

Yea and Nay

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2 Corinthians 1:15-20 And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit; And to pass by you into Macedonia, and to come again out of Macedonia unto you, and of you to be brought on my way toward Judaea. When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay? But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

- I. The problem when we are lost and unsaved is that we have gotten into the habit of saying “no” to God and “yes” to ourselves, to the world around us, and the devil himself.
 - A. Everything turns around when we start saying “no” to ourselves, the world around us, and the devil, and start saying “yes” to God.
 - B. This is the beginning of the way of salvation.

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

- C. “Yea and nay” signifies being fickle, uncertain, or double-minded.
 - 1. This is the state of mind of the lost, with the exception of a reprobate mind.
 - 2. The normal person is undecided, with enough of the fear of God and the unknown to hold back from deciding firmly against God.
 - 3. They intend to someday come to a knowledge of God that they can submit to, but they do not strive to do so, because they keep saying yes to the world and their lusts.
 - 4. This state of mind is always accompanied by lightness; not serious and sober; it is easy to laugh off contradictions and confusion.
 - D. The point here is that there is no resolve, and so we bounce back and forth and are easily swayed, in our opinions, in our commitments, and in our knowledge.
 - E. When we are resolved we are settled, fixed, relaxed, and with our facts confirmed.
 - F. “Bad men are false, good men may be fickle, but God is true, and neither fickle or false.”
 - 1. “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen”
 - 2. In Christ all is “yea” – certain, fixed, unchanging, and confirmed.
 - G. The goal and the work of God in our lives is to bring us to that state of godliness so that we are not fickle or false, but true and steady and sure.
 - H. We cannot be a witness for the Lord unless this work is accomplished in us.
 - I. Our “yea and nay” character will be a detriment to the kingdom of God and those around us.
- II. If what is lacking is resolve in us, then how do we become resolved?
- A. The answer is simple: we say “yes” to God.
 - 1. Not just one time, or sometimes, but all the time, and every time.
 - 2. We form a habit of trying to discern the source of the influence that is upon us and saying yes to God and no to our own selfish desires and evil.
 - B. God is our rock, He is the only source of stability.

- C. The more that we submit to his Lordship over our life, the more we will grow in our resolve because we know He is true and all his ways are right.

III. Saying “yes” to God is simply obedience to God.

- A. Obedience is not what we imagine God wants us to be, but what He has told us in his written Word that He wants us to be.
- B. Therefore, in order to be able to say “yes” to God, we must gain knowledge and understanding of his Word.
 - 1. Not just a superficial, sketchy view, but a deep understanding of the whole counsel of God.
 - 2. Not just megabytes of facts about what the Bible says, but a practical understanding that enables a practical application of that knowledge to our everyday life in this world.
 - 3. And also an understanding of the spiritual and the carnal and how to discern the voices that are trying to speak to your mind and influence your direction.
- C. To “seek to do God’s will” is to have a desire to know what God desires of us and to know how to accomplish it.
 - 1. Those who truly have this desire will form a habit of asking themselves, and the Lord, if what they are doing is pleasing to Him or not.
 - 2. Those who truly have a desire to do the will of the Lord will feel the checks of the Holy Spirit of God when they are doing something, or say something that is not pleasing to the Lord.
- D. A habit of obedience will increase our resolve, and so our life will not say, “yea” and “nay” but only “yea.”
 - 1. It will not be confusing to those who know us or who are acquainted with us.
 - 2. Our actions, our words, our attitudes, our contentment, our patience, our love and concern for others will be an amen to the truth and faithfulness of our God.
 - 3. There is nothing about true obedience to God that offends others because true obedience is a confirmation of God to them.
 - 4. Outwardly, they may mock, they may criticize and condemn, but it is their own guilt that is making them act that way.
 - 5. Inside, where we cannot see, God is confirmed by our “yea” that is more than mere words and religious talk that they have heard from hypocrites all their lives.

IV. When you say “yes” make sure you mean it, and you know why you mean it, and the why is based upon God and his truth.

- A. Not your own feelings and prejudices and earthly knowledge and understanding.
- B. When you say “no” make sure it is for the same reasons and that is a sure “no” and not a “maybe.”
- C. We need to just be real and true and thorough and consistent and not shallow and light and changeable.
- D. We need to think deeply, feel deeply, love deeply, and care deeply.
- E. We can see all this plainly in this letter from Paul to the church at Corinth, as he is trying to teach them to do the same.