

Acts 18:1-23 Living A Life Without Spiritual Regret July 15 2009

Intro:

Regret:

“We must all suffer from one of two pains: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret. The difference is discipline weighs ounces while regret weighs tons.”

- Jim Rohn

“Regret for the things we did can be tempered by time; it is regret for the things we did not do that is inconsolable.”

- Sydney Smith

“If only. Those must be the two saddest words in the world.”

- Mercedes Lackey

1. Producing in cooperation with other people.

Acts 18:1-3 (HCSB)

¹ After this, he left from Athens and went to Corinth,

² where he found a Jewish man named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul came to them,

³ and being of the same occupation, stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (HCSB)

¹¹ to seek to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,

¹² so that you may walk properly in the presence of outsiders and not be dependent on anyone.

2. Persuading people with biblical reasoning.

Acts 18:4 (HCSB)

⁴ He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and tried to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

Paul's favorite lines of reasoning:

- Creation is always testifying
- Confirmation by scripture
- Christ crucified and risen
- Coming judgment

3. Putting the responsibility on the listener.

Acts 18:5-6 (HCSB)

⁵ When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with preaching the message and solemnly testified to the Jews that the Messiah is Jesus.

⁶ But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his clothes and told them, "Your blood is on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

Ezekiel 33:1-7 (ESV)

¹ The word of the Lord came to me:

² "Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman,

³ and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people,

⁴ then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

⁵ He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life.

⁶ But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.

⁷ "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me.

4. Paying the price to put Christ first.

Acts 18:7-8 (HCSB)

⁷ So he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.

⁸ Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed the Lord, along with his whole household; and many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.

Luke 9:23-26 (HCSB)

²³ Then He said to [them] all, "If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me will save it.

²⁵ What is a man benefited if he gains the whole world, yet loses or forfeits himself?

²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory and that of the Father and the holy angels.

Matthew 19:27-30 (HCSB)

²⁷ Then Peter responded to Him, "Look, we have left everything and followed You. So what will there be for us?"

²⁸ Jesus said to them, "I assure you: In the Messianic Age, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

²⁹ And everyone who has left houses, brothers or sisters, father or mother, children, or fields because of My name will receive 100 times more and will inherit eternal life.

³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

5. Persistence in saying and doing what God gives you to do.

Acts 18:9-10 (HCSB)

⁹ Then the Lord said to Paul in a night vision, “Don’t be afraid, but keep on speaking and don’t be silent.

¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to hurt you, because I have many people in this city.”

Galatians 6:9-10 (HCSB)

⁹ So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don’t give up.

¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, we must work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.

6. Be a People-builder by strengthening and encouraging.

Acts 18:23 (HCSB)

²³ He set out, traveling through one place after another in the Galatian territory and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (HCSB)

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (HCSB)

²³ Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works,

²⁵ not staying away from our meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Invitation: 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (HCSB)

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time for my departure is close.

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

⁸In the future, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved His appearing.

Matthew 25:23 (HCSB)

²³“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy!’