

CHAPTER 8CONVICTED? OF COURSE! and CONVICTION OF COURSE

We have considered the Road that a person needs to walk upon (see Chapter 6) and the Regulations and Requirements that must be obeyed in order to make progress, to grow up in a healthy way and to be successful before God (see Chapter 7).

Let us now consider our reaction to the rules of the road and our recognition of them:

Convicted? Of Course!

(one's reaction to the rules of the road)

How do you react to the rules God has given? What do you do when presented by rules and regulations (from your parents? from your school? from the government? from your doctor? from God?)? What is your attitude towards DO's and DON'T's? good? bad? mad? glad? bitter? angered? delighted? Do you react NEGATIVELY and resist and rebel, or do you react POSITIVELY and submit and obey?

Possible reactions to rules and regulations:

--a positive reaction for the good

--a negative reaction for the bad

--other reactions:

ignore the rules

be indifferent to the rules

deny the rules

reject the rules

etc.

--some may react by saying, "This doesn't concern me" or "This doesn't relate to me" or "What does this have to do with me?"

Of course people are convicted concerning the rules of the road. Who wouldn't be? Without doubt, people are bothered by the rules and they are convinced and convicted that the rules are for their own good. And yet, very often they fail to follow the rules which they know are right.

Consider this example from school. Suppose a classmate were to come up to you and ask you these questions:

"Should I study hard in order to learn the most and get good grades?"

"Would it be better to daydream or be attentive in class?"

"Will my knowledge of math help me when I get out of school?"

"To get the most out of my classes, what should come first, television or studies?"

How would you answer such questions (bottom of page 41)? Would you give good advice to this fellow student? DO YOU YOURSELF FOLLOW YOUR OWN ADVICE? DO YOU YOURSELF DO WHAT YOU KNOW (what you are convinced and convicted about) IS BEST?

The same would be true in the field of health. WE KNOW and ARE CONVICTED that we should brush our teeth, get enough sleep, dress warmly in cold weather, avoid an excessive amount of junk foods, stay away from too much sugar, get plenty of exercise, etc. If we know these things, why do we so often fail to do them? Jesus said, "If ye \_\_\_\_\_ these things, \_\_\_\_\_ are ye if ye \_\_\_\_\_ them" (John 13:17). It is one thing to KNOW, it is another thing to DO!

Consider the following:

"I know smoking is bad for me, but I smoke anyway!"

"I'm convinced vegetables are what I need, but I don't like them so I have few vegetables in my diet."

"I realize I should check the oil in my car so the motor will not burn out, but usually I'm too busy to get around to it."

What does God say? "Therefore to him that \_\_\_\_\_ to do \_\_\_\_\_ and doeth it \_\_\_\_\_, to him it is \_\_\_\_\_" (James 4:17).

Read James 1:22-25. A man gets up out of bed in the morning and looks in the mirror and what does he see? His hair is all disheveled (messed up), he is in need of a good shave and his face is dirty! The mirror convicts him and convinces him that there are some things that need changing, correcting and cleansing. So what does he do? Immediately he gets dressed and goes off to work, forgetting what he saw in the mirror and doing nothing about it. DO YOU EVER REACT LIKE THIS MAN? The mirror (God's Word) should stimulate you to action!

Some fail to follow the rules and regulations. Others follow the rules partially but not completely. For example:

"I usually stop at a red light but not at a stop sign."

"I don't talk in class or in the school library, but I do talk in the study hall."

"I go to church every Sunday but not on Prayer Meeting night."

The Bible is filled with examples of people who KNEW but who did not DO! Here are just a few:

- 1) Matthew 27:3-4. Did Judas know that Jesus was innocent and righteous? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Mark 4:15,16,18,20. Did all four groups HEAR THE WORD? \_\_\_\_\_ Were all the HEARERS fruitful? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Matthew 7:24-27. Did both the wise and foolish man HEAR? \_\_\_\_\_

