

December 21, 2014

Biblical HACCP – Part 1

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HACCP- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points- This is a method of assuring to a high level of confidence the purity of food products without relying solely on final inspection.

Examples: In a food plant, we would examine a process and determine where problem areas were. We were trying to find out places where things could go wrong and then prevent it from happening. Transition points, turns, places where food would build-up before it was forced to move on. We would look at equipment maintenance issues to decide how best to implement preventive and predictive maintenance programs. All of this was to try to make the food as safe as possible. It was very costly to implement and took a high level of commitment from everyone to make sure it worked. In the long run, the extra cost & time would pay for itself in fewer food complaints, less mechanical downtime, fewer consumer injuries and sicknesses.

Other examples: If an auto mechanic were to apply these principals to keeping cars running he would examine the workings of a car, determine the most important parts, and make sure those parts were functioning properly. Some critical control points in a car might be: The engine- is it oiled properly, are you using the proper fuel, how do you assure you are doing these things. The electrical system- is the battery charged, does the starter work, is the alternator functioning properly, how do you assure these things are being taken care of.

A Doctor: When trying to determine the critical control points for a person a doctor might come up with a list like: blood supply, air supply, brain activity, things that are absolutely critical to a person being able to stay alive. That is why a person responding to an emergency is taught to look for those signs while assessing a person's condition. Are they bleeding excessively? Are they breathing? Do they respond to questions meaning are they aware of their situation? Why are they looking for these things and not asking the people around them if the person had a toothache? Because, those are critical to the person's survival at the time.

We could make the same application to our spiritual lives by following the same process. When we do, we will have determined what the critical control points are. We will have decided how to make sure we are doing them, and we will be able to implement preventive and predictive maintenance programs to keep these critical areas in our spiritual lives healthy and how to stay away from spiritual hazardous activities.

So what is the first step in the analysis?

#1. You must define the final goal. In food processing, your final goal is a safe wholesome product that your customers can eat without harming themselves. To the auto mechanic, his goal is to keep your car running safely without costly breakdowns. To the doctor, it is to keep you healthy and strong. To you and me, the goal is to go to heaven. So we must learn the things that are critical to going to heaven and commit to doing whatever it takes to make that happen.

Paul said that he pressed toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. We want Jesus to call us up to God on the judgment day!

#2. Once you define your goal. Then it takes effort to determine how to achieve the goal. While managing food plants, we would watch films of how processes worked, we would go to other plants and learn how they did things, we would call in experts and have them explain to us the workings and benefits of different pieces of machinery. We did not just assume that we knew how a process worked best. The auto mechanic on his first day of training does not know how to rebuild a transmission or an engine. He gets training and learns from those who are more experienced. A doctor goes through residency where he or she works under an experienced doctor. They do not do a heart transplant the first day of class in medical school. There are years and years of training to learn how to be a doctor. A person who wants to go to heaven as their goal must do the same kind of things: we must not assume we know everything, we must be willing to learn, we should not expect to know the more difficult things right away, we must learn from more experienced people. Philip had just run up to the Ethiopian Eunuch's chariot and heard him reading from the book of Isaiah, when Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The Eunuch replied, "How can I unless someone guides me?" This man knew he needed help to understand the things of God and was not afraid to ask for that help. WHAT a Wonderful Lesson for US! So, we have defined the goal, going to heaven, we have determined that we must learn how to reach the goal, what are the next Critical Steps in the process?

#3. You must learn how to become a child of God. WHY? Because Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through ME". John 14:6. Remember our goal is Heaven. The Lord said in Isaiah 66:1 "Heaven is My throne, and earth my footstool..." Stephen was being stoned to death in Acts 7:55 when the Bible says, "But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God..." So to go to God, means to go to heaven. In order to go to God, we must be recognized by God as His children. How do we do this? Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you: depart from ME, you who practice lawlessness!" Jesus did not recognize these people! How can that be? They never truly became children of God!

These people did not do what you and I are doing right now! They did not do a hazard analysis and determine critical control points in going to heaven. They are like the food plant manager who says "Don't worry about the filthy conditions, the customers won't mind a little bit of dirt in their food. Or the auto mechanic who says, oil is not all that important, surely you would not get mad at me for not putting it in your engine now that your engine is ruined. It's only one small part of the car. What about the doctor who takes out your liver instead of your appendix? Well, I knew something needed to come out, what is the big deal, people! These people did not learn from God those things that are absolutely necessary to go to heaven. They missed the critical points. They never became children of God! Were they religious? YES! Were they active? YES! Were they sincere? YES! Were they saved? No..... Why? They missed the importance of the simple, elementary things like becoming a child of God. Friends, I am telling

you there are millions of people on Earth that are in the same position as these people in Matthew 7. Paul says about these kind of people, "They have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God." Romans 10:2-3. These people have not examined God's Word to find his directions on how to become a child of God, so they are doing it their own way. They are establishing their own righteousness.

So how do you become a child of God? First you must examine what God's Word says (2 Timothy 2:15; I Thessalonians 5:21). What does God's Word say? In Galatians 3:26-27, the Bible says, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." I do not think the Holy Spirit and Paul could have made this any clearer. If you want to be recognized by Jesus on the judgment day; if you want Him to place you into God's family, the church (Acts 2:47); if you want to go to heaven to be with God the Father; you must put on Christ in baptism.

Is this an important point in Paul's mind? Let's see how important: Acts 22:16, Romans 6:3-6, Galatians 3:26-27, Ephesians 4:5, and Colossians 2:12 all talk about baptism and its importance in having your sins washed away, being buried with Christ, calling on the name of the Lord, becoming children of God, walking in newness of life. If baptism is not an essential part of becoming children of God or walking in newness of life and if baptism is not an essential part of becoming a child of God in order to go to heaven, then Paul did not know it! And neither did Peter, John, or Jesus. Friends, I for one, do not want to be guilty of accusing Jesus and His Apostles of not knowing how to tell someone how to become a Christian! Do you??