

How Did I Get Here?

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Introduction:

- A. Cause and effect. For every effect, there is a cause. That is an unchangeable law of this universe
 - 1. 1John 3:16, 12
- B. Actions lead to results and reactions; choices have consequences
 - 1. Promiscuity - results
 - 2. Laziness - results
 - a. Amazed and appalled by persons who make such choices, find themselves facing the consequences, and then turn to someone nearby and shout, "Don't judge me!" Really!? You've reaped what you've sown. Getting angry at passersby only compounds your foolishness.
 - 3. Honest work - results
 - 4. Dedicated service - results
- C. "If only I had... I would not be where I am today."
 - 1. Good home life, abundance, good education, etc. do not assure success and are often not a factor in it
 - 2. Poor folks with bad parents and little education succeed in spite of these things which are not a factor

I. GOOD EXAMPLES

- A. Jesus was born into poverty - Luke 2:4-7
 - 1. Yet look at what he accomplished - John 19:30; Phil. 2:9-11
 - 2. Poverty wasn't a factor
- B. How did Jesus get there?
 - 1. Spiritual mindedness - John 8:29, 23
 - 2. Priorities over relationships - Matt. 16:21-23
 - 3. Put the Father's will over His own parents - Luke 2:49
 - 4. Recognized the authority of the word - Matt. 4:7, 10
 - 5. Single-minded in His vision and unselfish - John 4:34
- C. Paul started as a zealous Jew - Acts 7:58, 8:1, 3
 - 1. But he ended up here - Phil. 1:21; 2Tim. 4:6, 8; 1Cor. 15:10
 - 2. Being raised outside of the church is not relevant to success
- D. How did Persecutor Saul of Tarsus end as the apostle Paul servant of Christ?
 - 1. Determined and focused - 1Cor. 9:26-27
 - 2. Subject to God's will - Phil. 3:13-14, 7-10

II. BAD EXAMPLES

- A. Adam and Eve began in the paradise of God - Gen. 2:7-9
 - 1. They had a wonderful existence and access to the tree of life
 - 2. Never since has man enjoyed such a direct relationship with God and in such a perfect setting. Not a factor in success
 - 3. Gen. 3:16-19, 24; Rom. 5:12, 17-19
- B. How did Adam and Eve descend to such a state?

1. They listened to the Adversary and distrusted God - Gen. 3:1-6
 - a. They listened to the one who said what they wanted to hear!
2. They allowed themselves to be deceived - 1Tim. 2:14
 - a. 1John 2:15-16; James 1:12-16; 1Cor. 10:13
- C. Demas was a faithful disciple & fellow-worker of Paul - Col. 4:14; Philemon 24
 1. Demas fell from this position of great spiritual usefulness to go back to a secular way of life - 2Tim. 4:10
- D. How did Demas make such a change?
 1. Demas loved this present world (life) - 2Tim. 4:10; Col. 3:1-5

Conclusion:

- A. The effect does not just happen, there are causes.
 1. The better we understand the causes, the better we can produce the desired effects and avoid the unpleasant ones - Gen. 4:7
 2. Get your focus off what you think you need or wait for what you believe are the necessary circumstances
 3. Stop passing off on other things or people the responsibility for where you are and start examining your choices closely
 4. Make better choices
- B. Do "time and chance" happen to everyone? Of course it does, but the difference lies in how we choice to handle them