

Don't Get in God's Way

Mark 9:42-50

Context: Christ was doing things on earth that were eternally important. Our purpose is to continue what He did. So we dare not work against Him.

- I. **Do not hinder God's work by causing someone to sin (Mark 9:42).**
 - A. Secondary Causes of Sin: People sometimes cause other people to sin (9:42a).
 1. Some people will maliciously seduce weak Christians to sin (2 Timothy 3:6).
 2. Some Christians thoughtlessly use freedoms that cause weaker Christians to sin (Romans 14:13,20; 1 Corinthians 8:9).
 - B. Consequence of Causing Sin: God will harshly punish those who cause others to sin (9:42b)!

- II. **Stop doing anything that causes you personally to sin (Mark 9:43-48).**
 - A. Hand – Activities that cause us to sin must be stopped.
 - B. Foot – Places that cause us to sin must be avoided.
 - C. Eyes – Sights that cause us to sin must not be watched.
 - D. Main Point: We must do whatever is necessary to avoid sins that characterize those who will be in hell.

- III. **Do not let anything distract you from serving Christ (Mark 9:49-50).**
 - A. Sacrificial trials are necessary to become effective in serving Christ (Mark 9:49).
 - *Fire* purifies and *salt* preserves.
 - B. Believers can lose their effectiveness in serving Christ (Mark 9:50; Matthew 5:13).
 - We become ineffective for Christ if we fail to work together in harmony with other believers.