

So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33

Store In My Heart

3John 1:11

Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

This third epistle from John the Apostle is also written to an individual. Like the second John commends this individual for the assistance given to those who were spreading the Gospel. Unfortunately there was one in the church there that was causing problems for those who were offering such assistance. John rebukes him, even giving warning that more might be needed. He also mentions one there that could be depended upon.

Our verse states a basic truth that we all should heed. We must keep ourselves from that which is not of God. Even when those around us are working against us we must continue to do that which is right. Always do good, not evil.



Holding Back, or Holding On?

Warren E. Berkley

When we talk to people who are not Christians, and they have heard the gospel but delay obedience we often think or say, “they are holding back.”

There are people who come to our church buildings regularly and have heard the gospel over and over. Or, they have studied in homes with Christians. They know that God is real, that Jesus is His Son, that His death was a sacrifice for sin. They know Jesus arose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of God. They have listened to all the passages that teach the right response, so they know about confession, repentance and baptism. Yet, weeks and months and years go by ... no response.

While we often say, “they are holding back,” it may be more accurate to say, “they are holding on...” It’s not holding back, but holding on to something.

A former religion, a cherished relationship, a good measure of popularity, a family religious tradition, the cares of this world, some personally preferred sin, etc. It’s not that the alien sinner is holding back. They are holding on to something, not willing to give up something they cherish.

For example, the apostle Paul before his obedience, held on to his status in Judaism, but [on the road to Damascus] gave it up – to be a Christian, to have the excellence of the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Joyce Venable is in a regular room now at Baptist Hospital in Little Rock. They are monitoring her on some medication.

John Ragsdale is much better after dealing with cold symptoms last week.

Betty Ragsdale still has back pain.

Ruben Keisler has several vertebrae with deterioration among his other health issues.

Dottie Henderson still has fluid buildup causing breathing difficulties.

Truth Connection:

*"...though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead." **Philippians 3:4-11***

(This week's article is from an electronic publication to which I subscribe, Pressing On. Brother Berkley writes a regular piece for this publication titled, Truth Connection.

This particular article caught my attention because it applies to us as members as well as those we try to teach. While he focuses on those who hesitate to obey, I want us to consider that often we are still 'holding on' to things that keep us from serving the Lord to the best of our ability.

Sometimes it is the same things that hinder the disobedient, family, traditions, past teachings, etc. At other times it is habits or comfortable practices that get in our way. It can be very easy to keep to our patterns in life, but often doing this will hold us back from progress that we need in order to serve God. Manual transmissions are great and give the driver a greater level of control, but newer vehicles with fuel controls are able to use fuel more efficiently with an automatic, thus helping us go more miles for less cash. Am I holding on to things that might be holding me back in my service to God? I hope not. Study with diligence. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!