

BIBLE THOUGHTS ON PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. It seems that more and more people are less and less ready and willing to accept personal responsibilities.
2. It has become the common practice for so many to “pass the buck,” so to speak, to say “it’s not my fault,” or “it’s not my job,” or “let George do it” (as the expression goes), or seemingly to ignore the fact that it’s their duty to get a job or do the job and be responsible for self and/or others for whom they are responsible.
3. The country, the home, the business establishments, and the church would be much better off if all would accept and practice the philosophy that President Harry S. Truman emphasized so often: “The buck stops here.”
4. We are personally responsible in at least three areas: to God; to others; to self. Refusing to accept and properly fulfill these personal duties means the loss of one’s soul.
5. When we recognize this and diligently labor to fulfill our responsibilities therein according to divine instructions, we will not only save self, it will also solve a multitude a problems plaguing the country, the home, the business establishments, and the church.
6. With this in mind, let us give some thought to:

II. DISCUSSION

A. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO GOD.

1. We list these first because we are first and foremost answerable to God for everything. Cf. Mt.6:33; 10:37; 16:24-27; Rom.14:12; See Exo.20:3.
2. Let us consider four ways we are responsible to God:
3. To know God.
 - a. Knowing God and eternal life are inseparably linked, Jno.17:3, “And this is eternal life, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

- b. Unholy treatment of others while thinking they are doing God a service, the Lord says men will do because they know not the Father, Jno.16:2,3, “They shall put you out of the synagogues; yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.”
 - c. Tit.1:16 says some “profess that they know God; but in works they deny him...”
 - d. In Rom.1:28 and 1Th.4:5 Paul speaks of the sinful practices of “the Gentiles which know not God” (1Th.4:5), because they did not “retain God in their knowledge,” (Rom.1:28).
 - e. 2Th.1:6-10 declare God will “take vengeance on them that know not God (V.8).”
4. To fear God, i.e., to respect or reverence him; to stand in awe of him.
- a. Eccl.12:13a so stated: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: “Fear God...”
 - b. Prov.1:7, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...”
 - c. So said Peter at the house of Cornelius, Ac.10:34,35.
 - d. Psa.147:11, “The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him...”
5. To keep his commandments.
- a. Involved in the whole duty of man is to “keep his commandments,” Eccl.12:13.
 - b. The Hebrew writer says Jesus “became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him,” Heb.5:9.
 - c. John writes, “And hereby (by this) we do know that we know him if we keep his commandments,” 1Jno.2:3.
 - d. Jesus affirmed that the only one who shall enter into the kingdom of heaven is the one who does the will of the Father, Mt.7:21.
 - e. Rev.22:14 says the blessed ones “are they that do his commandments.”
6. To love God, which is the greatest motivation for obedience to God.
- a. Lk.10:25-28.
 - b. Jno.14:15,21,23,24.

- c. 1Jno.2:4,5.
- d. 1Jno.5:3.

B. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS.

1. To love self is not wrong, to be self-centered or selfish, or to think only of self is. Cf. Phil.2:3,4; Rom.12:1-5; Mt.22:34-40.
 - a. Cf. Exo.20:1-17 and the Ten Commandment law, the 1st four pertained primarily to service and relationship to God. The next six, primarily to our duties and relationship to our fellow man.
 - b. Cf. Mt.25:31-46. Thus to serve the Lord we must serve others.
2. Moreover, each of us is responsible:
 - a. To teach others, 2Tim.2:1,2; 1Tim.4:16.
 - b. To love others, 1Jno.4:7-11; Jno.15:12; Mt.5:43-48.
 - c. To restore the fallen, Gal.6:1.
 - d. To bear one another's burdens, Gal.6:2.
 - e. To encourage others, Heb.10:25; 3:13.
 - f. To practice hospitality, Heb.13:1,2; Rom.12:13; Cf. 1Tim.3:2.
 - g. To withdraw from those who walk disorderly, 2Th.3:6; Cf. 1Th.5:14; Tit.3:10; 1Cor.5:4-7,11.

C. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO SELF.

1. To live a godly, holy life, Tit.2:11,12-14; 1Pet.1:14-16; Rom.12:1,2; 1Tim.4:7.
2. To teach self, Rom.2:21,22.
3. To take heed to and to save self, Ac.2:40; 1Tim.4:16.
4. To buffet one's own body, 1Cor.9:27.
5. To examine one's self, Mt.7:1-5; Rom.2:1-3; 2Cor.13:5.
6. To keep thyself pure, 1Tim.5:22.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Whether or not we meet these responsibilities to God, to others, and to self will determine our eternal destiny.

2. How long has it been since we checked or examined self to see how we stand in the sight of God as to our personal responsibilities?
3. Remember, now is the time to make corrections if corrections need to be made!
4. The scriptures speak plainly about our personal responsibilities because God wants us to know and leaves us with no excuse. Cf. Rom.1:18-20; Mt.7:21-23.
5. When one fulfills his responsibility to God, to others, and to self it will take care of his responsibility in the home, the family, his marriage, on the job, the community, and in the church, as well as his hope of eternal salvation!