

## Guiding Principles

Script - 2 Pet. 1:2-4

### A. Pilate

1. Did a lot of things right.
  - a. He tried to let Jesus go (Acts 3:13; Mt. 27:24; Lk. 23:20; Jn. 19:12).
  - b. He had special knowledge. He knew why Jesus was delivered to him by the leaders (Mt. 27:18; Mk. 15:10).
  - c. Pilate pronounced Jesus “innocent” three different times (Lk. 23:4, 14, 22).
  - d. Pilate received additional support to do the right thing (Mt. 27:19; Lk. 23:15).
2. Pilate is not remembered for all the things he did right. He is remembered for allowing Jesus to be crucified. Why did this happen to him? He took the 4 steps to sin.
  - a. Rationalization - To explain is to make an excuse for. Pilate pronounced Jesus innocent, yet yielded to peer pressure and allowed him to be crucified (Lk. 23:14-16; Prov. 21:2; 16:25).
  - b. Compromise - Pilate had a custom of setting a guilty man free and offered to release Jesus as if he were a guilty man (Mt. 27:15-17).
  - c. Condoning sin - Pilate washed his hands of Jesus’ death and then allowed it to happen (Mt. 27:24; 27-29).
  - d. Blurred judgment (seeing right as wrong) - Pilate condemned the innocent to die and set the guilty free (Mt. 27:26).

### B. How does this apply to us today?

1. Most of us know right from wrong but don’t stand up for the right when tested. There are examples of some that have stood up for the right (Daniel 3; 6)
2. God has promised to stand up for us (Daniel 3:23-25; Isa. 43:1-2).
3. Pilate was in the habit of perverting justice (Mt. 27:15).
4. When Jesus was tempted what did he do? He relied on his knowledge of the scriptures to give him extra strength (Mt. 4:3-4; Lk. 2:42-47).
5. God encourages us to memorize His word for additional strength during stressful times (Ps. 119:9-11; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:2-4). How do I do that? With flash cards. Games (i.e. Promises 1).
6. Ask God for his Holy Spirit so we can accomplish the goals that He has for us each day (Isa. 30:21; Mt. 4:1).

### Definitions

#### Customs

1. A practice followed by people of a particular group or region.
2. A habitual practice of a person: my custom of reading a little before sleep. See Synonyms at habit.

#### Habits

1. A recurrent, often unconscious pattern of behavior that is acquired through frequent repetition.
2. An established disposition of the mind or character.
3. An addiction, especially to a narcotic drug.

Principle - A fixed or predetermined policy or mode of action.