

Bible Study
Living for God, Not the World – Continued – Lesson - 4
Pastor Charles A. Hall – April 13th, 2023

Theme: Living for God, Not the World

“Living for God, Not the World” means that we as true Christians and believers of Jesus Christ no longer place our own selfish desires, needs, and wants above our relationship with God, making God’s desires and will a priority in our life. This means that what God wants for us, always supersedes, what we want for ourselves in any area of our life.

Foundational scriptures for our theme:

2 Corinthians 6:17 WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, SAITH the LORD, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU,

- In these verses the apostle Paul is quoting Old Testament scripture from Isaiah 52:11, where the prophet Isaiah foresees a day when the unrighteous and unclean will no longer be allowed to enter the gates. In this verse the Lord is telling His people, those that are filled with His spirit to separate themselves from those who are worldly. This simply means don’t do as they do, and don’t believe what they believe is true.

1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him, (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

- In these verses the Lord tells us not to place our affection and emotion on things that are worldly, because if we love the world, and the things in this world, we cannot love Him, because God’s way is in conflict with the way of the world. In other words, a worldly lifestyle, and Godly lifestyle are opposites. The things in the world that are in opposition to God’s word, do not come from God, but rather from the prince of darkness. At the appointed time the things of the world will pass away, but those who do God’s will, will live forever!

The struggle within:

The apostle Paul writes in the 7th chapter of the book of Romans about the internal struggle that we all face as we try to live for God. Paul compares this internal struggle to being at war, with two powerful forces, known as good and evil. They manifest themselves in two totally different directions. Paul states that his desire is to follow the law of the good force, rather than the evil force, however he finds this hard to do because there is a pull from the evil force to get him to follow in the path of evil.

13. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.
 - The law in and of itself is not evil, the law is good because it exposes sin, which bring forth death.
14. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.
 - We know that the commandments and laws of God are spiritual, but we are carnal and fleshly.

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15. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.
○ I don't fully understand what I am doing, because what I say I want to do, I do not, but what I say I don't want to do, I do it anyway.
16. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.
○ If I do what I really don't want to do, then am I saying that the law is good?
17. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.
○ It appears that it is no longer me who is living this way, but sin has taken over my life.
18. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.
○ I have come to realize that in my fleshly state there is no good that dwells in me, but rather evil dwells within me which manifests sinful behavior, however I want to do good, but I just don't have the self-will.
19. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.
○ I find myself not doing the good I really want to do, but I end up doing the evil that I say I really don't want to do.
20. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.
○ If I keep doing what I say I don't want to do, then is it really not me who is doing these things, or is it the sin that dwells within me?
21. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.
○ I have a war going on inside of me, I want to do good, but evil is always present and strong, and appears to have power over me.
22. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:
○ In my inner being or deep in my soul, I get satisfaction out of God's laws.
23. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.
○ There is another force or influencer in my mind, that wars against the law of God, and it brings me into captivity to the law of sin, which then is manifested through my fleshly members.
24. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?
○ In my current state, what a miserable man am I, who will rescue me from this death sentence.
25. I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.
○ I thank God who delivered me out of spiritual bondage, by the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ.

Supporting scriptures: Galatians 3:13-14, Romans 6:6, 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, and 1 Peter 5:8