



SERIES: July Series “OFF ROADING”

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Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Scripture: 1 Cor. 6:12 / 2 Peter 1:5-7

TITLE: Opportunity Is Not Necessity

When Jurassic Park came out, I was hooked. I went 13 times to see that movie in the theater. The story was solid. The special effects were revolutionary. The characters were memorable. And the lines were unforgettable. There’s one line that has an echoing effect for us today. Dr. Ian Malcom is challenging what Dr. Hammond has done by recreating dinosaurs. And this is what Dr. Malcom says, “Yeah, yeah, but your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could that they didn’t stop to think if they should.” That is an issue of self-control. And self-control is something we all struggle with.

Listen to Paul’s words in 1 Cor. 6:12 (NLT), “You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. And even though “I am allowed to do anything,” I must not become a slave to anything.”

Now, in Paul’s case, he’s not talking about creating dinosaurs from fossilized mosquitos. He’s talking about being self-controlled in the face of sexual temptation. But the principle is applicable in all areas of life. Paul says, “All things are permissible.” In other words, you can do what you want. You have free will. But is it profitable? Is it beneficial? Does it move you closer to becoming like Christ, or take you further away?

We, as the people of God, can do what we want, like a rebellious child or servant, but is it best? Peter gave us some good instruction for strengthening our faith with self-discipline. Peter wrote, “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love” (2 Peter 1:5-7, ESV).

If I could summarize Peter’s words, it’d be this: Focus on truth. Build your mind on it, so you can live a self-controlled life. Then you will walk faithfully with God. A life of self-control is not an empty life, but a life to the fullest - A life without regret, or fear of being found out - A life of honor to God and a blessing to yourself.

So here’s my challenge for you today: Pick one area of your life where you’ve given up ground. Whether it’s in your Bible engagement, stewardship of your body or finances, the health of a relationship, service in your church, or wherever, pick one and then do one thing to reign it back in.

God gave us a spirit of power, love, and self-control. When we live a life of self-control, we will win the day.