

WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE (Romans 3:22)

In our text verse the bible makes it clear that every believer is cut from the same cloth. We are all Body, Soul, and Spirit, sinners saved by the grace of God by faith in Jesus Christ finished work.

II Timothy 4:9-11 The bible also makes it clear to us that some believers live a victorious Christian life while other believers that hear the same message, sit under the same Godly teaching and are influenced by the same Godly leadership come up quite short of living for Christ in a positive way.

Delighting In God's Word

Psalm 1:1-2 The biggest difference maker between the growing Christian that is making steady progress and the stagnant believer who never seems to grow in Christ or service is God's word.

- A. The growing believer not only reads the word but they revere (honor, respect, fear) God's word.
- B. The growing believer not only reads the word but is revived (renewed, recover life) by the word.
- C. The growing believer not only reads the word but reviews and remembers the word of God.

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Dedicated To God's Ways

II Timothy 2:5 Paul explains the Christian life as athletes competing for a prize. He tells us that only those that compete according the rules (God's word) will eventually win the prize.

- A. The right ways of God are not always profitable. We may have to refuse a promotion or transfer because it would lead to compromising God's word.
- B. The right way for believers is not always the popular way. Mostly the world's way is opposite God's way. However, many believers compromise for financial gain or to keep the peace.
- C. The ways of God do not always seem possible but (Gen. 18:14) nothing is too hard for God.

Desire For The Wisdom Of God

James 1:5 One of the main differences between a growing believer and an immature believer is the desire to obtain the wisdom and knowledge from God and apply that wisdom to our daily life.

- A. **Jeremiah 10:2; Prov. 14:7; Colossians 2:8** Too many believers seek the easy answers to our life difficulties and do not seek the counsel and wisdom that God's word has for us.
- B. **Psalm 111:10; James 1:22** The mature believer follows the advice and counsel of the scriptures. Everything we need to know God has revealed to us if we will just do what He says.
- C. **Matthew 13:23** The mature believer applies the word of God in their decisions of life: our choice of church, our faithfulness to serve, our prayer life, our giving, our time spent in helping other believers, our attentiveness to the preaching and teaching of God's word.

Dedication To The Will Of God

Psalm 84:10 David makes it obvious that he searched for and found the will of God for himself. His desire throughout his life was to love and serve God. Though not perfect God loved David's heart.

- A. **Proverbs 3:5-6** Those believers that want to mature want to find God's will for their lives must start with, live with and end with unfaltering faith and trust in God's word above everything.
- B. **Romans 12:1-2** Believers who fall short of growing and do not make any difference in their world are those that make their own plans and want God to bless their needs and desires.
- C. **I Corinthians 12:1, 4-7; I Peter 4:10** The difference between the growing believer and the believer that stays a baby their whole life is using the gift that God has given to each of us.