

IS MY SERVICE TO GOD
A MATTER OF
CONVICTION OR
CONVENIENCE?



A MATTER OF CONVICTION OR CONVENIENCE?



- We are living in a world filled with all types of modern conveniences.
- We have developed lifestyles adapted to these conveniences.

A MATTER OF CONVICTION OR CONVENIENCE?



- Nothing inherently evil in conveniences, but they can lead us to develop unhealthy spiritual attitudes & corrupt our service to God!
- There are NO shortcuts to salvation or spiritual growth ... Nor can we substitute our convenient ways for God's commands.

A MATTER OF CONVICTION OR CONVENIENCE?

Numbers 14:6–9 (NKJV)

⁶ But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *who were* among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; ⁷ ... “The land we passed through to spy out *is* an exceedingly good land.... ⁹ Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord *is* with us. Do not fear them.”



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1 Kings 12:28–31 (NKJV)

²⁸ Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!” ²⁹ And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. ³⁰ Now this thing became a sin, for the people went *to worship* before the one as far as Dan. ³¹ He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi.

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Luke 9:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ Then He said to *them* all,
“If anyone desires to come
after Me, let him deny
himself, and take up his cross
daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For
whoever desires to save his
life will lose it, but whoever
loses his life for My sake will
save it.

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Luke 18:20–22 (NKJV)

²⁰ You know the commandments: ‘*Do not commit adultery,*’ ‘*Do not murder,*’ ‘*Do not steal,*’ ‘*Do not bear false witness,*’ ‘*Honor your father and your mother.*’ ” ²¹ And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.” ²² So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “**You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**”

Cf. Luke 18:18-25



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- God presents opportunities to do what is right, but Satan strives to cover them with lies and tempts us to accept what appears to be convenient alternatives (Gen 3:1-6; Mat 4:1-11; 1 Cor. 10:13)
- Satan strives to make certain that doing what is RIGHT is never the attractive, convenient, or easiest thing to do (Acts 24:25)

A MATTER OF CONVICTION OR CONVENIENCE?



- ▶ By faith Abel offered to God (Gen. 4; Heb. 11:4)
- ▶ By faith Enoch walked with God (Gen. Genesis 5:21–24; Heb. 11:5)
- ▶ By faith Noah prepared an ark (Gen. 6; Heb. 11:7)
- ▶ By faith Abraham obeyed God (Gen. 112; 7; 22; 22; Heb. 11:6-19)
- ▶ By faith Moses forsook Egypt (Ex. 2:1–3, 15-25; 10:21; 12:21; Heb 11:24-26)

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Conviction

- ▶ Joseph (Gen 39:9-13)
- ▶ Joshua & Caleb (Num 14:6)
- ▶ Daniel (Dan 1:8; 6:10)
- ▶ Daniel's 3 friends (Daniel 3)
- ▶ John B (Mt 3:4-12; Luke 3:19)
- ▶ Jesus (Luke 22:41-45)
- ▶ Paul (2 Tim 1:12; 4:6-8)



Convenience

- Aaron's calf (Ex 32:1-10)
- Nadab & Abihu (Lev 10:1-4)
- David's Ox Cart (1 Chr 13,15)
- Jeroboam's calves (1 Ki 12)
- Peter (Mat 26:69-75)
- Felix (Acts 24:25)
- Demas (2 Tim 4:10)

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Well, Isn't That Convenient?

- God is "NOTHING" but love (Acts 17:30,31)
- "Faith Alone" / "Easy Believism" (James 2:24)
- "Once Saved Always Saved" – 2 Pet 1:5–10
- "Can't know the truth" – Acts 17:11,12
- Ecumenical church – 1 Cor 1:10,11; Eph 4:4–6
- The social gospel (Rom 14:17; 1 Pet 1:13ff)
- "Grace not obedience," (No pattern / No authority) (Col. 3:17; 2 Tim. 1:13; Titus 1:11–14)



Life's Problems:
ONE SOLUTION

It's just
that easy.

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Other Questions & Applications

2nd Generation Christianity?

(Judges 2:7-10)

Inherited faith? (Romans 10:17)



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Other Questions & Applications

**Are we being conformed
to this world or being
transformed? (Rom 12:1,2)**



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Other Questions & Applications

- Studying God's word?
(1 Pet 2:1; Heb 5:12,13;
Ps 119:97-104)
- Praying? (1 Thes 5:17;
Rom 12:12; Eph 6:18)
- Acceptable worship?
(John 4:23,24; Heb.
12:25-29)

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Other Questions & Applications

- Assembling with the church (Heb. 10:24,25; Rom 12:10)
- My contribution (1 Cor. 16:1,2; Hag. 1:4,9)
- My involvement (Eph 4:16; Phil 2:12; Tit. 2:14; Jam 1:27)

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Other Questions & Applications

- To stand or compromise? (Rom 16:17; 1 Cor 15:58; Eph. 6:11-14; 2 Tim 2:3-5)
- To quit OR overcome? (1 John 5:4; Mat 18:15; 2 Cor. 4:7-18)
- To procrastinate or do what should be done NOW? (Acts 24:25; Isa 55:6; Hag 1:2; 2 Cor. 6:2; Heb 3:13; James 4:13-14)

A MATTER OF CONVICTION OR CONVENIENCE?

Other Questions & Applications

- Are you serving God only when it's easy and fits neatly into your schedule?
- Do you "deny yourself" and "sacrifice" your plans and wants for God's purposes, or do you prioritize your own comfort?
- Are you willing to serve even when you feel unappreciated or unnoticed?

