

**DAY** PSALM 1:1-6**1**

Choices...we are surrounded by them! We are constantly pulled between what is right and what is wrong. The world says, "You're a good guy, you deserve this. What has anybody ever done for you?" Of course, all of that is a lie to distract you from doing what is right. If you think about it, you will realize that Jesus did everything for you. He died in your place. What more could He have done? It's easy to make the wrong choices; all we have to do is nothing. When we feel defeated or discouraged, or even unloved, the sinners of the world will gladly scoop you up and take you on the path to destruction. But if you choose to associate with godly people, their influence will be for your good. What voices will you hear?

**DAY** PHILIPPIANS 4:4-8**2**

Why does a person need a bodyguard? Obviously, they need a bodyguard to keep them safe. The heart of a Christian is under constant assault by the world. Many of us have escaped terribly destructive behavior, only to be drawn back in again. Through our failings, we recognize that if Jesus is not guarding us, we will surely slide back to where we were. The key words of our passage are, "The Lord is near." Jesus is not some sort of far-away deity who has no interest in your problems. When the circumstances of life overwhelm you, when you realize that you have lost control... remember that God is near. How do we access this peace that we so desperately need? We do that by turning to the One who died to save us. By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God!

**DAY** 1 KINGS 12:6-14**3**

Rehoboam wanted to know, "Should I be a servant or a tyrant?" His young advisors (who were addicted to power) advised him to be a tyrant. Their foolish advice caused a split in Israel that was never healed. When you ask someone for advice, always consider their character. Is their life in order? Do they have an agenda of their own? Are they trustworthy? Finally, and most importantly, are they a follower of God with a reputation for godliness? Some may argue that Rehoboam was just looking for a variety of opinions, but it's more likely that he did not like the answer he got from the elders. All he needed was a push to justify the wrong decision. There comes a time in a Christian's life when cutting ties with our old associates is what we need - at least until we are wise enough to stand strong for the Lord.

## DAY ECCLESIASTES 4:7-12

4

God did not wire us to be alone. We need other people, whether we want to admit it or not. A Christian who cuts himself off from the church gives up some of the most important benefits of being a Christian. The church is the body of Christ, and bodies have different parts. We all have something to give and something to receive from other Christians. Why miss out on that? What might be keeping you from church - is it fear or inadequacy? Perhaps you were disappointed by another Christian. There are an untold number of reasons for people to quit church, but all of them lead to the same place...isolation. Each of us needs to decide what we want our Christian life to be. Once we have done that, we need to pursue that life in the fellowship of other Christians. Life lived together is better than life lived alone.

## DAY COLOSSIANS 2:6-9

5

Have you ever gotten bad advice? If so, it may not have been deliberate; your friend probably didn't know any better. People develop a general idea about the way the world works. We call this idea a philosophy. Sadly, most people don't arrive at their philosophy through prayer and the reading of God's Word. They develop their philosophy almost by accident, through exposure to the ideas of others, ideas that are often completely wrong. A Christian ought to develop their philosophy intentionally, through the reading of God's word and through associating with God's people, not through listening to false ideas that have been recycled through the ages. God has given us His Word, and his Word is true. In it is everything we need to live godly and successful lives. In the same way that you turned to Jesus, you should turn to His Word as your guide for this life.

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