

## 73. Red Orange Green

In Honiara, in the Solomon Islands, people travel all day to get to see the only set of traffic lights in the nation. They sit amused by the way the system magically directs the flow of vehicles and outdoor market pedestrians, with no sign of a human operating the mechanism. Recent floods shut down the traffic lights at the busy intersection by my home, chaos and real danger was the result.

For us in life there is a red light for certain thought processes and actions? We are to follow our conscience informed by the Bible, and arrest hateful thoughts, lines of self-pity, or strings of thoughts that are negative and excluding faith. We are to avoid pornography or company who encourage alcohol and drug abuse. If our credit card is running high, looking through advertising catalogues can put us in a place of risk where avarice draws us siren like, to the rocky shores of serious debt. The TV needs to be turned off or other diversions put aside so we can mark work and plan our lessons.

A green light guides us into actions that are loving and positive. We are to respond to situations with giving, encouragement, to walk through doors of opportunity to advance the Kingdom. The disciplines which are our means of grace are not optional-regular bible reading, prayer, worship, Sabbath observance, examination of conduct, confession, fasting and financial giving.

The amber light speaks of occasions where God offers us a choice. Life provides a number of good options and God is not specifically directing us to take an exclusive one. The Bible doesn't speak of computers, some of us take such devices to church, our quiet times, vacations and they offer podcasts, worship music, multiple translations of the Word, concordances and commentaries....

But there is the option too of total silence, no electronics or just a Bible augmented by a pencil and paper. Both options are right, we get blessed via both.

Some are fearful of exercising choice and drift into cult like relationships because they want a prescription for everything. The wonderful liberty of the gospel is that we are free of legalism and have a walk of the Spirit, something devotees of other religions can't understand.



*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. **Galatians 5:1-3***

*Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. **Colossians 2:16***

*The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, **1 Corinthians 2:15***

*But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **Galatians 5:18***

*But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” **Joshua 24:15***