

If You Could Live Again, What Would You Change?

by Bob Jennings

Bob Jennings reflects on his life choices and the importance of living with a clear conscience while seeking to deepen his faith and commitment to God.

Duration: 13:47

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 25:2, Psalm 51:10, Proverbs 7:2, Colossians 3:16

Topics: "Christian Living", "Personal Revival"

Description

This sermon reflects on the importance of living a life fully devoted to God, not just doing what is right but doing it with all our hearts. It explores the idea of looking back on our lives and considering if there are areas we would change or improve, emphasizing the need to walk with a clear conscience and deal with sin promptly. The speaker also contemplates what they would do if given more time to serve the Lord, expressing a desire to simplify life, focus on ministry, and deepen their knowledge of the Bible for effective soul-winning.

Transcript

Amaziah did that which is right in the sight of God, yet not with all his heart. Wow! Lord, don't let me have that on my tombstone. Don't let that be my biography.

I did right in the sight of God, but not with all my heart. Help us. Well, I want to ask you this question for the sake of those who are younger.

You mentioned you can remember exactly the place, the time, you, the 25-year-old gravel truck driver with the 75-year-old. If right now I could put Bob Jennings back in that seat, you know everything you know right now. I take that mind and I put it back in that 25-year-old and right now all of a sudden you're not in that chair anymore.

You're in that truck and you realize you've just gone back in time and there you are and you have your life to live over again. Would you live it just the same? Would you seek to have everything? Are there some areas that you would definitely want to change? If you had it to do over, would you make some radical re-maneuvers? Well, it's like a yes and no answer. I mean the no is I, we can say we did the best we could at the time with the faith we had, with the knowledge we had, with the truth we had, knowing God.

But looking back now, yeah, I suppose there is a yes side of that answer. I mean, you realize any tolerance of sin is just ridiculous. It's uncalled for.

It's unnecessary. It's insanity. I think I feel right now since this cancer has come up and possibly the end of my life, you do feel more of a hatred for sin.

Why tolerate it at all in any way, in any place, in any degree? But it's just mere Christianity is walking in the light and keeping a clear conscience and so that is what a Christian does. He walks with a clear conscience and you know, there's decisions that I made about going here and there at the time. You know, I did it in good faith, but you know, looking back while you think, boy, I'd never do that again.

That was a dumb move. And so there's things like that. Overall, I think, you know, if I were back there in that same seat, in that same place at age 25, you know, it's nothing new.

It's what every preacher says, every Christian feels, looking back on his life, more love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee, more, more, more, everything. My utmost for His high and holy name that I told, I've told my sons, if I had it to do over again, I think I might consider more being a foreign missionary. I mean, there was a time where I thought, I thought God's will for me was to never be married and to be a foreign missionary.

And I can say I've tried both of them. And it, I, but God made it very clear to me that He wanted me to marry. And that if I insisted on being single, that would be second best for me to never get married.

He wanted to give me a wife and I needed to ask in good faith for a wife. And I did. I tried to be a foreign missionary and God shut the door.

And so, but you looking back over the 40, almost 40 years now that have been a Christian, I think one of the biggest trials in standard America is that there is so much Christendoms around. I mean, there's so much complacency and you just, you just feel like Paul said, lo, I turn to the Gentiles. Since you judge yourself unworthy of eternal life, I turn to the Gentiles.

I'm, I'm looking for people that have not got a Bible. They don't have a Bible. They haven't heard a radio broadcast.

They don't have all these commentaries. They don't have churches available. Let's go to them.

People that are hold out their hand and gladly receive a piece of literature, gladly receive a Bible that want to hear that have never heard. I, I mean, just in general, I, I, I, I feel some of that. But you just mentioned living life with a, with a clear conscience.

And I've heard you say that before. You've, you've mentioned to me that you have tried to make it a habit during your life of not entering the pulpit, except you have a clear conscience. And I would just ask you about that.

How did you do that? What's, what's, what does that look like? And how important is that in the Christian life? Well, it's, yeah, the Lord has wired us up such that we know when we, we know when something's wrong. And, and so, you know, what are, what are we going to do about it? Are we going to cover it up? We're going to, going to sweep it under the rug and have like it never happened. You know, David's heart smote him.

