

Colossians 3:17 – Whatever you do...

1 INTRODUCTION

- I. Thank the elders & congregation for continues support & love
 - a. Have to admit I struggled a lot with this topic – very broad, could go any direction
 - b. Even harder when you are a guest speaker – don't know the group as well etc.
 - i. What I would like for us to do tonight is not look at the entire passage, but focus in on one portion of the passage
 - ii. We are told whatever we do, in word or in deed, to do all in the name of the Lord
 - iii. Tonight we are going to particularly focus on whatever we do in deed
 - c. Daniel 11:32 says those who know their God will stand firm and take action
 - i. Making sure that we have right teaching (in the name of the Lord) is vital
 - ii. But it means next to nothing if we do not also follow it up with right action

2 RIGHT TEACHING WITHOUT RIGHT ACTION IS HYPOCRISY

- I. Have you ever heard the expression, “Do what I say, and not what I do?”
 - a. Of course none of us are perfect, but built into this saying is an admission that there is a disconnect between what I say and what I actually do
 - b. Demonstrates a lack of integrity and (intentional or not) a level of hypocrisy
- II. Poor example: The Jews of Romans 2
 - a. Vv. 1-5; 17-24 they did the very things that they preached against
 - i. They had right teaching...but their actions disagreed with their teaching
 - ii. Have I ever done that in my life? (Ex. Eph. 5 – have nothing to do with darkness)
 - b. Could even be positive teaching that we are referring to (engaging not abstaining)
 - i. Ex. – James 1:27 – taking care of widows and orphans in need.
 - ii. I could have right teaching about institutionalism, but do I actually do this?
 - 1. Good example: David Tant (friend of youth award)
 - 2. Helped some 50 + orphans in their own home
 - iii. Or perhaps we preach about evangelism, but what have I actually done lately?
 - 1. It is easy to be critical when you are a commentator (sports)
 - 2. Am I a commentator when it comes to the Lord's work? All talk, no action? (like faith without works is dead, so talk without action)
- III. Positive example: Paul with Timothy & Titus
 - a. Notice the emphasis that Paul puts on them having not only right teaching, but right action
 - i. 1 Tim. 4:11-16 – keep a close watch on yourself & your teaching (set example)
 - ii. Titus 2:1, 7-10 – teach sound doctrine....but also make sure to model good works!
 - b. In other words – do not just tell them what to do, SHOW them what to do!

3 IN GENERAL, PEOPLE WILL FOLLOW OUR ACTIONS OVER OUR WORDS

- I. Want to do a short exercise that was done by Brent Hunter in Kirkland back on March 20
 - a. Did a wonderful lesson on passing on values to the next generation (go listen)
 - b. Raise your hand 10 inches off your lap, want you to bring it down hard on 4...
 - i. (Raise higher, go down on 3) observe what people did
 - ii. Now, touch your ear (observe again)
 - c. The point is in general, people will do what you do over what you say
 - i. That's why that expression (do what I do, not what I say) doesn't work
 - ii. Whether we like it or not, people are going to follow your actions
- II. Jesus understood this, and that is how he conducted his ministry & mentorship
 - a. Yes, Jesus did a LOT of verbal teaching...but much of what he did was simply modeling
 - i. Mark 1:17 – when calling his disciples, told them to follow me
 - 1. Didn't have a lot to do in his ministry until later...they just watched!
 - 2. Very intentional, Jesus was modeling for them what they should also do
 - ii. John 13:7, 12-15 perhaps the greatest illustration of Jesus doing this
 - 1. I have done this in order to leave for you an example
 - 2. Could have simply told them what to do...but instead he showed them
 - b. Consider the example of Paul as well
 - i. 2 Tim. 2:1-2; 3:10-11 what you have heard and SEEN in me....my conduct
 - ii. What are we doing to mentor the next generation? Telling them what the church does, or showing them what the church does?

4 CONCLUSION: STAND FIRM, AND TAKE ACTION

- I. Going back to Daniel 11 – that is our challenge for this evening, to stand firm and take action
 - a. Not only talk the talk, but we must walk the walk
 - b. Perhaps I can relate to the church at Ephesus
 - i. Rev. 2:1-5 right teaching...but have lost my first love
 - ii. Let us do the works that we did at first!
- II. Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord
 - a. Keep a close watch over yourself & your teaching, in doing so you will save both yourself and your hearers
 - b. To the work! The lesson is yours