

## Are you Making a Difference for the Kingdom of God?

**Slide 3.** [1Co 15:9-10 KJV] 9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which [was bestowed] upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Abraham made a difference but he was not perfect. Noah made a difference but he was not perfect. Ruth and Esther made a difference but they were not perfect. In these four examples, God used his Grace through their faith to make them what they were.

As Bob Hoekstra says (talking about us becoming a letter of the Good News 2 Cor 3:3) This is something that God does in us, not something we manufacture for Him.

[2Co 3:3 KJV] 3 [Forasmuch as ye are] manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

## Are you making a difference in the Kingdom of God or are you trapped by your views of yourself?

**Slide 4.** [Rom 4:16-25 KJV] 16 Therefore [it is] of faith, that [it might be] by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, [even] God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. **18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.** 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

## Yield to the Lord and He will remove the trap.

**Are you making a difference in the Kingdom of God or Do you feel like you just can't measure up to God's standards? Well, you cannot measure up so quit trying.**

**Slide 5.** [Jdg 6:15 KJV] 15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family [is] poor in Manasseh, and I [am] the least in my father's house.

**Slide 6.** [1Co 15:9 KJV] 9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **Paul knew what he had done.**

## Are you Making a Difference for the Kingdom of God?

**Slide 7.** [Eph 3:8 KJV] 8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; **(Paul knew God's Grace was at work in his life enabling him.) By His Grace I am what I am.**

## Are you making a difference in the Kingdom of God or Are you side-tracked by a Perfectionist attitude with Idealistic Goals?

**Slide 8.** [Est 3:5 NKJV] 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath. **(Things did not go his way.)**

Perfectionist or Idealist vs Excellence or Realist

**Slide 9.** Perfectionist - a person who refuses to accept any standard short of perfection. refusing to accept any standard short of perfection. **(I can't worship cause the piano is out of tune. He/she sinned yesterday so they can't minister.) (When their kids turn away from God, they are devastated and cannot cope. They feel like they are a failure. When someone in the church falls from grace, they are devastate.) They are idealists.**

Person of Excellence – the quality of being outstanding or extremely good. Paul was a person of Excellence. So was David.

**Slide 10.** Idealist - a person who is guided more by ideals than by practical considerations. **(My friend is an idealist, who somehow thinks that we always agree.)**

Realist - a person who accepts a situation as it is and is prepared to deal with it accordingly.

How do you value yourself?

Idealist

Realist

## Is your goal to Be the best or do your best

A perfectionist or A person of Excellence

Teleios and adjective means perfect but also means mature, Showing a high degree of human integrity and virtue. one who has reached the proper height of virtue and integrity

**Slide 11.** [Mat 5:48 KJV] 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. **(An absolute sense, of God not man) You cannot do this. Only God can.**

## Are you Making a Difference for the Kingdom of God?

[Jas 3:2 KJV] 2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same [is] a perfect[G5046] man, [and] able also to bridle the whole body. **(An absolute sense, of God not man) So you are doing this by grace.**

[Jas 1:4 KJV] 4 But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. **(one who has reached the proper height of virtue and integrity)**

[Eph 4:13 KJV] 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: **(until we rise to the same level of knowledge which we ascribe to a full-grown man)**

## Are you making a difference in the Kingdom of God or is your view of Jesus Messed Up? Is he just a historical Jesus or is he alive and well and on the Throne?

**Slide 12.** Two Jews who walked with Jesus thought this about him.

Luke 24:21 (NLT) We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel.

**The disciples got it wrong more than once.**

**Slide 13.** [Luk 24:41 NKJV] 41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"

[Luk 24:41 NLT] 41 Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

[Luk 24:44-45 NKJV] 44 Then He said to them, "These [are] the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and [the] Prophets and [the] Psalms concerning Me."

**Slide 14.** 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

## Who is Jesus to you?

[Pro 14:12 KJV] 12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death.

[Pro 16:25 KJV] 25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death.

## Tonight 2 Cor 13:1-8