

Maintenance - cont.

being raised properly (Ephesians 6:4). I need to make sure that I am battling the Devil properly (Ephesians 6:14-18). I need to make sure I am treating others properly (Romans 12:18; Philippians 4:5). And, I need to make sure I am walking properly with God (Micah 6:8).

Problem Areas

What are some specific areas in my life where problems can arise which will hurt me? I need to check my use of time and not waste it (Romans 13:11; Ephesians 5:16; 1 Peter 4:2). I need to check my use of the television, or any form of media, and make sure I am not viewing something ungodly (Psalm 101:3). I need to work hard to not give in to temptation (Matthew 6:13; Mark 14:38). I need to see if I am placing my treasures (priorities) in the right place (Matthew 6:19-21). And, I must always guard my tongue (Proverbs 18:21).

Hold Fast and Hold On!

Yes, we can stay faithful to God if we will practice preventive maintenance. Let us all examine ourselves regularly to see if we are in the faith (1 Corinthians 11:28; 2 Corinthians 13:5). Let us all hold fast the confession of

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our hope firm unto the end (Hebrews 10:23).

We don't want to end up like the weak disciples who gave up (John 6:66), like Hymenaeus and Alexander who made shipwreck of their faith (1 Tim. 1:20), or like Demas who left Paul because he loved the world (2 Tim. 4:10). - *Chris Reeves*

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Preventive Maintenance

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Maintaining what we have is a common routine in our life. We have to maintain our car (oil, tires, etc.) if we want to continue driving it. We have to maintain our home (plumbing and electrical repairs, etc.) if we want to continue living in it. We have to maintain our body (eat right, exercise, go the doctor, take medicine, etc.) if we want to continue to having it. Maintenance, whether preventive or after-the-fact, is important.

Preventive Maintenance is Biblical

Preventive maintenance is wise. Solomon wrote: *By slothfulness the roof sinks in; and through idleness of the hands the house leaks*” (Ecclesiastes 10:18). We must take care of what we have in order to continue having it. The principle of preventive maintenance is also found in the New Testament. The author of Hebrews wrote that Christians must give the more earnest heed, lest they drift away (Hebrews 2:1) and Peter wrote that if Christians add to their faith, they will never stumble (2 Peter 1:10).

How Can I Gage My Situation?

How do I know if I am maintaining my faith in God, or if I am slipping? Here are a few areas of life that you can use to gage your spiritual situation:

- Assembling / attendance (Psalm 122:1; Hebrews 10:25) - am I regular, or sporadic?
- Bible study (1 Timothy 4:13) - am I regular, or sporadic?
- Meditation (Psalm 1:2; 119:11,97; Phil. 4:8) - do I really think about God’s word, or just forget it?
- Lord’s supper (1 Corinthians 11:29-30) - do I really think about the Lord’s death, or not?
- Involvement (Nehemiah 4:6; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Ephesians 4:16) - do I voluntary to do the Lord’s work, or not?
- Faith - is my faith strong (Romans 4:20), or little (Matthew 17:20)?
- Hope (Heb. 6:19) - is my hope firm, or weak?
- Patience (Romans 2:7) - do I steadfastly endure in trials, or not?

- Giving (Matthew 19:21) - do I give away, or do I keep only?
- Application (Jas. 1:22-25) - do I apply God’s word, or just hear it?
- Prayer (1 Thess. 5:17-18) - am I regular, or sporadic?
- Growth (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 1:5) - am I growing, or shrinking?
- Abhorring evil (Psalm 119:104,128; Romans 12:9) - do I dislike and disdain sin, or do I tolerate it?
- Associations (1 Corinthians 15:33) - are my friends godly, or ungodly?
- Goals (Matthew 6:33; Philippians 3:14; Colossian 3:2; Hebrews 12:1) - do I constantly think about what God wants for me, or what the world wants for me?

Preventive Maintenance Areas

What are some areas of my life where preventive maintenance is important? I need to make sure I am acting properly in the local church (Ephesians 4:3). I need to make sure my marriage is proper (Ephesians 5:31). I need to make sure my family is