

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. **1John 2:28**

Store In My Heart

Hebrews 11:1,6

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ... And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Faith is certainty regarding things we cannot see. Without certainty God exists we cannot come close to him.

I have never seen Kalamazoo. I have seen sufficient evidence to believe it exists. Because of that evidence and belief, I could travel to that city with confidence of getting there.

There is sufficient evidence to believe God exists. His creation shows He is. His Word tells who He is and how to find Him. This evidence for faith directs our journey to Him and the promised reward.

The Word will strengthen our faith and lead us to God.



Living Life Without Regret

Kent Heaton

Life is filled with many challenges. In any length of time decisions will be made that will bring about sadness and regret. The reality of life is not that there will be no regrets but that those regrets will be few. Adam and Eve lived with the regret of one decision that forever changed their lives and the destiny of mankind (**Genesis 3**). Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and was a just man, perfect in his generations. He walked with God and moved with godly fear, prepared the ark for the saving of his household (**Genesis 6-8; Hebrews 11:7**). Yet he got drunk one day and indirectly led to the curse upon his own son, Canaan (**Genesis 9:18-29**).

Abraham is the father of the faithful (**Romans 4:16**) but his life is marred by the regret of his lack of faith when he lied to Pharaoh (**Genesis 12**) and Abimelech (**Genesis 20**). Moses, the great leader of the people of Israel, accomplished so much in his life and remains the image of the Old Testament covenant that bears his name (**Joshua 8:31**). The greatest tragedy of Moses' life was not the killing of the Egyptian (**Exodus 2:11-15**). Sadly when in anger he fails to give the Lord glory at Kadesh (bringing water from the rock) the Lord tells Moses he would not bring the people of Israel into the land of Canaan (**Numbers 20:1-13**).

King Saul would live to regret his decision to offer an unlawful sacrifice (**1Samuel 13:1-5**) and for sparing King Agag (**1Samuel 15**). His kingdom was taken away from him and David ruled in his place. The giant killer David lived a life worthy of following as he shows courage before Goliath,

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

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For Our Information

Bill Venable is still slowly recovering from recent surgery. The last few days have been difficult for him and Joyce.

The Simpson family is isolating this weekend due to sickness were Jon Ross attends school.

This evening at 5 pm our class on Judges will continue at chapter 7:24.

Our Wednesday evening class on 1Corinthians will start at 7 pm in chapter 12.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

mercy to King Saul and friendship to Jonathan. However he is also remembered for the decision he made that would haunt him the rest of his life and be inscribed on the pages of God's words until the end of time. Who does not know the story of David and Bathsheba (**2Samuel 11,12**)? His regrets were numerous as he caused the death of a noble man (Uriah), the death of the child born through the adultery with Bathsheba and the punishment from the Lord as Nathan explained in **2Samuel 12:10-15**. Later, Matthew would record the following words: "*Jesse fathered David the king. And David the king fathered Solomon of her who had been wife of Uriah*" (**Matthew 1:6**). Life with regrets.

The rich young ruler would regret his decision (**Matthew 19:16-22**), the Jews would regret their denial of the Messiah (**Acts 2:36-39**), Peter denied the Lord (**Luke 22:54-62**), Paul persecuted the church (**Acts 26**) and the list is legion of those who lived every day with regret. The only one who lived a complete life with no regrets was Jesus Christ (**1Peter 2:21-24**).

What is the value of the lesson? Because we are frail creatures of dust and disobey the Lord we will experience times in our lives when the event can never be changed and we will carry the burden of that knowledge our whole life. The victory is found in Jesus Christ who does not suggest there will not be failures in life but the ability to work through those failures. Through forgiveness we can know that our mistakes will not be eternal (**1John 1:5-9**). We must strive to live life with fewer regrets! With all the people of God that lived with regret the one decision they made that had eternal consequences was to be obedient to the Lord. Failure to follow that pattern will lead to a regret that has eternal consequences (**Matthew 7:21-23**).

(Did you notice that each of those regrets mentioned in the article involved sin? Most of us have regrets that arise from deeds committed in our past. We cannot remove those, but we can be like Paul, who used his regret to keep himself focused on accomplishing the work God had given to him. Let each of us seek to know God through His Word and use the errors of our past to press us to greater devotion to God today. Study, Pray, Apply! DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!