

MY CHRISTIANITY—

A Matter of

Convenience
or
Conviction

1 Kings 12:25-33; Acts 24:25

MY CHRISTIANITY—A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE OR CONVICTION



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

A collection of various mobile application icons floating above an iPhone. The icons include TV, music, calendar (showing Sunday 7), search, weather (+27°C), messages, camera, balloons, another TV icon, a person profile, calculator, SMS, and others. The iPhone screen shows some of these icons already installed.

- ❖ 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.

1 KINGS 12:25-33 (NKJV)

²⁵ Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, and dwelt there. Also he went out from there and built Penuel. ²⁶

And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: ²⁷ If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah.”

1 KINGS 12:25-33 (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.

1 KINGS 12:25-33 (NKJV)

³¹ He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi. ³² Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made.

1 KINGS 12:25-33 (NKJV)

³³ So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.

MY CHRISTIANITY—A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE OR CONVICTION

- God presents opportunities to do what is right – Satan strives to cover them with lies and tempting, MORE convenient, alternatives. – Gen 3:1–6; Mat 4:1–11
- Satan strives to make certain that doing what is RIGHT is never the convenient thing to do – Acts 24:25

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By faith Abel offered to God/

By faith Enoch walked with God -

By faith Noah prepared an ark - Gen 6

By faith Abraham obeyed God - Gen 17; 22

By faith Moses forsook Egypt - Heb 11:24-26



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Convenience

- **Aaron's calf** - Ex 32:1-10
- **Nadab & Abihu** - Lev 10:1-4
- **David's Ox Cart** - 1 Chron 13,15
- **Jeroboam's calves** - 1 King 12:25-33
- **Peter** - Mat 26:69-75
- **Felix** - Acts 24:25
- **Demas** - 2 Tim 4:10

OR

Conviction

- ▶ **Joseph** - Gen 39:9-13
- ▶ **Joshua & Caleb** - Num 14:6
- ▶ **Daniel** - Dan 1:8; 6:10
- ▶ **Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah** - Dan 3
- ▶ **John the baptizer** - Mat 3:4-12; Luke 3:19
- ▶ **Jesus** - Luke 22:41-45
- ▶ **Paul** - 2 Tim 1:12; 4:6-8

MY CHRISTIANITY—A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE OR CONVICTION

Well, Isn't That Convenient?



- God is "NOTHING" but love – Acts 17:30,31
- The doctrine of "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
- The ecumenical concept of the 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 / do not need authority) – Tit 2:11–14; Col. 3:17



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Other Questions & Applications

- 2nd Generation Christianity
 - Jud 2:7–10; Rom 10:17
- Being conformed or transformed – Rom 12:1,2
- Which local church should I work with? – Acts 9:26–28
- Assembling with the church
 - Heb. 10:24,25; Rom 12:10

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Other Questions & Applications

- Studying God's word – 1 Pet 2:1; Heb 5:12,13; Ps 119:97-104
- Prayer – 1 Thes 5:17; Rom 12:12; Eph 6:18
- My contribution – 1 Cor. 16:1,2; Hag. 1:4,9
- My involvement – Eph 4:16; Phili 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; 2 Tim 2:3–5
- To quit OR overcome? – “sin” – “conflicts” – “problems” – 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

MY CHRISTIANITY—A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE OR CONVICTION ¹⁵

The Way of Salvation Is NOT The 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

MY CHRISTIANITY—A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE OR CONVICTION ¹⁶

The Way of Salvation Is NOT The 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 – not convenience!!

MY CHRISTIANITY—A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE OR CONVICTION ¹⁷

The Way of Salvation Is NOT The Way of Convenience



24:26 "... 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!

MY CHRISTIANITY—A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE OR CONVICTION ¹⁸

The Way of Salvation Is NOT The Way of Convenience



24:26 "... and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.""

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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Prepared August 7,8, 2015 - Preached August 9, 2015

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ACTS 24:22-27 (NKJV)

²² But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of the Way, he adjourned the proceedings and said, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case." ²³ So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him.

ACTS 24:22-27 (NKJV)

²⁴ And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. 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."

ACTS 24:22-27 (NKJV)

²⁶ Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him. ²⁷ But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.