

Questions People Ask Me About Current Issues

February 6, 2022

1. How do you stay positive in this current environment? I take Paul's advice

- **Philippians 4:8** ⁸ Finally, brothers, **whatever** is true, **whatever** is noble, **whatever** is right, **whatever** is pure, **whatever** is lovely, **whatever** is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ **Whatever** you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.
 - A. Six times Paul says whatever is....
 - B. Seven times Paul encourages them to learn to be honest, positive, and teachable

2. What are our greatest dangers during this season?

- A. Lying to ourselves
- B. Fighting a unified enemy when we are divided
- C. Holding on to old models that don't work in a technological age

3. What is hard for us to see during this season?

- A. **How Change Happens:** Some people will change when circumstances change
 - **Matthew 9:14** ¹⁴ Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁵ Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? **The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.**
- B. **What We Must Change:** The old approaches will not work and will lead to ruin
 - ¹⁶ "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. ¹⁷ Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, **the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined.** No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Note: Mature change and sacrifice often shows up after a deep loss or ruin.

4. What is your dream for the future

- A. I dream of more consistency in my life
- B. I dream of great breakthroughs in my life
- C. I dream of ways I can build on what I have not what I don't have

Staff Questions

1. How do you balance your life with the dream for more and the need to be content?

A. More is ok, as long as more does not become a god to you.

B. God wants us to be fruitful (John 15:16, NIV)

- You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

2. How can I miss the rest or blessing God has planned for me?

A. You can miss it by not listening (Hebrews 3:7-11, NIV)

- So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice,⁸ do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness,⁹ where your ancestors tested and tried me, though for forty years they saw what I did.¹⁰ That is why I was angry with that generation; I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.’¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’

Next Time: The Truth About How We Got Here!

Read Ahead: Jeremiah 29:1-14 (Consider 29:11 in the context of the 14 verses)