

## "Do You Care?"

How seriously do you take God? Do God's ways matter at all to you? Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." Today we're asking, "Do you care?" Welcome to In SEARCH of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. God's will and God's ways are the great blessing of all time for all people in all places. God's ways contain the highest of morals, the greatest of love, and the noblest of character, the purest of heart, the great salvation, and the eternal inheritance. God's ways are not trivial. They're vitally important to our souls and our destiny. We must take God and His word seriously. Thanks for taking time with us today. We would love to hear from you and want to be a part of your life each week.

Two of the biggest problems of our time can be found in the words, "I don't know!" and "I don't care!" Many recognize there is a God but know little about Him. They've gotten to a point where they want a socially proper view of God that really doesn't resemble the God of the Bible at all. They've chosen some favorite passages about God while ignoring other passages that are just as important. Others have simply dismissed God and His word; they simply don't care what He says about life or morality. They're determined to do whatever they think is right in their own eyes.

Proverbs 3:5 to 8 urges us, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body, And refreshment to your bones." When people forget God and follow their own desires and impulses, they lose sight of the One who created them and the One who will determine their destiny at the end of time. Trust in the Lord and in His teaching, and you'll be blessed. This is an important study, and we offer it free. It's entitled, "Do You Care?" If you'd like a printed copy and live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or you can call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. We also have materials free on our website at [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org) and on YouTube.

We'll now worship in song, read from Romans 14:7 to 12, and explore important reasons to care about God and His word.

Our reading today comes from the epistle of Paul to the Romans, chapter 14, verses 7 to 12. And in this passage it talks about our personal responsibility. "For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me,

And every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God." That's a reading from God's holy word.

Let's pray together. "Heavenly Father as we consider our accountability to You, help us to care about the things that You care about, to love the things that You love, to avoid the things that You despise. Father help us to love you and to do Your will. In Jesus name, Amen."

We're asking, "Do you care about Christ and His teaching?" Now caring means that what matters to God also matters to us. It means that we live recognizing the Lord Jesus died for our sins and rose from the grave. It means we regard God's words as inspired, inerrant, and authoritative. The Scriptures urge us to take God and His word seriously.

And there's a monumental difference between being careful and being careless. Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 12:32, "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take away from it." In chapter 26 verse 16, Moses wrote, "This day the LORD your God commands you to do these statutes and rules. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul." Again Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 28:58 to 59, "If you're not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the LORD your God, then the LORD will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting." I wonder how many problems we have brought upon ourselves today because we were not careful to listen to God.

God told Joshua in Joshua 1 verses 7 and 8, "Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. The Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

Throughout the Scriptures, the Bible calls people to take God's words seriously. The Lord Jesus said in Mark 4:23 to 24, that "'If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.' And He was saying to them, 'Take care what you listen to.'" Ephesians 5:15 to 17 says, "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

People who don't care about God are frequently deceived. 1 Corinthians 1:25 reminds us, "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

Many have the idea, "Well, I'm wise and I don't need to listen to God." Well if you don't care to hear the truth from God, you'll fall for the lies of the world, lies that hold no promise and will lead you down the wrong path.

1 Corinthians 3:18 to 20 says, "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he's wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their craftiness,' and again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.'"

Colossae was a small city on the road to other places. And merchants and others who traveled that road through Colossae, often brought all kinds of strange and deceptive ideas to this town. Some of the people of Colossae bought into their lies rather than to follow the truth. And Paul warned the people in Colossians 2:6 to 8, "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to the human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."

People sometimes say, "It doesn't matter what you believe." And they forget how their words affect those who are younger. A young person may think, "Well, if it doesn't matter what I

believe, then I'll believe and do whatever pleases me." Well this foolishness may sound attractive, but it points to a way of life that destroys. Ephesians 5:5 to 7 says, "For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience." Now you may think what you believe and what you do doesn't matter, but you see it matters to God. Some think it's unkind to speak of God judging people after this life is over; but to fail to speak of Judgment Day is actually cruel, very cruel. To suggest God doesn't care what we believe or how we live denies reality and it leaves people with false hope and no future blessing. Deceiving people about God and the judgement is not simply a lie; it can lead people to be lost eternally. And that my friend is very cruel!

Some think, "I can sin in any way I wish and as often as I wish and still be right with God. They got this idea from the people who teach "once saved, always saved." The Scriptures teach otherwise. Galatians chapter five was written to Christians to help them realize the consequences of sin. Galatians 5, verses 19 to 21 says, "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality (that is fornication), impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. (And Paul says) I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Galatians 6, verses 7 to 8, also written to Christians, says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

Now some believe they can continually associate with sin and sinful ways, but none of it will rub off on them. But 1 Corinthians 15:33 to 34 says, "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals.' Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. (And he says) I speak this to your shame." You see, you can't walk through the mud and not get muddy. And you can't walk with sin, and sin not corrupt your thinking and your ways.