And so we, we feel that, we recognize that. And the conscience is, is not a perfect witness, but it is a, it can be a very strong witness. And when we feel that guilt, when we feel that broken fellowship, you know, like they, like the old timers say, keep short accounts with God and take care of it.

Humble yourself before God, humble yourself before whoever you offended, things like that. Get it right. And, and don't go to bed that way.

Get it right. Get it taken care of. Restore your clear conscience before God.

And, you know, we don't want to presume. You just, you, you, you shove it, you, you sweep it under the rug and, you know, you might wake up tomorrow and it's not, you don't feel it as strongly and you get deceived. Deception can set in, in some way.

And so it's just a matter of keeping short accounts with God and honesty. God, Psalm 51, the Lord desires truth in the innermost being and just being honest before God, regardless of the cost. Well, I've heard you pray that God might give you 12 more years.

I want to ask you, if God gave you 12 more years, what would you do with those years? Would there be any radical, if somehow you were made aware that indeed, just like it was to Hezekiah, that your prayer had been granted, would you, would anything major change? Would there be any great alterations? Would you seek to serve the Lord in a, in a different way or a different capacity? Would you just seek to run even faster? Or would you, would you basically seek to continue to serve in the same way, just 12 more years? It's not easy to answer that. I, I mean, I, it's, it's like, there's been times I remember where I've tried to turn the volume up, you know, for example, invited to speak at a conference somewhere and here you got three months to prepare and I'm going to, I'm going to turn the volume up. I'm going to pray more.

I'm going to read the Bible more. And it's amazing how hard it is to do it. And, you know, you're just, ultimately you're just shut up to the grace of God for help.

And, and so, you know, if I, if, if, if God graciously granted me 12 more years, I mean, yeah, you know, you feel it. You feel like, Lord, I just, how precious I would be. And I would want to walk worthy of that, of that.

And, but, but it, it, it is not easy to turn the volume up. And, but I, I think that, you know, here we, seven years, eight years ago, we bought this, this property and began this produce farming. And it was primarily for the children's sake.

And now that that chapter is closing, I, Terry and I both talk and agree that we would like, we would like to just simplify our lives as much as possible and concentrate as much as possible on serving the Lord and the ministry and seeking, seeking the souls of men as much as possible and really concentrate. And I, I, I think that one thing that I would so like to do is read the Bible more. I mean, just conquer the Bible and be more, seek to be more useful as a soul winner.

I mean, there's not much of that going on. As there's a lot of evangelism going on and, and, but it just, it just is such a privilege and a rare thing to be used of God in winning souls, in Paul's terminology, in saving them. And so that, that is so desirable.

Let me say this, one thing on, on what I said here about conquering the Bible, you know, Colossians 3 is, let the word of Christ dwell richly in you. And I think, I think Christians are, they, they, they starve their soul. They, you know, in the physical, it's the same as it is in the physical, it's the same in the spiritual.

You're, you're going to be lean by not feeding your body properly or enough. And it's just that way in the, in the spiritual realm. The Christians are, they, they, they just get distracted.

There's so many distractions and that is one thing that makes you slap your knee is, is these distractions keeping us away from the good part, choosing the good part and letting, having the word of Christ dwell richly in us. And, you know, here I've been a Christian 40 years almost and, and I feel like, you know, I, I should know the Bible better. Here God has given us just, just one book.

It's not terribly little, but it's not terribly big. And we ought, after 40 years, I feel like I ought to have conquered the Bible better. I ought to know the Bible better.

And, you know, have, just be able to identify things. This is in this chapter, this is in this chapter. And it was Eliezer, you know, that picked, had picked up the sword and it clung to his hand.

And know, know these heroes and know these, the chapters in the Bible. You wouldn't look that up? Yeah. And Proverbs 7, you know, it says that we ought to, we ought to look at the commandments as our intimate friends.

And coming perhaps to the end of my life, I mean, that is the way you feel. You feel, I mean, these, these, these verses, these scriptures that God has just made intimate, they've made important to you. You just feel them as your intimate friend.

I mean, you just can lay, you want, you want to lay your hand on and your heart on them. And, you know, here, remember your word to your servant upon which you've caused me to hope. And so just having the, I'm saying the importance of having the Bible so intimate to you.

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