



# How Did I Get Here?

1John 3:16, 12

# How Did I Get Here?

- Cause and effect. For every effect, there is a cause. That is an unchangeable law of this universe
  - 1John 3:16, 12 - “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us... 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.”

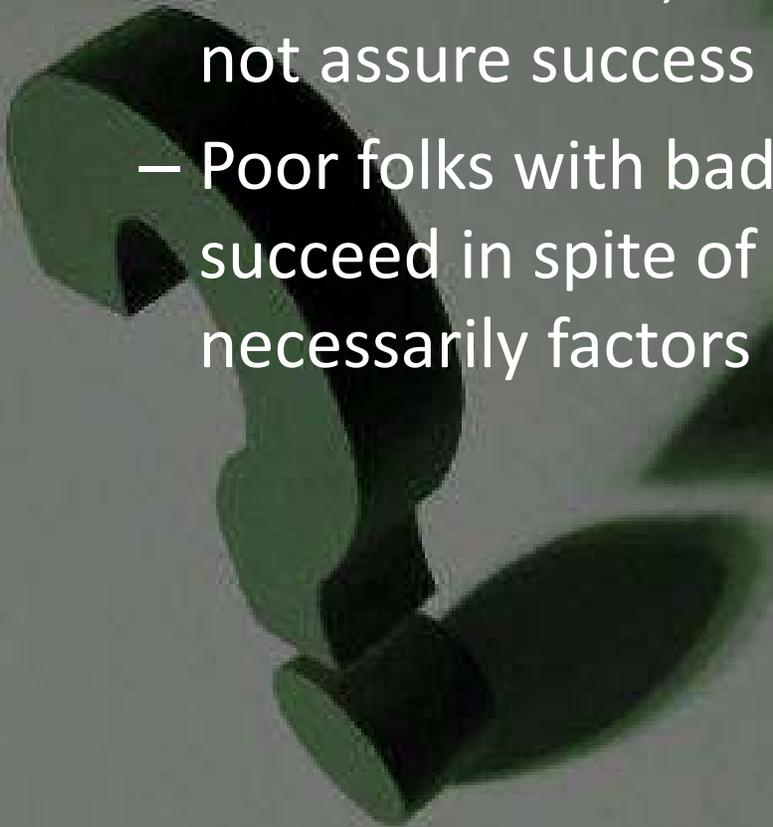
# How Did I Get Here?

- Actions lead to results and reactions; choices have consequences
  - Promiscuity - results
  - Laziness - results
  - Honest work - results
  - Dedicated service - results



# How Did I Get Here?

- “If only I had... I would not be where I am today.”
  - Good home life, abundance, good education, etc. do not assure success and are often not a factor in it
  - Poor folks with bad parents and little education succeed in spite of these things which are not necessarily factors



# Good Examples

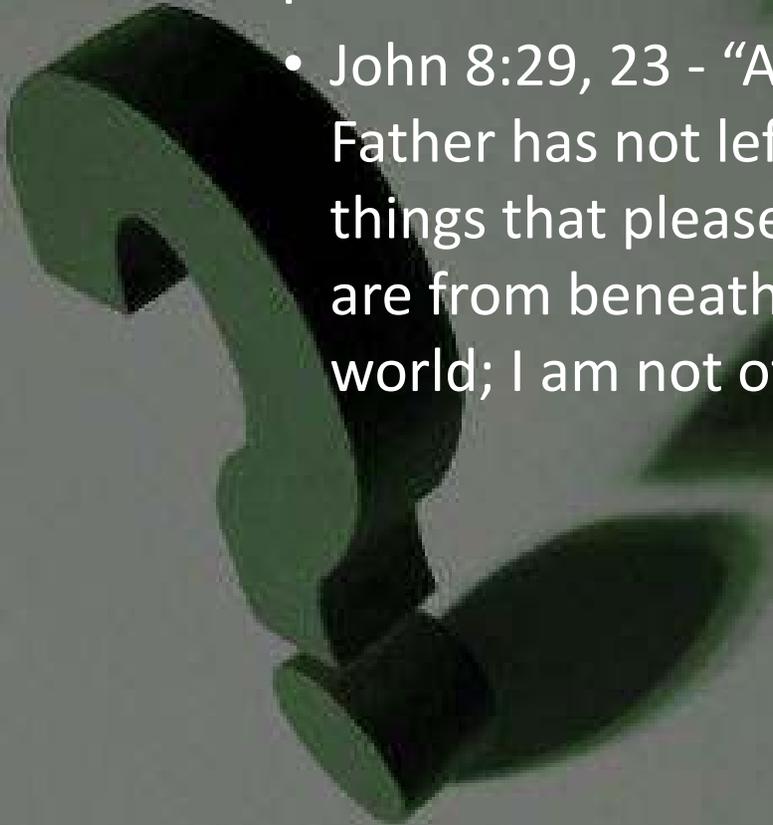
- Jesus was born into poverty
  - Luke 2:4-7 - “Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

