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| Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence |  | Pastor Chris BrownApril 2-3, 2022Message #13 / 1 Samuel 27 |
|  | northcoastchurch.com/sermons |

**What Do We Do With Our Godless Chapters?**

**The problem with ourselves:**

1 Samuel 27, Jeremiah 17:9, Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 14:12

When we choose to follow **OUR OWN PLAN**,

we are giving up on **GOD’S PLAN**.

God’s will for us is far greater than just **ESCAPING**

our current **SITUATION**.

**Questions that have to be answered:**

1 Samuel 27

Are we committed to pursuing **SUCCESS** or **FAITHFULNESS**?

“Where our **HEART** leads, our **FEET** will follow.”

Is our definition of success:

**HEALTH, WEALTH AND HAPPINESS** or

**BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE**?

What do we measure **OBEDIENCE** by?

**OBEDIENCE** is only measured by **OBEDIENCE**,

not in **LIFE** getting **BETTER** for us.

**What do we do with this godless chapter?**

1 Samuel 27, 1 Chronicles 22:7-10

In short, this is all about the Hero’s endless ability

to grant **GRACE** and **MERCY**.

The best way to connect with us is the Connection Card in the bulletin. For the Digital Bulletin, visit [myncc.info](https://myncc.info/).

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**Questions that have to be answered:**

1 Samuel 27

Are we committed to pursuing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

“Where our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leads, our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will follow.”

Is our definition of success:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

What do we measure \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is only measured by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

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**What do we do with this godless chapter?**

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**Life Group Study Questions**

**For the week of April 3, 2022**

 **MY STORY**

1. In your family growing up, what did you learn about the definition of success?

2. What’s your first response when you hear that someone you highly respect is found out and caught in a significant compromise? (Please respond with discretion.)

**QUICK REVIEW:** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

 **DIGGING DEEPER**

1. We all have God-given desires and hopes for success (Proverbs 3:1-4, Ephesians 2:10). Yet, as we heard this weekend, our pursuit of success all too often conflicts with the pursuit of faithfulness. Take a minute and jot down any thoughts you have on what the pursuit of faithfulness looks like in the areas below.

At Work:

At Home:

With Friends/People:

Paul, in his letter to the Colossian church, is working hard at helping them to know who they are in Christ as followers of Jesus and what the pursuit of faithfulness looks like. As you read the passages below, jot down how Paul describes faithfulness in action.

***Colossians 2:6-7******New International Version (NIV)***

***6****So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,****7****rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

***Colossians 3:2-4 New International Version (NIV)***

***2****Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.****3****For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.****4****When Christ, who is your[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A6-7%2C+Colossians+3%3A2-4%2C+Colossians+3%3A12%2C+Colossians+3%3A13-14%2C+Colossians+3%3A15%2C+Colossians+3%3A17%2C+Colossians+3%3A23-24%2C+Colossians+4%3A5-6&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29522a)*] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

***Colossians 3:12 New International Version (NIV)***

***12****Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

***Colossians 3:13-14******New International Version (NIV)***

***13****Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.****14****And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

***Colossians 3:15******New International Version (NIV)***

***15****Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

***Colossians 3:17******New International Version (NIV)***

***17****And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

***Colossians 3:23-24******New International Version (NIV)***

***23****Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,****24****since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

***Colossians 4:5-6******New International Version (NIV)***

***5****Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.****6****Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

As you look at your descriptions of faithfulness in action from Colossians, is there one you’d say you’re strongest at implementing in your life? How does it fit in the previous categories (at work, at home, with friends/people)?

Is there one you would say you need to make sure you remember to keep part of your pursuit of faithfulness? How does it fit in the categories (at work, at home, with friends/people)?

2. None of us want to end up with godless chapters in our lives like David. But how do we end up there? Chances are it usually isn’t the result of one bad decision, but a series of decisions that take us in the wrong direction and/or ignoring the warning signs along the way. How could the following verses help us avoid this trap?

***Proverbs 27:12******New International Version (NIV)***

***12****The prudent see danger and take refuge,
    but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.*

Can you think of a time when you did see danger and take refuge, or you didn’t and kept going and paid the penalty?

***Proverbs 27:6, 17*** ***New International Version (NIV)***

***6****Wounds from a friend can be trusted,
    but an enemy multiplies kisses.*

***17****As iron sharpens iron,
    so one person sharpens another.*

Seeking wise counsel and getting input from others is an important way to avoid blind spots. How have you seen this ebb and flow in your life?

 ***Romans 6:12-13*** ***New International Version (NIV)***

***12****Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.****13****Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.*

What helps you to not offer yourself to sin and instead offer yourself to God?

 **taking it home**

1. Looking back on this week’s sermon and study, what’s most important for you to remember?

 **prayer requests**

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| **TIPS on GROUP PRAYER** |
| Prayer is an important part of being in Life Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.**WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME -** Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE -** Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.**WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE -** Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.  |