

ATTITUDE – 6
FEBRUARY 26, 2017

EPHESIANS 4:23 (TLB)

INTRODUCTION: Stanford Research Institute reports that only 12.5% of our success in life is determined by knowledge; the other 87.5% comes from attitude.

Chuck Swindoll said “The attitude I choose keeps me going on or cripples my progress. When my attitudes are right, there’s no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme.”

If our attitude and thoughts are to be changing for the better, what standard do we use to measure our progress?

GOD’S PLUMB LINE

AMOS 7:7-8

- A. Line with a plumb attached to it to find the depth of water or determine the vertical of a structure.
- Leaning Tower of Pisa has a 12 foot lean.

Metaphorically, it refers to the divine standard by which God judges our beliefs and behavior.

ISAIAH 28:16-17

Jesus is God’s plumb line or standard He uses to straighten out our attitudes.

- Stone or foundational standard. **1 PETER 2:6-8 (NLT)**
- Tried and found obedient.
- Precious cornerstone, because all other stones are set in reference to this stone. It sets the pattern for the rest.
- Sure foundation we can build on with confidence.
- Justice is the line, righteousness is the plummet.
- The storm will reveal our building materials. **MATTHEW 7:24-27**

THE ATTITUDE OF CHRIST

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-11 (NLT)

Attitude determines altitude, and Jesus was elevated to the highest place of honor because of His attitude. His attitude is our standard.

- Selfless – **MATTHEW 16:24-26** – We can live a self-centered life or follow Jesus and live a God-centered life. God wants to be first.
- Servant – **MATTHEW 23:11** – A servant performs duties for others. To follow him is to have the same attitude.
- Humble – **MATTHEW 23:12** – We must choose to humble ourselves just as Jesus did. James and Peter both agree.
- Obedience – **LUKE 6:46, JOHN 14:21-24** – Obedience proves our love and is better than sacrifice, or having to repent.
- Sacrificial – **LUKE 18:28-30** – Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us. To sacrifice means to give up something valued for something more important: A sacrifice fly or a bunt.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 – Jesus sacrificed His sinless condition for something more important for us – our standing before God.

ISAIAH 53:4-5 – Jesus sacrificed His physical and mental condition for something more important – our mental and physical wholeness.

CONCLUSION: The choice is ours. We must choose to adjust our attitudes to line up with the standard God uses to judge people’s lives, or continue allowing attitudes that displease God to control us. Are we a “Leaning” Tower of Pisa, or “Tower” of Pisa? Do our thoughts and attitudes reflect Christ’s, or are they governed by our own feelings and emotions?