

## It Takes Guts

*"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you, nor forsake you"* (Deuteronomy 31:6).

In our world today it takes guts to stand for what is right and wrong. Our culture has become so toxic in part because right and wrong have become relative to one's own belief in right and wrong. The problem with individual moral relativism is that it lacks a concept of guiding principles of right or wrong. One of the points of morality is to guide our lives, tell us what to do, what to desire, what to object to, what character qualities to develop and which ones not to develop.

More and more you hear the message, "There are no absolutes." "Think what you want; say what you want; do what you want." The philosophy of the multitudes seems to be that the only absolute is one's own personal values, which means, "Do as you please." Society's rules, offering a degree of protection and stability, are the only thing hindering some people from doing whatever seems desirable or good to themselves. It was the same, at times, in the days of the Bible (read Judges 17:6, 21-15).

The result is a serious inability to know right from wrong. As the Bible puts it, "*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*" (Isaiah 5:20). In contrast to this lack of absolute values, the Bible teaches that right and wrong, good and evil, are absolutes that are ultimately and immutably defined by God. He has placed in the human heart a recognition of these absolutes—the conscience—that tells us right from wrong. When a person goes so far in insubordination that he or she is no longer able to recognize this distinction, the result is destruction!

Still, many today believe that they are not only able, but have the right to choose their own values strictly with reference to oneself. The message of the Bible is anything but that. The Bible, in which God communicates to the human race, speaks of absolutes. When God recorded His laws in the Bible, He is not simply giving us good advice. He is laying down absolute rules for living that are based on reality. God's laws, recorded in the Bible, spring from His character and consistency. The truth: *God is the same yesterday, today and forever* (Hebrews 13:8). He is the one thing in the entire universe that never changes, His character remains the same! Psalm 94:22 tells us, "*He is the Rock of our salvation. He is our strength, immutable, immovable and impenetrable shelter and an everlasting foundation.*" God promises, "*You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart*" (Jeremiah 29:13).

The Bible puts it like this: "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding*" (Proverbs 3:5). Take the gift that God gave you: His Word and make it your compass, your source of authority, and disregard the multitude of conflicting, contradictory and often insane voices around you. What is your source for right and wrong?