

AVOIDING OBSTACLE IN LIFE

ROMANS 7

Text: Romans 7:14-25; Joshua 5,6,7

Introduction:

In life there are many obstacles. In the Christian life there are just as many if not more. It seems at least in my life there are several obstacles every day that I must decide to avoid. I wish that I could stand and tell you that I'm successful at this all the time. However, that not the case.

What is an obstacle? Webster defines it as: That which opposes; any thing that stands in the way and hinders progress; hindrance; obstruction; either in a physical or moral sense.

All too often the Christian life is spent on detours instead of a direct route. We need to avoid the obstacles in life.

1. SOME OBSTACLES TO AVOID

A. Pride

(Prov 16:18 KJV) Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

(Prov 18:12 KJV) Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is humility.

(Prov 29:23 KJV) A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.

B. Popularity

C. Personal Property or Gain

(Mat 6:25-34 KJV) Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? {26} Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? {27} Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? {28} And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: {29} And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. {30} Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field,

which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? {31} Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? {32} (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. {33} But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. {34} Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

D. Pleasures

(Isa 47:8 KJV) Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:

(Luke 8:14 KJV) And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

(2 Tim 3:4 KJV) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

(Titus 3:3 KJV) For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

(Heb 11:25 KJV) Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

2. REASONS TO AVOID OBSTACLES

A. They usually are a detour.

1. Detours slow you down.
2. Detours take you out of the way.
3. Spiritually, most detours are dead ends.
4. Running into dead ends means the same obstacle must be avoided again.

3. HOW TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES (JOSHUA 6)

A. Prepare spiritually. (Josh 5:13-16)

B. Patiently wait on the Lord (Josh 6)

1. Marching around the city so many times.

C. Practice Biblical Principles.

4. BEWARE NOT TO GET OVERCONFIDENT.

A. There are other obstacles you must face.

B. Ai is just around the corner.