

Don't Give Up on Them

When we try to understand what God is doing in the lives of difficult people, it can be tempting to look at a couple of pieces of information and jump to conclusions. However, the Christian's call is to see life and the people in it as Jesus sees. We must understand life using truth rather than personal experience.

Scripture(s): Romans 11:1-6

Remember this - God is persistently _____ in the lives of people we are tempted to write off.

I. The first proof that explains how God works in and through the lives of hard-headed people is the salvation of _____.

Those who know the barriers God had to break down to save them are usually the last people to _____ on others.

II. The second proof that explains how God works in and through the lives of hard-headed people is God's surprising _____. We must resist the easy temptation to believe that we _____ are the faithful believers in God's kingdom.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10 6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. 9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

III. The third proof that explains how God works in and through the lives of hard-headed people is the transformed hard-headed believer in _____ generation. It is the heart of God to _____ people who deserve the opposite of salvation.

John 3:1-2 1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."... John 19:38-39 38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body. 39 Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight.

Luke 5:8 8 But when Simon Peter saw that [that is, the great catch of fish], he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!"... Luke 5:10 "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men."

Our challenge: Actively resist the temptation to write off those in your circle who currently _____ or reject Jesus.

1. _____.

2. Speak to and treat others as if they are simply, "not _____," believers.

3. Remember what your own heart is like _____ Jesus.

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