

# Bible Study - Living for God, Not the World – Continued – Lesson - 22

## Pastor Charles A. Hall – October 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### Theme: God Knows and He Cares

**God Knows:** When we say that God knows, we are simply stating that God who created everything is omniscient, which means He knows everything. He is omnipresent which means He is everywhere; thus He sees everything including the intent of our heart and all of our actions. He is the source of all creation. Nothing is created beyond His sovereignty, in this world or the universe.

- **Psalm 139:1-6** LORD thou hast searched me, and known me. (2) Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thought afar off. (3) Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. (4) For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. (5) Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. (6) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.
- **Psalm 139:7-12** Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? (8) If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold thou are there. (9) If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; (10) Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. (11) If I say, Surly the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. (12) Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

**God Cares:** When we say that God cares, it means the creator of all things cares for His creation, however there is a special type of care that He has for those He created in His image. He desires and will for our lives is that we would be more like Him. He cares for each and every one of us with compassion and affection that only a loving Father could have for His children.

If we are serious about living for God, and not the world, we must develop a mind set and understanding about God, that gives us the blessed assurance that He is always looking out for our best interest in this life. No matter how bad things can get in this life, and no matter how difficult the challenges that we are facing, we must always remember and believe in our hearts that God already knows, and He cares about the turmoil in our life. I am aware that in our life’s journey, we sometimes get hit with sudden unexpected crises, that rock and shake up our world. These crises can come in many different forms, sometimes it’s a health crisis, sometimes financial, it can be a relationship problem, or other times it could be the sudden death of a loved one. No matter what it is, God already knows about it. These sudden crises may catch us by surprise, but nothing ever catches God by surprise. Even though God is omnipresent and everywhere at the same time, He is not a micro manager of our daily life, He allows us to make

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our own decisions. We sometimes have to live with the results of our decisions even when they don't line up with God's will. Although God is omniscience and knows everything, even the results of your actions before they occur, He still allows you the freedom to make your own decisions in this life.

- **Psalm 46:1-5** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (2) Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; (3) Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. (4) There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High. (5) God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

Although God knows everything we do in advance, it still does not sanction individual behavior and conduct that is outside of His righteous code of behavior for those whom He created in His image. However, there are times in our life when God intervenes and determine a certain outcome in our life, like He did in Jona's life. This is when God has already made or predetermine a specific outcome in our life. This action by God is known as predestination, things done in advance, some refer to this as eternity pass, done in heaven before the world was even formed. Let us not be confused, we have free will, the right to make our own decisions for our life, but we should always be very mindful of the fact that God is in charge of His master plan, which include us. As such, He is aware of everything that happens, He knows when it occurs, He knows how it happens, and He knows why it happens. God does not violate our free will. However, free will does serve His purpose. Let us consider a world without free will, where God willed us to love him, would that love be real love or forced love? Choosing to love, and obey God of our own free will, reflects true love!

- **Ephesians 1:3-6** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ., who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: (4) According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (6) To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
- **Hebrews 4:13** Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Even though God knows everything about us, the Good and the ugly, He still loves us, and He cares for us. He loves and cares for us through our pain, sorrows, and disappointments. Sometime our suffering is part of God's plan and will for our life. In such a case we are called to commit ourselves to the Lord as our creator, and continue to live righteously.

- **1Peter 4:19** Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.
- **Isaiah 41:13** For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.