

The Best Advice I Ever Took

"5 Habits That Give Grace A Chance"

Series: How To Be A Christian Without Being Religious – Part 4

Introduction

- ◆ Fall is a great time to **refocus**, **re-evaluate**, and **set new patterns** and **schedules**.

- ◆ But what **real hope** is there that things will be **any different** a few weeks or months from now?

The Answer = GRACE!

¹¹For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age..."

Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)

5 Habits That Give Grace A Chance

1. Buy An _____ !

The Principle of Priority

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you"

Matthew 6:33 (NAS)

2. Take Out _____ !

The Principle of Transformation

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

Romans 12:2 (NAS)

3. Do Your Own _____!

The Principle of Responsibility

He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much."

Luke 16:10 (NAS)

4. _____ It Down!

The Principle of Clarity

"A plan in the heart of a man is {like} deep water, but a man of understanding draws it out."

Proverbs 20:5 (NAS)

- 3x5 Cards – The **Power** of _____

- Calendars – The **Freedom** of _____
- "To Do" Lists – The **Necessity** of _____
- Journaling – The **Importance** of _____

5. Do It _____!

The Principle of Inertia

³⁰"I passed by the field of the sluggard, and by the vineyard of the man lacking sense; ³¹And behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles, its surface was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. ³²When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, {and} received instruction. ³³'A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,' ³⁴Then your poverty will come {as} a robber, and your want like an armed man."

Proverbs 24:30-34 (NAS)

Application/Discussion Questions

1. Why does "trying harder" or making resolutions rarely succeed in producing lasting change?
2. Which of the five habits do you currently practice with a significant degree of regularity? How has this been helpful in experiencing God's grace and personal growth?
3. Which of the five habits are least operative in your life? Why?
4. What specific habit will you seek to develop this month? How? When will you start?