

WHAT ARE YOU IN THE MOOD FOR?

“I don't wait for moods. You accomplish nothing if you do that. Your mind must know it has got to get down to work.”

- Pearl S. Buck

“So, what are you in the mood for?” When discussing pizza versus burgers, or chocolate versus vanilla, this is a pretty innocent question. We often make decisions based solely on what we want, and that is fine. However, there are times when we must realize that we must do things, no matter what our mood is. If our mood is what determines everything that we do, then we are just selfish and hedonistic (driven by pleasure). Solomon spent a good portion of his life doing just that and decided that it just wasn't worth it (see the book of Ecclesiastes).

It is universally understood that at work we all have to do things we don't want to do. That's why they call it work, right? At school we often have to write or read something that we don't like. At home we have to take out the trash and mow the lawn, etc. Imagine if we didn't do these things because we were just not in the mood? Suppose that I decided not to preach this morning because I am just not in the mood (and honestly sometimes I am not)? What would you think? What if you decided that you just weren't in the mood to go to work? Most of us would rather do many other things than work. If we kept up like this, it would not take too long for us to be fired, failed, or at least get in deep trouble. For me, the mood rarely (if ever) strikes to mow the lawn, but I know that I must, so I do.

Sadly, this hedonistic attitude has permeated the church. For example, when is the last time you were in the mood to read or pray? When are you going to be in the mood to share the Gospel with someone who is lost? How often are you in the mood to teach a Bible class or lead a prayer at services? How many times have you skipped services altogether simply because you were not in the mood to go? If this kind of behavior would not make your boss or your teacher happy, why do you think that God doesn't care? Read the book of Malachi for more on this subject. Is it the absence of external accountability? Indeed, you probably won't get booted out of the church for not making services regularly or reading your Bible regularly. It is highly unlikely that you will be reprimanded for not teaching a bible class, whether at someone's home or at the building. Ultimately, however, there is an eternal accountability. Paul wrote, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:10). The fact is, all of these things matter. If you want to know more, read your Bible!

So which is it? Will you serve the Lord, or serve yourself? You work to get a paycheck. You go to school to get an education. You follow Christ to save your soul; surely you can see that this is much more important than these other things! Give it the effort it deserves.

MJW