# Good Examples

- Yet look at what he accomplished
  - John 19:30 - “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, It is finished! And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”
  - Phil. 2:9-11 - “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- Poverty wasn't a factor

# Good Examples

- How did Jesus get there?
  - Spiritual mindedness
    - John 8:29, 23 - “And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him... 23 And He said to them, You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”



# Good Examples

- How did Jesus get there?
  - Priorities over relationships
    - Matt. 16:21-23 - “From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You! 23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

# Good Examples

- How did Jesus get there?
  - Put the Father's will over His own parents
    - Luke 2:49 - "And He said to them, Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"
  - Recognized the authority of the word
    - Matt. 4:4, 7, 10 - "But He answered and said, It is written..."
  - Single-minded in His vision and unselfish
    - John 4:34 - "Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

# Good Examples

- Paul started as a zealous Jew
  - Acts 7:58 - “And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.”
  - Acts 8:1, 3 - “Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles... 3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.”

# Good Examples

- But he ended up a dedicated servant of Christ
  - Phil. 1:21 - “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
  - 2Tim. 4:6-8 - “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
  - 1Cor. 15:10 - “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

# Good Examples

- How did seasoned persecutor Saul of Tarsus end as the apostle Paul, servant of Christ?
  - Determined and focused
    - 1Cor. 9:26-27 - “Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”
  - Subject to God's will
    - Phil. 3:13-14, 7-10

# Bad Examples

- Adam and Eve began in the paradise of God
  - Gen. 2:7-9 - “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”
- Gen. 3:16-19, 24
- Rom. 5:12, 17-19

# Bad Examples

- How did Adam and Eve descend to such a state?
  - They listened to the Adversary and distrusted God
    - Gen. 3:1-6
  - They listened to the one who said what they wanted to hear!

# Bad Examples

- How did Adam and Eve descend to such a state?
  - They allowed themselves to be deceived
    - 1Tim. 2:14 - “but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”
    - 1John 2:15-16 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.”

# Bad Examples

- How did Adam and Eve descend to such a state?
  - They allowed themselves to be deceived
    - James 1:12-16
    - 1Cor. 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

# Bad Examples

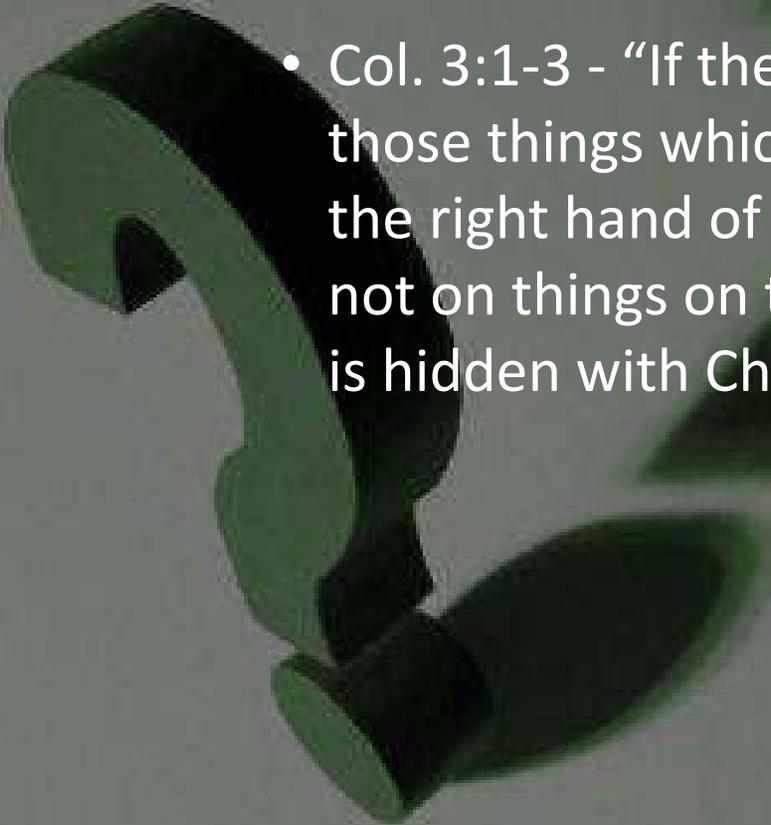
- Demas was a faithful disciple and fellow-worker with Paul
  - Col. 4:14 - “Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.”
  - Philemon 24 - “...Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.”