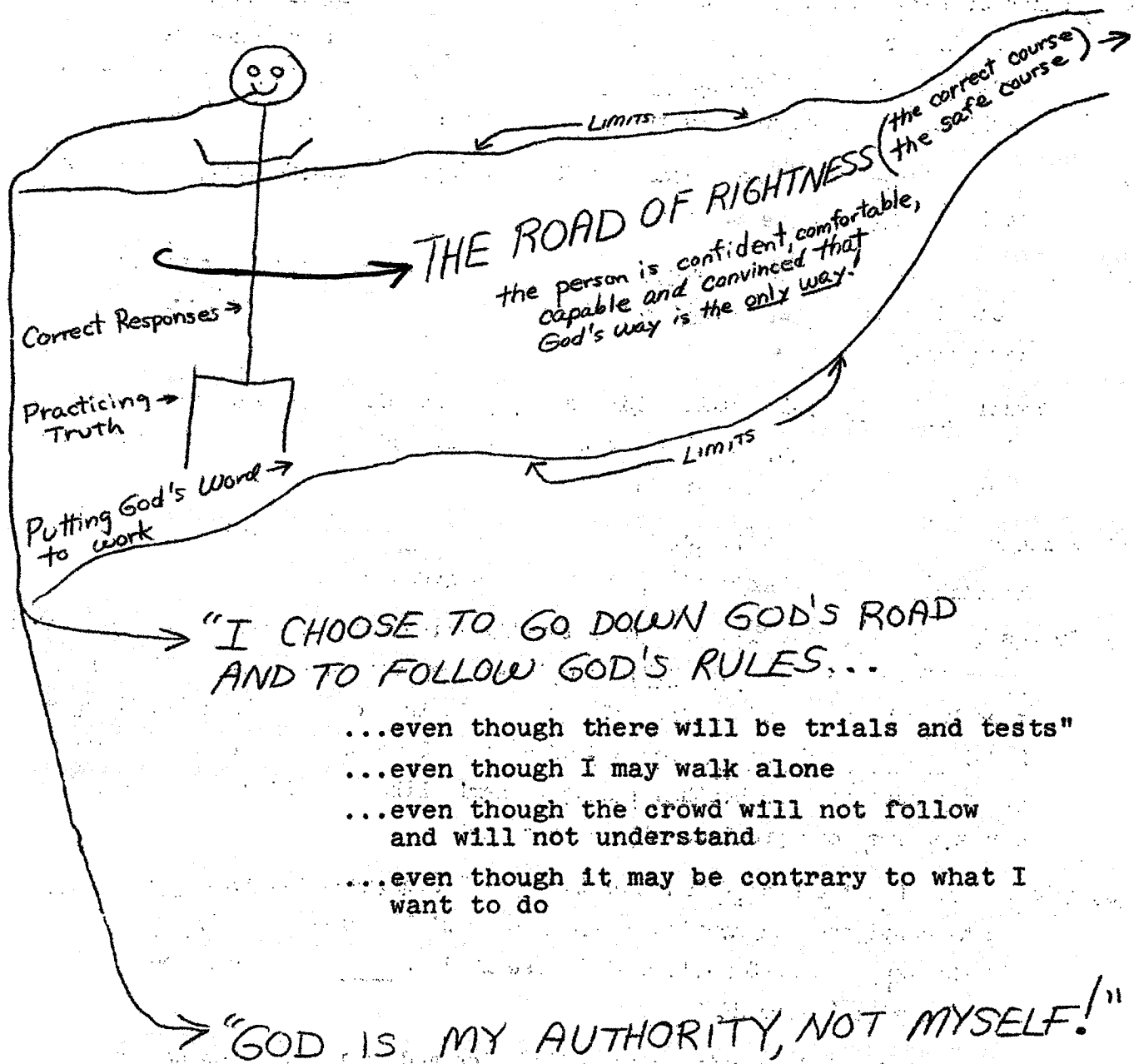
- 4) Romans 2:21-22. Is the Jewish teacher in verse 21 convinced and convicted that stealing is wrong? \_\_\_\_\_ Is the Jewish teacher in verse 22 convinced that adultery is wrong? \_\_\_\_\_ Can a person be convinced something is right and still do what is wrong? \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 23).
- 5) Matthew 21:28-31. Did the second son KNOW the will of his father? \_\_\_\_\_ Did he DO the will of his father? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) 1 Samuel 28:3,7. Did Saul know that it was wrong to seek after those who claimed to be able to contact the dead? \_\_\_\_\_ Did he do what he knew was wrong? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) 1 Samuel 15:3,9,11,13-15,19-23. Did Saul know what God's command was? \_\_\_\_\_ Did he completely or partially obey God's command? \_\_\_\_\_ (In God's eyes, partial obedience=disobedience)
- 8) 2 Kings 12:2-3. Did Jehoash do right (verse 2)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did Jehoash do everything right (verse 3)? \_\_\_\_\_ He did right BUT...
- 9) Judges 1. Did the children of Israel totally drive out the enemy from the land? \_\_\_\_\_ (Note the word "NEITHER..." which is repeated again and again) Did they know better (Judges 2:1-3)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did they obey God's rules (Judges 2:2)? \_\_\_\_\_ Note: In verse 3 of chapter 2 we see that if they don't get the heathen, the heathen will get them! Likewise, if we don't conquer our problems, our problems will conquer us!
- 10) 1 Kings 13. Did the man of God know God's will (verses 9 and 17)? \_\_\_\_\_ Was he convinced and convicted about God's will (verse 8)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did the man of God DO God's will (verse 19)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did the lion do God's will (verse 24)? \_\_\_\_\_
- These men reacted negatively to God's rules and commands. How do you react?

