

11 17 2011 AVOID REPETITION

In my life, the results of my efforts have been determined by learning from mistakes. Those who learn from mistakes & AVOID REPETITION ultimately succeed. I'm Ken Trahan & Welcome to Walking in the Word with Williams Blvd. Baptist Church.

We have seen it in government, in different countries, on different continents. History has a way of repeating itself. Unfortunately, the things that are repeated are often wrong & sinful. Errors are repeated over & over again. I would repeatedly commit the same type of sin. While my life is still sinful, that presence has been significantly reduced through a true & lasting commitment to put Christ at the center of my life. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!

God is rich in mercy. Throughout Scripture, we see the familiar pattern—sin, followed by the warning from God to repent. Upon true repentance & discovering how to AVOID REPETITION, we are forgiven. In scripture, God warns that the wages of sin is death—from warning about destruction through Noah to warning the Ninevites through Jonah through warning the Moabites through the prophecy of Isaiah, the word is clear.

God offered the Moabites mercy if they were willing to pay the tribute tax of lambs to the king of Judah. In the time of Ahab, Mesha had to pay a tribute to Israel of 100,000 rams annually as we read in 2nd Kings 3:4. They had to submit to the house of David as their only hope.

The Moabites not only spurned God's warnings but did so pridefully. Obviously, this pride was foolish. Pride prevents the sinner from true repentance & submission to the will of God. Man would prefer to face the wrath of almighty God than face the consequences of human punishment. That is a dangerous notion.

When God judges & acts, as He did to the Moabites when He dried up their land, He will act harshly. Why wait until that occurs? When we are sick, we take medicine in an attempt to get better. If we feel symptoms of a sickness coming on, we can start on the medicine immediately as a preventative measure.

When we feel sin coming on, & we ALWAYS know since sin is almost exclusively premeditated & thought out, why not take the medicine? While I am still a sinner saved by grace, the reason I know I am changed, saved, is because I sin far less because when the moment of decision to sin comes about, the Holy Spirit convicts me.

I simply pause, allow the Holy Spirit to work in me, say to myself, “Lord, I know this is not what you want from me,” & make the right decision. As Romans 3:10 & Romans 3:23 says, there is no one righteous & we have all sinned & fallen short of the glory of God. No one exempt from a heart of sin. Every one of us is a sinner.

The key in our faith walk is to study God’s Word, place in our hearts that we might not sin against Him, Psalm 119:9-11, & AVOID REPETITION. What is that area where you repeat sinful behavior? Is it lying? Is it cheating? Is it lusting? Is it coveting? Focus on that area. Pray for God’s guidance. Ask for His forgiveness.

His love is exhibited beautifully in a poem titled “The U in Jesus:” Here’s the Word: “Before U were thought of or time had begun, God stuck U in the name of His Son. & each time U pray, you’ll see it’s true, you can’t spell out Jesus & not include U.

You’re a pretty big part of His wonderful name, for U, He was born; that’s why He came. & His great love for U is the reason He died. It even takes U to spell crucified. Isn’t it thrilling & splendidly grand? He rose from the dead, with U in His plan! The stones split away, the gold trumpet blew, & this word resurrection is spelled with a U. When Jesus left earth at His upward ascension, He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

“Go into the world & tell them it’s true, that I love them all—just like I love U. So many great people are spelled with a U, don’t they have a right to know Jesus, too? It all depends now on what U will do, He’s like them to know, but it all starts with U.” Jesus loves us. He will forgive us but He wants & expects us to AVOID REPETITION—the repetition of sin & get into the REPETITION of loving & serving Him!

For a text copy, e-mail me @ kentrahan@aol.com & ask for AVOID REPETITION. For Pastor Tim Williams, thanks for joining us. I’m Ken Trahan. God bless you!