

Just Be Apostolic

Hosea 8:11-14 KJV

[11] Because Ephraim hath made many altars to sin, altars shall be unto him to sin. [12] I have written to him the great things of my law, *but* they were counted as a strange thing. [13] They sacrifice flesh *for* the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat *it*; *but* the Lord accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt. [14] For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.

Verse 11 in *The Living Bible* (Paraphrased) says Ephraim has built many altars, but they are not to worship me! They are altars of sin!

What if Israel had spent the energy and the time building altars to God and only worshipping and serving Him?

People chafe at the energy and effort it requires to live for God, but they spend extra energy, thoughts, and effort to rebel, to sin in secret, to devise a way to sin, and no one knows it. What if they put that same energy, desire, effort, and thought into PRAYER, BIBLE READING, and DEVOTION to God? Those struggles they are having that pull them away from God, those altars of sin and idolatry would be pulled down and utterly destroyed!

And think about when they backslide and sin openly, all the effort it takes to keep up with the world: to look like them, to dress like them, to talk and act like them, to please them.

Wouldn't it be easier and more rewarding to live for God and JUST BE APOSTOLIC?

It took the same energy and effort for Ephraim to construct altars to false Gods as it would have to build altars to the true God—and oh, what a better reward. God would have sent fire to consume the sacrifices with pleasure rather than sending fire to destroy their palaces in destruction.

The wages of sin is DEATH (destruction)!

Matthew 11:28-30 KJV

[28] Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. [30] For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

The burden of sin is heavy, so heavy it's stifling and blinding, but when you learn of God, your creator, your savior, you receive the revelation that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

When you really learn of the Father, being yoked to Him is easy. It just makes sense.

People sin and rebel with blind commitment, like in a daze or stupor. You ask them, "Why are you doing this?" "Why are you acting this way?" They most of the time can only answer, "I don't know; I just want to."

"But why do you want to?" "Um, I don't know, I just do." They are blinded by their sin, ignorance, and rebellion.

Yet when someone puts forth the effort to learn of God, they know what they're doing. They have purpose and zeal. Joy and peace come from that knowledge of learning of God.

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