

Bible Study
Living for God, Not the World – Continued – Lesson - 12
Pastor Charles A. Hall – July 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.

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 March, we adopted the theme of “Living for God, Not the World” and since that date we have divided this theme into 11 lessons which are listed below:

Prior Lessons:

- Lesson # 1 Living for God, Not the World
- Lesson # 2 How do we live for God, how do we stop living for the world, and why is it so difficult to live for God?
- Lesson # 3 The difficulties and Challenges of Living for God
- Lesson # 4 The Struggle Within
- Lesson # 5 The Influence Without
- Lesson # 6 Living Spiritually
- Lesson # 7 Being able to Recognize God’s Voice
- Lesson # 8 Staying Committed to Your Faith
- Lesson # 9 Avoiding the Pitfalls as we Journey through this Life
- Lesson # 10 Allowing the Power of God to pick us up after a Fall
- Lesson # 11 Living for God without Emulating the World

Not Being Ashamed of Who You are In Christ

If we are serious about our desire to live for Christ, and not the world, we must not be ashamed of who we are in Christ Jesus, nor who He is to us. We must be willing to walk out our journey here on earth with spiritual boldness, in other words we must not be scared nor ashamed to live our life in a manner that reflects who we claim to be in Christ. Any true believer and follower of Jesus Christ, who is bold enough to proclaim their love for Him before their brethren in church but are ashamed and afraid to confess their love for Him when among their worldly acquaintances. Well, that’s not only being ashamed of Christ, but it’s also being a hypocrite!

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God's word tells us that if we are ashamed of Jesus Christ, then He will be ashamed of us before God the Father. On the other hand, if we are bold enough to proclaim our love and loyalty toward Christ to the world, then Jesus will tell God the Father that we truly belong to Him!

- **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- **Matthew 10:32-33** Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. (33) But whosoever, shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Being not Ashamed in Season and Out of Season

We should never be ashamed of our relationship with Jesus Christ, nor what He has done for us, nor what He means to us. There should never be a time or place in our worldly existence that we don't feel like we have the spiritual freedom to confess our dedication and love for Him. There is never any pressure or resistance when we profess our love for Christ around other believers. We should be equally as bold to confess our love for Christ even in the presence of worldly persecution, and condemnation. The apostle Paul challenges and encourages young Timothy in his second and final letter to him in Ephesus, to be ready to preach the word in season and out of season, this same mind set is required of lay people as well. All believers should be ready at all times to confess their dedication, and love for our savior Jesus Christ, simply based on what He has done for us, and what He is currently doing on our behalf in Heaven. As believers and followers of Jesus Christ we should never allow earthy fear to cause us to deny who God is and how essential He is to our daily life.

- **Deuteronomy 6:5** And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
- **2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- **2 Timothy 1:7-8** For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (8) Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.