

“AND SEE HOW THEY ARE DOING”

By Keith Greer

“Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.” {Acts 15:36}
Paul had taken the gospel and planted churches in many cities. Now, he wanted to go back to those places to see how they were doing. God’s people need to be concerned about:

Doing. *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?” {Luke 6:46} “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” {Matthew 7:21}* Obeying the gospel is absolutely necessary. But that obedience will be meaningless unless we CONTINUE to obey God’s will in our lives. Some people believe that believers can become unfaithful and not lose their salvation. This is untrue; we need always to be DOING God’s will to the best of our ability.

Doing what God authorizes. *“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” {Colossians 3:17}* God has said that His children are to follow His commands in all things. King Saul thought he could adjust God’s commands, so he attempted to make a wrong right by sacrificing to the Lord. What did God tell Saul? *“Then Samuel said: Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.” {1 Samuel 15:22}* True, God had instructed them to offer animal sacrifices – but not the animals they brought back from Amalek! God’s people must stand within the boundaries He has set. *{1 Corinthians 4:6; Deuteronomy 4:2}*

Doing with a proper motive. *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” {1 Corinthians 13:1-3}* Sadly, many in the religious world have fallen for the devil’s lie that God will accept anything, as long as it’s offered by a person who has an honest heart. Even the right actions are not acceptable if they are performed by one who has an impure motive. *{Philippians 2:14,15; Galatians 6:1,2; Matthew 23:3}*

Doing what you have the ability to do. *“For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.” {2 Corinthians 8:12}*
We can only do those things we have the ability to accomplish. Remember the woman who used the costly ointment to prepare Jesus’ body for burial. *“She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.” {Mark 14:8}* Find your place and fill it!

Doing for God’s glory. *“To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” {Ephesians 3:21}* Every obedient act performed by one of God’s children is performed to bring honor and glory to God – not to ourselves. *{Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:31}*

Doing it now. “...*In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*” {2 Corinthians 6:2} All we have is today – yesterday is gone, and tomorrow may never come. Procrastination will cause the loss of many souls.

Each day all of us must make choices concerning the use of the precious time God had blessed us with in our lives. So many things of this life compete with our time and sometimes we fail to use our time wisely. We should all be concerned about how we’re doing. ***