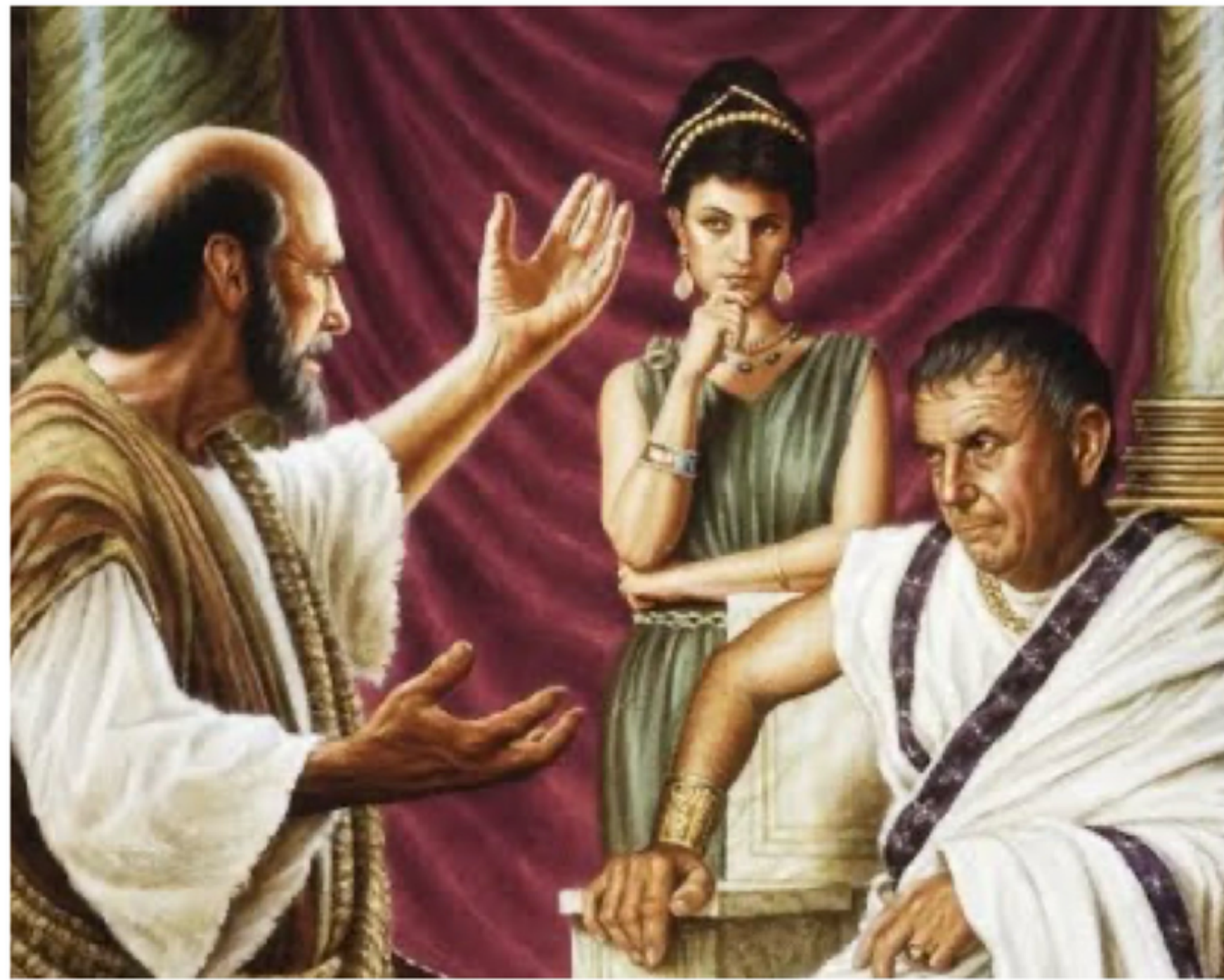
THE WAY OF SALVATION IS NOT A WAY OF CONVENIENCE

- Truth is contrary to human wisdom (Isaiah 55:8,9; 1 Cor. 1:18,19; Acts 2:38; 22:16)
- The way of salvation is straight, narrow & difficult (Mat. 7:13,14)
- Requires complete submission & surrender (Luke 14:26,27,33)

THE WAY OF SALVATION IS NOT A WAY OF CONVENIENCE

- Our faith and actions must be based on what is true, right, good and holy, rather than what is easy or feels good! (Mat 16:24; Rom 12:1,2)
- Commitment to the Lord, to His church, and to this local work requires CONVICTION!

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Acts 24:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ ... Felix came with his wife Drusilla, ...

²⁵ Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”

- Are You Waiting For A Convenient Time? - (no longer tempted? Don't have to sacrifice as much? etc...)
- Are you waiting for Satan to get out of your way?
- If So – You Are Waiting For a Time That Will NEVER COME!

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Acts 22:16 (NKJV)
¹⁶ And now why are you waiting?
Arise and be baptized, and wash
away your sins, calling on the
name of the Lord.'

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV)

For He says: "In an acceptable time I
have heard you, And in the day of
salvation I have helped you."
Behold, now is the accepted time;
behold, now is the day of salvation.

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Sunday A.M. Assembly: 10:00

Sunday P.M. Assembly: 4:00

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Charts by Don McClain

Preached August 9, 2015 West 65th Street church of Christ

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501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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Luke 9:57–62 (NKJV)

⁵⁷ Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “**Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.**” ⁵⁹ Then He said to another, “**Follow Me.**” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, “**Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.**” ⁶¹ And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house.” ⁶² But Jesus said to him, “**No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**”