Proverbs 1:24 to 33 reveals the words of Wisdom, and wisdom's calling out to people who didn't want to hear the message of what the wise is saying and they don't care about what it matters. Wisdom said, "Because I called, and you refused; I stretched out my hand, and no one paid attention; And you neglected all my counsel and did not want my reproof; I will even laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, When your dread comes like a storm, And your calamity comes on like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come on you. Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they shall not find me, Because they hated knowledge, And did not choose the fear of the LORD. They would not accept my counsel, They spurned my reproof. So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, And be satiated with their own devices. For the waywardness of the naive (the foolish) shall kill them, And the complacency of fools shall destroy them. But he who listens to me shall live securely, And shall be at ease from the dread of evil." The wisest thing that you can do in life is listen to the Lord!

Let God be at the center of your heart and life. Let Christ rule in your heart. Jeremiah 29:11 to 13 speaks of God's own promise to Israel, he says "'For I know the plans that I have for you,'

declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.'" God wants you to find Him; God wants to bless you. God has plans that reach into eternity!

You remember James 1:22 to 25 says, "But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he's like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he's looked at himself and gone away, he's immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does."

Caring about God means setting priorities. You know, a person who cares is willing to serve and sacrifice in order to please the God who created and blesses him. Romans 12:1 and 2 says, "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." Now a caring person doesn't live like there is no God; rather, he wants to live according to the teaching of God, so that he can show the world that God's will is good and acceptable and perfect.

Caring about God means that you'll look beyond today. Caring is important, because life is short, and death is certain. James 4:13 to 17 says, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow, we're going to go to such and such a city, and spend a year there, we're going to engage in business, we're going to make a profit.' Yet you don't know what your life will be like tomorrow. You're just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.' But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; and all such boasting is evil. Therefore, to the one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Hebrews 9 and verse 27 reminds us, that "it's appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment." You see we don't have a second life to correct all the troubles we caused in this first life. After death comes judgment from God. We'll give an account for the life that we have lived. If we don't care what God says and we refuse to listen to His word, then He will punish us. John 3:35 to 36 says, "The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

People who don't care about God today will one day wish they had cared. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 9:26, "That whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels." Oh, I don't want anyone to face God unprepared. God really does mean what He says, and those who refuse to follow Him will face eternity without His blessing. Do you care about God? Do you care about your soul and your eternity? I want you to know that I care about your soul, and I care whether or not God is a part of your life. And I hope that you will want to have that same care for God, and for others.

Let's pray. "Father, we're thankful that You have cared for us down to this day, and have blessed us in so many ways. Father, help us in every way to come to know You and to care

about the things that You teach us, to live lives that glorify Your name. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.”

God cared so much about us that He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins so that we could live with Him forever. If God so loves us, shouldn't we love and care about Him. Do you care? And if you care, how are you showing that you care? Do you love God enough to keep His commandments or do you live for your own pleasure?

Isaiah 55:6 to 7 says, “Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.” If life is short and death is certain, then you must be prepared for the day when the Lord Jesus comes again. On that day you'll give an account for what you've believed and how you've lived. Please get prepared for the day when you have to face God.

Now to get right with the Lord Jesus, believe in Him with all your heart; turn from sin to righteousness out of love for the One who died for you; confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, do that with your lips; and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Now baptism is the beginning of a new life in Christ. It's the time when God causes you to be born again, washes away your sin, makes you His child, adds you to His church, and makes you an heir of heaven.

Perhaps you once were a faithful Christian, living and serving the Lord, but you've wandered away. Come back home to the Lord. The Father hasn't stopped loving you; please don't stop loving Him or serving Him. Start caring again and be prepared for the eternal home with God. God loves you and wants you to love Him.

We hope that today's study about caring for God has stirred you to see the consequences of your decisions. Now if you live in the United States and want a free printed copy of this message, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or you can call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now there's also a schedule of our programs and a map with the location of churches in your area at [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org). Now you can watch SEARCH anytime on YouTube! Subscribe to our channel, “SearchTVMinistry.” And be sure to like the programs that you watch; now this helps spread the program. We also offer free Bible Correspondence courses. Now don't worry, we're not asking for money. We're here to help you draw close to God.

Focus your heart on God by worshiping at church. Everybody needs a church home. And there's probably a church of Christ near you. And if you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll gladly help you find one. We'll be back next week, Lord willing. So keep searching God's Word with us, tell a friend about this program. God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.