

Proper Motivation in Religion

Eph. 6:5,6

Introduction: A. Motivation is important to any worthwhile endeavor.

B. Motivation in religion must be both strong and sound.

1. Spiritual rather than material (John 6:26, 66).
2. Deep commitment rather than momentary excitement (Lk. 9:57, 58; 14:25-33).

C. We will examine three aspects of religious motivation:

Discussion:

I. The Motivating Power Of The Gospel.

A. The Gospel is power of God unto salvation. (Rom. 1:16; 10:5,6,17).

B. The Gospel furnishes sufficient information and motivation to do God's will.

1. Need no additional information. (Gal. 1:8-10).
2. Need no additional motivation (1 Cor. 1:21-24; 2 Cor. 4:1-5; cf. Lk. 16:26-31).
 - a. Enough information to motivate love, fear and obedience to the Lord.
 - b. Enough information for reproof, rebuke and exhortation. (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 4:1-4)
3. Need none of today's popular motivational tactics.
 - a. Emotionalism of revivalists.
 - b. Pressure tactics of salesmanship.
 - c. Carnal incentives.
 - d. Pressure to please someone other than the Lord.

II. The Proper Motivation In Conversion.

A. One must believe that Jesus is the Christ. (John 8:32).

1. Believe it because of word of God. (cf. John 20:31).
2. Not because Parents believe it.
3. Not for traditional reasons.

B. One must repent of sins. (Acts 2:38).

1. Change prompted by **godly** sorrow. (cf. 2 Cor. 7:10).
2. Not solve earthly problems, etc.

C. One must be baptized. (Acts 22:16).

1. In name or by authority of Jesus for remission of sin.
2. Not to please anyone but God.
3. Not to get anyone off your back.

III. The Proper Motive In Christian Service.

A. Worship and serve the Lord for proper motives (cf. Matt. 6:1-5)

B. Maintain earthly relations from proper motives (Eph. 6:5-8; Heb. 13:5, 6).

Conclusion:

A. Let us be motivated to obey God by the word of God.

B. Let us avoid trying to motivate folks to obey by other means.