

Daniel 1:8

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

“Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself” Yet how many times do Christians purpose in their hearts to defile themselves by planning on going to see that “R” rated movie, or by planning on going to the club or bar, or to watch that TV show, or listen to that music, or go to that website, or flirt with that guy or girl even though they are married or not a Christian.

How many have already purposed in their heart not to go to church this coming Sunday, or not serve in the church, or not tithe, or not do for others, or not read their bible? Yet we don't think about those things, because we think of sin as doing those bad things, so we try our best not to do the bad things. But are we spending so much time trying not to do the bad things, that we neglect not doing the good things?

Like I said, how many will decide to stay out late on Saturday, therefore they purpose in their heart not to go to church on Sunday.

Or how many are blessed with a job and a paycheck, yet purpose in their heart not to give back to the Lord because He has blessed them?

How many hear from the pulpit the needs in the church to help out, yet purpose in their hearts to do nothing. “I'm too busy” they will think, “let someone else do it”. What, do you think those who are doing have nothing better to do and have no life so they serve in the church? You would be surprised how busy those who help or serve in the church are. They all have jobs outside of the church, most have a family that they have to take care of. All have lawns to mow, dishes to wash, bills to pay, kids to raise, etc... and if you looked at their life, they are probably busier than you are, yet they serve in the church with gladness and joy.

I've said it before, but giving God excuses for why you can't do for Him and His kingdom, is the same as saying “No” to God, because He has asked us all to serve and do for others, both inside and outside of the church.

† ***Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so. Proverbs 3:27***

† ***Yet preaching the Good News is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn't preach the Good News! 1 Corinthians 9:16 (NLT2)***

† *If someone is eager to do good things for you, that's all right; but let them do it all the time, not just when I'm with you. Galatians 4:18 (NLT2)*

† *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. James 4:13-17*