

## #14 THE DOCTRINE OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

### 30 PRACTICAL DOCTRINES YOU NEED TO KNOW | DR. RANDY WHITE

#### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY: AN ISSUE FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME

- Adam and Eve –
  - They were given freedom and a single responsibility – Genesis 2:16-17
  - Rather than take responsibility, they blamed anyone and everyone – Genesis 3:12-13
- Cain and Able –
  - When Cain’s sacrifice was rejected by God, he had an opportunity for a new sin offering, but it was his personal responsibility to do something about it – Genesis 4:5-7
  - Rather than take the **sin offering that lieth at the door**, Cain chose to take out his frustration on his brother – Genesis 3:8
- Pilate and Jesus – Rather than take responsibility for his own judgment, Pilate declared himself innocent of his own actions - Matthew 27:24

#### BIBLICAL INSIGHT INTO PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- The Bible distinguishes between children and adults - 1 Corinthians 13:11
- The Bible gave Adam responsibility and work – Genesis 2:15
- The Bible consistently teaches the law of sowing and reaping - Galatians 6:6-8
- The Law Gave provision for those who were hungry – Leviticus 19:9-10
- The New Testament was clear on personal responsibility for financial wellbeing:
  - 2 Thessalonians 3:10
  - 1 Timothy 5:8

#### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PHYSICAL WELLBEING

- If you are an adult male, you have sole responsibility for your personal care.
- If you are an adult female with no husband, you have sole responsibility for your personal care.
- A father has responsibility for himself, his wife, and his children.
- A Christian society will desire to find ways of helping those in society who have no ability to provide for personal care.
  - Namely, widows and orphans
  - The *church* took responsibility for those under their care

- There is no room in Judeo-Christian society for blaming others for your troubles. There is only room for taking your personal burdens and “making lemonade.”

#### THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT

- The government holds no responsibility whatsoever for the daily care of its citizens.
- The sole responsibility of the government is “the sword.”
  - It punishes lawbreakers
  - It protects its sovereignty
- Things the government is *not* Biblically required to provide:
  - A “safety net.”
  - A “living wage” nor a “minimum wage.”
  - An education
  - Health care
- Its citizens can direct its government to do more, but the citizens should be careful to do so, recognizing that they are passing personal responsibility to a third party that is neither Biblically given that responsibility nor is there any consequence for performing that responsibility poorly.

#### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPIRITUAL WELLBEING

- The area of spiritual responsibility is far more important than any kind of physical responsibility.
- Under the Law, Israel has a *potential* for an *inherited* future blessing. However, there was a *national* responsibility and each generation had a personal responsibility for that blessing - Deuteronomy 28:1-2
- In addition to the national responsibility, each individual had a personal responsibility for obedience to the Torah - Deuteronomy 24:16.
- In the age of grace in which we live, there is no *inheritance* of spiritual privilege or blessing.
  - No nation, family, nor individual is under a “covenant” today.
  - Hebrews 8:6 presents Christ as a **mediator** between two covenants. The nation of Israel stands today between those two covenants, and is neither under the old nor the new.
- Where does the individual stand today?
  - Spiritually, all individuals are **without excuse** – Rom 1:20
  - The good news: based on the complete and completed work of Jesus Christ, every man, woman, boy and girl is offered full and complete salvation, without cost – Ephesians 2:8-9.