

MEDIOCRITY VS. EXCELLENCE

I. STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE:

- A. Hebrews 6:1 - "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.
- B. Hebrews 6:12 - "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."
- C. When we consider that God gave his very best, can we not strive to give our VERY BEST.
 - 1. James 1:17 - The blessings God are good and perfect.
 - 2. Ephesians 1:3 - We have "...all spiritual blessings" in Christ.

II. GOD REQUIRES EXCELLENCE:

- A. Hebrews 11:4 - "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."
- B. God has always requested the very best from man.
 - 1. Exodus 12:15
 - 2. Mediocrity just will not do.
 - 3. Hosea 4:6 - "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou has forgotten the law of thy God, I will forget thy children."
- C. What does God expect of us?
 - 1. Ephesians 5:27
 - 2. Ephesians 1:4
 - 3. Colossians 1:22
 - 4. Hebrews 9:14 - "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without

spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God."

- 5. Our life is about SERVICE TO GOD. It should be the best we can offer.

III. WHY DOES GOD REQUIRE EXCELLENCE?

- A. There is a principle we need to understand, so ask yourself:
 - 1. "Why Does God give the best?"
 - a. Because of our value and importance to Him.
 - b. Luke 12:24 - "Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn, and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?"
 - c. Matthew 12:12
 - 2. We are made so much better than the angels (Hebrews 1:4)
- B. How valuable is God - Do we know the truth?
 - 1. Understanding the greatness of God will cause humility.
 - a. Matthew 3:11 - John the Baptist said of Jesus; "Whose shoes I am not worthy to bear..."(Mk.1:7).
 - b. Matthew 8:8 -
 - c. Luke 7:1-8, 9 -
- C. God requires excellence because He is Excellent!
 - 1. Our walk is to be "worthy of our calling" (Ephesians 4:1).
 - 2. Remember it is Jesus who calls us (1 Thessalonians 2:12).
 - 3. His name is a worthy name above all names ("do not blaspheme the worthy name by which ye are called" James 2:7).

NOTES:
