

# Determination

By David Phillips

## Introduction

1. There are many things we can learn from the life of the apostle Paul
2. For it is written, “*Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ*” (1 Cor. 11:1).
3. One characteristic of his that all Christians should imitate is his determination as a servant of God (read 2 Cor. 11:22-29).
4. This lesson will seek to instill such determination in each of us for it should characterize the life of every Christian (2 Pet. 3:14).

## Discussion

### I. Determination Defined and Illustrated

#### A. Definitions

1. “1. Decided, resolved. 2. Firm, resolute” (Webster’s 7<sup>th</sup> Col. Dict., 226).
2. Resolute: “Firm determination, bold, steady, syn see faithful” (Webster, 731).
3. “KRINO, primarily to separate, hence, to be of opinion, approve, esteem, Rom. 14:5; also to determine, resolve, decree, is used in this sense in...1 Cor. 2:22” (W.E. Vine, 306-307)
4. “To determine, resolve, decree” (J.H. Thayer, 360) (cf. 1 Cor. 3:37 – “steadfast in his heart”)

#### B. Illustrations

1. This type of determination can be seen in the way Joseph responded to the solicitations of Potiphar’s wife (Gen. 39).
2. It can be seen in Daniel when he determined within his heart to not defile himself with the King’s delicacies and wine (Dan. 1:8) and when he determined to worship the one true God in spite of the decrees of the king (Dan. 6).
3. And it can be seen in Nehemiah as he motivated the people of Israel to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (Neh. 2:17-18; 6:1-3).
4. This is what we see in Paul and it is what we must have in us if we are to be considered faithful servants of our God.

### II. We Must Be Determined to Do The Right Thing

#### A. Many are determined but not for the right thing.

1. They are determined to do as they please – determined to fulfill their selfish ambitions. But God tells us, “*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself*” (Phil. 2:3).
2. They are determined to do evil—even though they know better (Prov. 1:10-19).
3. They are determined to have preeminence (3 John 9). God says that this is the pride of life (1 John 2:16) and that we should rather seek to be humbled (Rom. 12:16).

4. They are determined to keep traditions (Matt. 15:3). But God tells us to flee the vain traditions of men and pursue the righteous traditions of God (Col. 2:8; 2 Thess. 2:15).
- B. We must be determined but our determination must be to do the will of God and to fulfill His righteousness, not our own.
1. Many of the Jews failed to understand this, as Paul observed in Rom. 10:1-3.
  2. Our determination must be guided by the word of God: “*But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge...*” (2 Pet. 1:5).
  3. Virtue: the determination to do right, it is moral strength.
  4. We must have moral strength, but in order for that strength to be perfect it must be combined with knowledge.
  5. Only when we combine these two things in our hearts can our determination be pleasing to God and thereby attain the promises of God (2 Pet. 1:3-4).

### III. What we Must Be Determined to Do

- A. Know more of the word of God (Heb. 2:1-3)
1. Since it is our guide, we must be familiar with it.
    - a. It is a lamp to our feet (Psa. 119:105).
    - b. It gives understanding (Psa. 119:105)
  2. It makes one approved (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:10)
- B. Grow as a Christian (2 Pet. 3:18; 1 Pet. 2:1-2).
1. Two elements necessary for growth: food and exercise.
  2. Love and stand for truth (1 Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:10).
- C. Serve the Lord faithfully (1 Cor. 15:58).
1. Requires self-denial (Matt. 16:24-25)
  2. Service to the Lord is not something you do one week and forget the next (Gal. 6:9).
- D. Go to heaven (Acts 20:24; Phil. 2:13-14).

### Conclusion

1. If you are determined to go to heaven, you will be determined to do all the things necessary to get there.
  - a. The grace of God and our determination will get us there.
  - b. We must be resolved to do the will of the Lord.
2. If we are not determined to go forward, our spiritual condition will deteriorate.
3. Will you determine to do the best you can for the Lord?

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