

What Doth Hinder

Intro: As a basis for our study turn to Gal. 5:7 (“⁷Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?”) God’s desire for the church is that the church grows. (The book of Acts is a commentary on church growth.) Some churches and individuals are growing, going and working. But, sad to say, others are not, they are dying on the vine. Why? Let us notice some reasons why.

I. TOO MANY ARE LOOKING THE WRONG DIRECTION.

A. Some look back.

1. Luke 9:62 “⁶²And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
2. Some back to the old life.
 - a. worldliness and lust.
 - b. 2 Pet. 2:20-22 “²⁰For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. ²¹For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. ²²But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”
3. Some back to traditions; Mat. 15:9 “⁹But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.”

B. Some look only within.

1. Interested only in their own salvation.
 - a. We must work out our own salvation; cf. Phi. 2:12 “¹²Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”
 - b. However, we must look to others salvation as well as our own; consider the great commission.
2. Interested only in their own home congregation.
3. Must look outward as well as inward.
 - a. Must be concerned with others.
 - b. Phi. 2:4 “⁴Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”
 - c. Love others as self; Mat. 22:39 “³⁹And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

C. Some look for faults:

1. Mat. 7:3 “³And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?”
2. They find faults with:
 - a. Leadership.
 - b. Preacher.
 - c. Deacons.
 - d. Song Leaders.
 - e. Programs of work.
 - f. Other congregations, etc.
3. They become so busy running others down that work stops.
4. They need to be busy:
 - a. correcting their own faults.
 - b. working.

D. Some look for excuses.

1. As Moses did:
 - a. Exo. 3:11 ¹¹“And Moses said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?”
 - b. Exo. 4:1, 10 ¹“And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.... ¹⁰And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I *am* slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.”
2. It is easier to make excuses than to work.
3. We must give an account.
 - a. 2 Cor. 5:10 ¹⁰“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.”
 - b. Rev. 20:12 ¹²“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

II. OTHERS KEEP EYE ON GOAL.**A. Paul.**

1. Phi. 3:13-14 ¹³“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”
2. 2 Tim. 4:7-8 ⁷“I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

B. Lift your eyes and look on the fields.

1. John 4:35 ³⁵“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”
2. Mat. 9:37-38 ³⁷“Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few; ³⁸Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”

C. Work while it is day.

1. John 9:4 ⁴“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”
2. 1 Cor. 15:58 ⁵⁸“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

Conclusion: If we are being hindered from obeying the truth, we need to repent and look back to the goal.