffee or soda pop, enjoy it. That coffee may come from Starbucks, or it may be warmed over from last night in your microwave. It doesn't matter. Just enjoy it. If you have breakfast, chew slowly and enjoy what you have to eat. If you have a job, be thankful for it, and do your best to do a good job. If you don't like your job, it probably isn't permanent anyway. Ask God for something better or more to your liking, but don't let yourself be made miserable by your current job.

It is all about your attitude. If you cannot be satisfied in your current situation and circumstances, then you will not be able to enjoy or be satisfied in whatever circumstance you may find yourself in the future.

A good attitude will help you think more clearly. If you are in a situation or a relationship that you are questioning, then a better attitude is your first priority. You cannot properly assess a situation from a negative view point.

A positive attitude doesn't look back. It looks forward toward the prize.

A positive attitude runs the race of the day, knowing sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

A positive attitude doesn't measure its success by those around him or her. It just says, 'Did I do better today than I did yesterday?'

Circumstances are usually totally beyond your control. Did you have anything to do with the current global financial crisis? I didn't think so.

Your attitude, on the other hand, belongs to you. People seem to either view each day as a gift from God, or a curse and burden they must carry. They don't want to die; they just don't see any joy in living.

Today is a good day to evaluate your attitude. On a scale of one to ten how positive or negative are you? Are you satisfied where you are? Are you ready to make the attitude change that will give you a more satisfying life?

If you are plagued with a negative attitude, you may want to ask yourself why you are negative. Do you have real reasons to be negative? Has life been unfair? If that is the case, then think about this. Many people have very real reasons to be negative in their thinking and actions. But, having a reason to be negative does not require that someone live with a negative mindset. AND, no matter how valid a reason for constant negative thinking, it does nothing to propel anyone to a better future. To stick with a negative attitude is to stay in a downward spiral leading to despair and hurting many others on the way.

Everyone's attitude, including mine and yours, can be improved. It starts with thankg God when you go to bed at night and when you get up in the morning

Be obedient to God because you love Him, want to please Him, and want that 'well done' that He gives to good and faithful servants.

And just do your job(s) to the best of your ability, starting with your responsibility to God and your family.

In improving your *own* attitude you will:

- improve your own life and level of satisfaction
- improve the lives of your family and those around you
- improve the world.

Additional Scriptures for further study

Word of God

Hebrews 4:12
Psalms 119:89
Luke 4:4
2Timothy 3:16- 17
John 17:17
Proverbs 30:5
Psalms 119:11

Peace

Isaiah 57:21
1Thessalonians 5:3
Romans 3:17, 4:5, 5:1, 14:17
Philippians 4:7

Contentment

Philippians 4:11
1Timothy 6:6-8
Luke 3:14
Hebrews 13:5
Proverbs 23:17-18
Genesis 33:9
Proverbs 27:23-27

Courage

2Samuel 10:12
Psalms 27:14
31:24
Philippians 4:13
Joshua 1:9
Deuteronomy 31:6
2Chronicles 15:8

Success

John 10:10
Joshua 1:8
Proverbs 22:1
Psalms 1:1-3
Deuteronomy 29:9
12John 1:2
Ecclesiastes 7:14