# Bad Examples

- Demas fell from this position of great spiritual usefulness to go back to a secular way of life
  - 2Tim. 4:10 - “for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica...”
  - “Forsake” is from egkataleipo - to leave behind in some place, let remain over, leave (Strong's)
  - “World” is from aion - an age, period, course, existence (Strong's) (Distinct from “kosmos” or this world in the sinful sense)

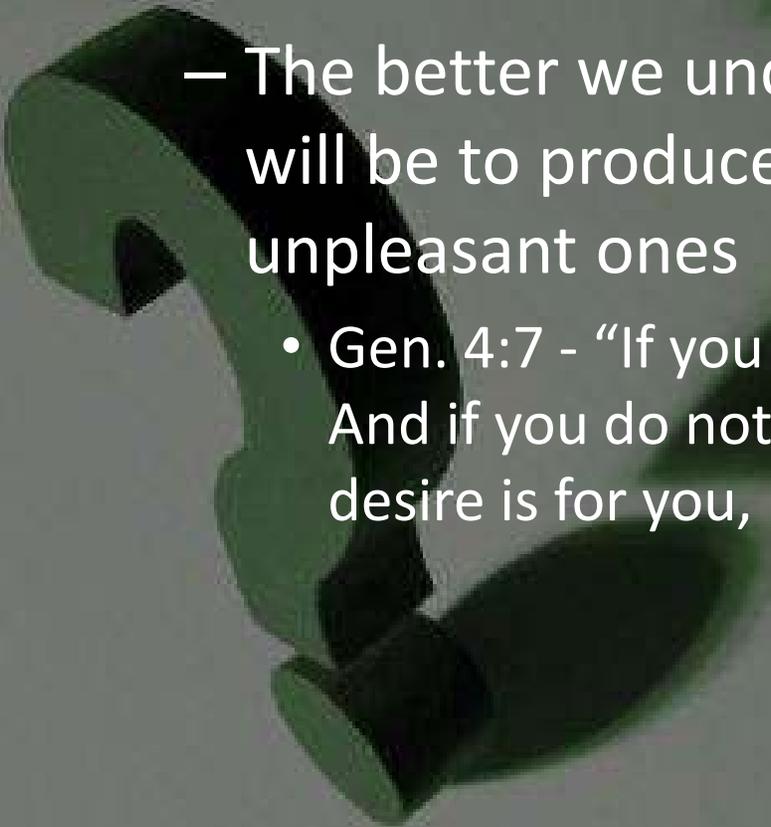
# Bad Examples

- How did Demas make such a change?
  - Demas loved this present life
  - Col. 3:1-3 - “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”



# How Did I Get Here?

- The effects do not just happen; there are causes.
  - The better we understand the causes, the easier it will be to produce desired effects and avoid unpleasant ones
    - Gen. 4:7 - “If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”



# How Did I Get Here?

- Get your focus off what you think you need and stop waiting for what you believe are the necessary circumstances
- Stop passing off responsibility to other things or people for where you are today and start closely examining your choices
- Make better choices
- Do “time and chance” happen to everyone? Of course they do, but the difference lies in how we choose to handle them