### Conviction of Course

(one's recognition of the rules of the road)

Such a person is able to say: "I know the right direction and the movement that is certain and safe. I recognize that God's way is the right and only way to discover and to delight in being a person. I not only react in a positive way to God's rules, but I follow through and I progress down the road, being convinced that His way is best and it is the only way for me. I'm certain that God's rules will take me down the road:

(see illustration on the next page)



If we were left to ourselves, we would not know what is right half the time! Those who do what is \_\_\_\_\_ in their own eyes (Judges 21:25) are those who do what is \_\_\_\_\_ in God's eyes (Judges 10:6)!

Most people do not even know what road they are on or where they are headed! Ask your non-Christian classmates, "Why are you here? For what purpose are you alive? Why did you get out of bed this morning? Why is life worth living?" Then ask their parents. Also ask some of the elderly who are in rest homes. You will soon discover that most people do not know why there are even here!

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## A meaningless existence:

They go to school so they can go to college.  
They go to college so they can graduate.  
They graduate so they can get a job.  
They get a job so they can make money.  
They make money so they can retire.  
They retire and soon they die.

Is this what God meant life to be (John 10:10)? \_\_\_\_\_

Do not be envious of those who do not know why there are here and where they are going. Do not be envious of those who are blind (Matthew 15:14). It's wonderful to have sight!

The person who walks down the right course following God's rules is a real TESTIMONY to others. Consider one who obeys the rules of the road. If you were to closely follow this person you would know what his convictions really are. You would watch him stop at the stop sign. You would see him drive cautiously in areas where children are nearby. You would observe how he abides by the speed limit. Just watch the way he drives and you will know!

As people watch our lives, they will know whether or not we have recognized God's course as the only way. They will see whether we have followed God's rules. The Bible has numerous examples of those who heard and obeyed and who responded by following the rules as they progressed down the road of rightness:

- 1) Genesis 18:19. Did God know that Abraham would go down the right road? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Daniel 1:8: "Daniel purposed in his \_\_\_\_\_ that he would \_\_\_\_\_ defile himself." Would Daniel allow anything to get him off course? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Daniel 3. For Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, no price was too great to pay in order to stay on course, not even their own lives (verses 17-18).
- 4) Genesis 39. Did Joseph allow a beautiful woman to pull him off God's road? \_\_\_\_\_ He said YES to God and NO to her!
- 5) Numbers 13-14. The ten spies knew what God's way was, but they did not recognize God's way to be safe (13:26-29,31). Did the two spies (Joshua and Caleb) recognize God's way to be the safe way (13:30; 14:6-9)? \_\_\_\_\_

6) 2 Kings 18:1-6. In what way was Hezekiah different from Jehoash? \_\_\_\_\_

(see page 43 number 8)

7) Joshua 24:15. Did Joshua recognize God's way as the ONLY SAFE WAY? \_\_\_\_\_

8) 1 Kings 22. Was Micaiah obedient to God's rules even though it meant...

going against the crowd? \_\_\_\_\_

standing alone? \_\_\_\_\_

going to prison? \_\_\_\_\_

9) Genesis 22. Did Abraham follow God's instructions even though...

the cost of obedience was high? \_\_\_\_\_

as a father he did not want to do it? \_\_\_\_\_

from a human viewpoint it made no sense? \_\_\_\_\_

10) Ezekial 2:3-5; Isaiah 6:8-11. Ezekiel, Isaiah and others walked down God's road all alone, with very little (if any) response from those they preached to. But God said "GO" and they went!

GOD'S WAY  
↓  
THE BEST WAY  
↓  
THE ONLY WAY  
↓  
MY WAY