Do The Right Thing Because It’s The Right Thing
(Developed from a sermon outline by Randy Jones)

Introduction:
A. Questions: How much do you want to go to Heaven?
   1. How much of yourself are you willing to invest or commit to get there?
   2. How can we know what is the right thing to do?
B. This not a subject that can be discussed rationally in any forum except faith
   1. Ethics and philosophy - There is no such thing as a choice that is right under all circumstances
   2. Psychology and sociology - There is no such thing as truly unselfish behavior (psychological egoism)
   3. Biology and sociology - Altruism is counter to the instinct for survival
   4. Politics - The right thing is inconvenient or impractical

I. DO THE RIGHT THING
A. Christians should always do the right thing, especially when no one is watching or will ever know.
   1. While we are aware that God is watching, we do what is right because we love God and pleasing Him gives us fulfillment
   2. If we live as God would have us live, with our priorities and motives in order, then whatever happens to or around us will not truly matter
   3. When faced with temptation, our conscience tells us what is right
   4. But the longer we linger thinking about it, the more we rationalize our way into yielding to the temptation - Rom. 7:21-23
B. But doing the right thing is not limited to resisting temptation; it is much more.
   1. Doing good for others when the opportunity presents itself.
      a. Gal. 6:10; James 4:17
   2. Doing the right thing when faced with pressure from others, not just limited to the young.
      a. Ex. 23:2; Job 31:34
   3. Doing the right thing when no one is watching or will ever know
      a. Do you think bad thoughts about others?
         b. Gal. 6:7; 1Peter 1:16
   4. Doing the right thing is easier in the long run. The consequences will be easier to bear, it is less work than trying to maintain a lie to sustain it, and you will sleep better with a clear conscience

II. WHAT IS THE STANDARD FOR THE RIGHT THING?
A. We know that God is truth, goodness, and righteousness; and that knowing this, we can also know that following what God commanded and living by those things revealed, we are doing the right thing in God’s eyes.
B. God is the standard of truth. 29 of 39 uses of the word truth in the book of Psalm, it is used in reference to God’s nature, word, and will.
   1. Psalm 100:5, 119:160
   2. Jesus as God the Son is the standard of truth - John 8:31-32, 14:6
3. The Holy Spirit as Deity is the standard of truth - John 16:13

C. The right thing is not subject to conscience, peer pressure, morals of current society, etc.; the right thing is what God says it is.
   1. The apostle Paul felt he was doing the right thing - Acts 26:9
   2. Helping others is the right thing - Matt. 25:31-46
   3. Taking responsibility for self is the right thing - Num. 32:23; Ecc. 11:9
   4. Courageously setting a good example is the right thing - 1Tim. 4:12
   5. Hard work is the right thing - Col. 3:22-24
   6. Putting God and His word first in everything is the right thing to do
      a. Ecc. 12:13; Matt. 6:33
   7. Loving those who cause us pain or make our lives difficult is the right thing to do - Matt. 5:43-45
   8. Doing the right thing when no one is watching is the right thing to do
      a. Matt. 6:2-6, 16-18
   9. Do the right thing because God takes it personally - Matt. 25:31-46
  10. Do the right thing because it will define you. It will reveal to you and all potential observers whether you are strong in the Lord or a spiritual weakling. Let your unashamed Christian influence show that you are different from the world.

D. Your life can be changed forever in an instant by a bad decision you make.
   2. Without exception it is always right to do the right thing

Conclusion:
   A. How much do you want to go to Heaven?
   B. How far are you willing to go in order to get there?