

Gratitude: Believers' Problems are Already Solved; Professional Soldiers Illustrate Professional Christians

Failure of the Client Nation to observe the mandates of the laws of divine establishment results in the administration of the five cycles of discipline. This conditional covenant relationship is expressed very clearly in the seventh chapter of Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 7:22 – “I did not speak to your fathers or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Jeremiah 7:23 - But this is what I commanded them, saying, ‘Obey My voice and I will be your God and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.’”

Jeremiah 7:24 - Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and in the stubbornness of their evil streams of consciousness, and went backward and nor forward.

Jeremiah 7:33 - The dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the sky and for the beasts of the earth and no one will frighten them away.

From these passages we see the constant union of *halakh* and *derek*: “walk in His ways.” This is really the translator’s way of saying “wheel-tracks of righteousness.” David refers to them as “the way of the blameless” which is better translated, “the way of integrity.”

Psalms 101:2 – “I will give heed [*sakal*, the process of thinking through a complex arrangement of thoughts resulting in a wise dealing and use of good practical common sense (TDOT): “behave wisely”] according to the blameless [*tamîm*, ethically sound, a finished product, well-rounded, balanced, i.e., “facilitated”] way [*derek*]. I will walk [*halakh*] within my house in the integrity [*tom*] of my stream of consciousness.”

Psalms 101:6 – “My eyes shall be upon the faithful [*niph'al* of ‘aman, “trustworthy”] of the land, that they will dwell with Me. He who walks [*halakh*] in the way [*derek*] of the blameless [*tamîm*, ethically sound, a finished product, well-rounded, balanced, integrity] is the one who will minister to Me.”

The opposite is also emphasized in Scripture and reveals the principle of wheel-tracks of wickedness.

Exodus 16:4 - Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain upon you bread from heaven for you and the people will go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk [*halakh*] in My instruction.”

F. Believers' Problems are Already Solved

God knows about all the problems that face believers in the Devil's world and He knew them in eternity past. His plan for the believer in time is perfect. Therefore, we may conclude that all our problems were solved by God in eternity past.

Nevertheless, God also provided us with a free will, thus our volition is free to override divine solutions. God has made available ten problem-solving devices which, if used under the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, will resolve all the problems the world can present.

Those who become skillful in the use of the problem-solving devices never complain and gripe in the face of adversity. One of the keys to such behavior is humility. If you are in the perfect plan of God then you must evaluate adversity as simply an obstacle which you are to resolve through doctrine.

I think our study of the Mexican War on Memorial Day is a good example of how we are to confront the exigencies of life. The military is the one profession in which failure is not an option. If you fail, fellow soldiers die, the cause is lost, and freedom becomes the ultimate casualty. Thus, when fighting an enemy in the defense of freedom there is no substitute for victory.

Men are trained in the boot camp of their branch of service to expect problems and they are given the skills to solve them. The well-trained soldier never considers the idea that the problems indigenous to the battlefield are insurmountable. Consequently, they learn not to whine but to stay calm and work out the problem.

One of the greatest demonstrations of the calm and professional reserve of the military mind when placed under maximum pressure was the impassive manner Jack Swigert, on board Apollo XIII, stoically informed Mission Control, "*Houston, we've had a problem here.*"

Likewise, in our recent study of the personalities involved in the Mexican War we saw how no matter what difficulties the American forces confronted, they resolved the issue with ingenuity, perseverance, and professionalism. They were assaulting a city which was defended by an army twice its size and situated in a geologic fortress comprised of swamps, marshes, and lava pits.

No one complained, griped, or entered into petty politics as did the Mexican generals Antonio López de Santa Anna and Gabriel Valencia /Ba-LANE-thya/. The military mind must always assume that every problem encountered can be resolved.

On no occasion do professional soldiers ever evaluate a problem on the battlefield as being a sign from God not to fight that day, or that they were not supposed to win, or that they are to retreat out of harm's way.

Problems in the Jornada are to be expected. As believers we should encounter them positively with the attitude that they have already been solved by God in eternity past. As good soldiers for Christ all we are asked to do is our duty: apply biblical problem-solving devices to life. God's perfect plan is so constructed that when we have faith in Him and His Word, the problems are solved.

On the other hand, whenever we opt for human-viewpoint problem-solving devices, God's plan is designed to not only allow the problems to continue but to produce ramifications which serve as goads and discipline.

The system is in place and functions to our prehistorically-set advantage. All we have to do is trust the system.