



HANDLING THE "WOULD HAVES, SHOULD HAVES AND COULD HAVES OF LIFE"

"Regrets; I've had a few . . ." This lyric from a popular song of years ago seems to capture the sentiment of many, as we reflect back on the decisions of our lives. Although we have all experienced the euphoria that accompanies a great decision, it seems that it is the "would haves, should haves and could haves" of life that dominate our memories.

This tendency seems to be especially true for followers of Jesus. As hard as we try to do what is right, we end up affirming the prophetic insight that *"everyone did what was right in their own eyes"*. (Judges 17:6) In short, we need to be reminded that the best way to avoid the pitfalls of bad decisions is to make the right decisions in the first place.

To help us achieve this end, today we will examine three biblical models that focus on achieving good decisions and hopefully avoid the "would haves, should haves and could haves" of life and the regrets that accompany them. I invite you to join with me in discerning more about doing what is right in His sight.

Pastor Doug Olsen
July 12/13, 2008

Handling the “Would haves, Should haves and Could haves of life”

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WOULD HAVES – “I would have, but I didn’t know _____.”

Issue – The problem of _____

Text – Phil. 1:9,10

Process –

1. “. . .that your _____ may abound more and more . . .” (Phil. 1:9a)
2. “. . . in _____” (Phil. 1:9b)
3. “. . .and depth of _____” (Phil. 1:9c)
4. “so that you may be able to _____ what is best. . .” (Phil. 1:10)

SHOULD HAVES – “I should have, but I _____”

Issue – the problem of _____

Text – Matthew 6:19 – 24

Process –

1. What do you _____? (Matt. 6:19, 20)
2. Where is your _____? (Matt. 6:21)
3. What is your _____? (Matt. 6:22, 23)
4. Who do you _____? (Matt. 6:24)

COULD HAVES – “I could have, but I _____ not to”

Issue – the problem of _____

Text – I Cor. 6 – 10 (selected verses)

Process – purpose to make decisions that . . .

1. . . . Align with _____ (I Cor. 6:18)
2. . . . Consider fellow _____ (I Cor. 8:9, 13)
3. . . . Impact _____ - _____ (I Cor. 9:19, 22 & 10:33)
4. . . . Bring _____ to _____ (I Cor. 10:31)