

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Convictions**

"Be true to your own highest convictions." – William Ellery Channing

"We have always held to hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon." – Franklin D. Roosevelt

"The trite saying that honesty is the best policy has met with the just criticism that honesty is not policy. The real honest man is honest from conviction of what is right, not from policy." – Robert E. Lee

"The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves." – Victor Hugo

"A strong conviction that something must be done is the parent of many bad measures." – Daniel Webster

What are convictions anyway? It means a firmly held belief or opinion. While we certainly all entertain convictions, the concern has to be, are they true and right?

Friedrich Nietzsche once said, "Convictions are more dangerous foes of truth than lies." Granted, the German philosopher is not the greatest of sources, but what he said actually is worthy of contemplation.

If a conviction is a firmly held belief or opinion, then it means some convictions that people hold are true and good, but also some are just the opposite.

For example, suppose I have a firm belief or conviction that abortion is wrong. The Bible certainly conveys this and even plainly states that God hates the shedding of innocent blood (Prov. 6:16-19). But, someone else may possess the conviction that abortion is the prerogative of the woman. The child is not wanted and they maintain it is discarding fetal tissue. In this case, it is indeed a conviction, but a terrible one.

One would hope that if there are convictions to be upheld, that those convictions have their basis in Scripture. What one must be careful of, is to establish a conviction and then go to Scripture in an effort to support it. Jeremiah stated, "O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23). Instead, it should be looking into Scripture for guidance and convictions that God wants us to uphold. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psa. 119:105).

It is certainly not wrong to have convictions, provided again that those convictions are of God. Christians need convictions. How else can we stand up for Jesus?

When we base our convictions upon God's will and God's way, we have convictions in which we have no reason to be ashamed.