

RESPONSIBILITY
Ecc1.12:13,14; Rom.2:1-16
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Definition of terms
 - a. **Responsibility:** “Ability to meet an obligation; that for which one is accountable; accountability.”
 - b. **Responsible:** “to be responsible for; involving responsibility;” “**answerable; accountable; amenable; liable**” – All meaning capable of being called upon to answer, or to make amends, to someone for something.
 - c. One is **responsible** for the performance of a task or a duty, or the fulfillment of an obligation, or the administration of, an office, to the person or body that imposes the task, duty, trust, or the like, or delegates the power.
 - d. One is **answerable** (to someone for something) who, because of a moral, or a spiritual, or legal obligation, or because of the acceptance of such an obligation for another, or because such an obligation is imposed upon one by another with authority to do so.
 - e. One is **accountable** (to someone for something) who because of something entrusted to one is bound to be called upon to render an account of how that trust has been executed.
 - f. One is **amenable** (to someone or to something) whose acts are subject to the control or the censure of a higher authority, and who, therefore, is not self-governing or absolute in power.
 - g. One (a person or thing) is **liable** that by the terms of the law may be made **answerable** in case of one’s own or another’s default.
2. More and more it seems we are living in an age and a time when more and more people (the young, the middle-aged, and the old) either refuse or neglect to take full responsibility for themselves, their speech, their deeds, and even for their families.
 - a. More and more are saying: “It’s not my job!” “It’s not my fault!” “You made me do it!” Or they act as if the government owes them a living, or is responsible for their lives, their welfare, etc; etc.

- b. More and more seemingly had rather be on welfare of some kind than to work for a living!
3. The purpose and the primary burden of this study is to determine from the Scriptures **Who** is responsible to **Whom** for **What**, **When** and **Why**!

(Since there are many different areas and different points to be considered in this study, and a sermon could be preach on each point; but since we plan to consider all of them in one lesson, our reference to each one will of necessity have to be very brief, with little discussion of any of them [only a brief survey in each case], with perhaps one exception.)

II. DISCUSSION

A. SCRIPTURES INDICATING ALL MEN ARE RESPONSIBLE TO GOD ALMIGHTY, ALWAYS HAVE BEEN, ALWAYS WILL BE.

1. Rom.11:36; Gen.1:26-28.
2. Mt.4:10.
3. Mt.7:21-23.
4. Jno.12:48-50.
5. Eccl.12:13,14; Ac.10:34,35; Rom.1:9-3:28.
6. Heb.4:13.

B. SPECIFIC O.T. EXAMPLES CONFIRMING THAT ALL MEN ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE TO GOD.

1. Adam and Eve, Gen.2:15-3:24.
2. Cain and Abel, the first offspring of Adam and Eve, Gen.4:1-13; Heb.11:4; 1Jno.3:11,12.
3. The Anti-diluvians, Gen.6,7.
4. Noah, Gen.6-9.
5. Abraham, Gen.12; Gen.22; Heb.11:8,17.
6. The sexual perverts of Gen.19; Jude 7.
7. Moses, Exo.3; Num.20:7-12.
8. Pharaoh, Exo.5:1,2; 9:13-16; Rom.9:17.
9. The heathen, idolatrous nations driven out of Canaan, Gen.15:13-16; Josh.1:1-11.
10. The Israelites under the law of Moses.

11. King Saul and the Amalekites, 1Sam.15.
12. The Edomites, Obad.1-15.
13. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Dan.2-4.
14. Etc., etc.

C. N.T. TEACHING DECLARING RESPONSIBILITY BY WHOM TO WHOM FOR WHAT, WHEN AND WHY.

1. Civil government is responsible to and for its citizens, Rom.13:1-4; 1Pet.2:13,14.
2. Citizens are responsible to civil government, Rom.13:1-7; 1Pet.2:13,14.
3. Each individual is responsible to the Lord for the salvation of his or her own soul, both before and after conversion to Christ, Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-42; Lk.6:46; Phil.2:12; 2Th.1:6-10.
4. Parents are responsible for their children – for their financial support, education, training, and for their discipline and instruction in the Lord. Cf. Deut.6:4-7; Eph.6:4; 1Tim.3:4; 5:8; Tit.1:6.
5. Children are responsible to their parents to obey, love, honor and respect them, Eph.6:1-3; Col.3:20.
6. Wives are to be responsible for being “one flesh” with, in loving, submitting to, and respecting their husbands, as well as being their companion and the wife of their covenant, Mal.2:14; Gen.3:16; Mt.19:4-6; 1Cor.11:3; 14:34; Eph.5:22-24,31,33; Col.3:18; 1Tim.2:11; Tit.2:4; 1Pet.3:1-6.
7. Husbands are to be responsible for being “one flesh” with their wives, to love them as themselves, to love them as Christ love the church, to support and provide for their necessities, to be one with them as with no other human being, Gen.2:24; Mt.19:4-6; Eph.5:25-33; Col.3:19; 1Pet.3:7.
8. Men who are appointed elders in the local church are responsible for being qualified and for maintaining their qualifications to serve in that capacity, and responsible for feeding, overseeing, leading and serving as examples to the local church wherein they are elders, ac.20:28-31; 1Th.5:12; Heb.13:17; 1Pet.5:1-4.
9. Members of the local church are responsible for being in submission to the elders of the local church, for knowing them, and to esteem very highly in love for their work’s sake, 1Th.5:12,13; Heb.13:17; Ac.20:28.

10. Each able-bodied, mentally-capable person is responsible for working and providing the necessities of life for themselves, Eph.4:28; 1Th.4:11,12; 2Th.3:7-12.
 - a. Cf. Ac.20:33-35; Ac.18:1-3.
 - b. Tit.3:14: “And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.”
 - (1) Being charged to “maintain good works” here in Tit.3:14 does not refer to “good works” for salvation.
 - (2) It speaks of “good works for necessary uses”
 - (3) Marg: “profess honest trades”Cf. 1Th.4:11,12; 2Th.3:10,12
 - (4) Wey: “learn to follow honest occupations for the supply of their necessities, so that they may not live useless lives.”

III. CONCLUSION

1. All of these responsibilities referred to are to be accepted and fulfilled in this lifetime, not after death.
2. The Scriptures are imperative: We are to work to earn our own living!
3. No able-bodied, mentally-capable person is to be treated as a charity case under ordinary circumstances of life.
4. Our benevolent work is very limited! It never extends to one who refuses or simply neglects to work to supply his or her own needs!
5. God expects us, each and every one of us, to be responsible beings. He holds us responsible! It’s high time we recognize that fact and act accordingly!