

Bible Study
Living for God, Not the World – Continued – Lesson - 10
Pastor Charles A. Hall – June 22nd, 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 broken this theme into 5 lessons which are listed below:

Avoiding the pitfalls as we journey through this life:

First, let’s consider the definition of the word pitfalls; a hidden or unsuspected danger or difficulty. As we journey through our earthly life we must learn how to avoid pitfalls that cause us to veer off course. When we veer off course we lose our way, and we eventually start to behave and act like the world rather than those who know and love Jesus Christ. These pitfalls are the work of the prince of darkness, and they are designed to separate us from God. That’s why God tells us in His word, to be calm, cautious, and alert at all times, because the devil is always active seeking to destroy us and our testimony. The pitfalls that we encounter during our earthly journey are nothing more than fleshly traps, that appeal to our flesh, but will contaminate our spirit. These traps are worldly lust and desires; however the Word of God warns us about these traps and pitfalls throughout the bible. Our daily challenge is not to allow these pitfalls and traps to overtake us, by tempting us through temporary fleshly pleasures. When we allow our flesh to be overly attracted to fleshly pleasures, we no longer practice what we know is spiritually and morally correct. The devil sometime disguises himself as the prince of light, to trick us into falling into one of his deadly traps. We must learn and be strengthen by the Word of God, on how to recognize and avoid these pitfalls. If we really want to stay on the straight and narrow road, which leads to eternal life, rather than taking the broad road which is loaded with pitfalls, and is headed toward eternal damnation. We should stay connected to God, and His word so that we are not caught off guard by the ways of the devil, but rather are aware of his lying, deceiving, and accusing tactics.

- **Proverbs 22:5** Thorns and snares are in the way of the forward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.
- **James 1:22** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
- **2 Corinthians 11:14-15** And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angle of light. (15) therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

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- **1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
- **Matthew 7:13-14** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go thereat. (14) Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
- **2 Corinthians 2:11** Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Some examples of pitfalls, that we may not be aware of:

As we move through our daily life's routine, we often encounter pitfalls and traps that do not appear to present any danger or difficulty at all. As a result, we don't consider them as pitfalls or traps, nor do we consider how dangerous they are to us spiritually. Our unawareness of this hidden danger has allowed us to become accustomed to life within and around these pitfalls and traps. We do not even consider them as sin, nor do we realize that these pitfalls and traps originate from the prince of darkness. As a result, we live our daily lives believing that we are operating and living in an environment that is spiritually harmless, but to the contrary, they are deadly!

Pride: Self-esteem known as conceit, or arrogance. Elevating one's opinion and thoughts above God's authoritative Word. Pride is preoccupation with "self"

- **James 4:6** But he giveth more grace Wherefore he saith, GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD, BUT GIVETH GRACE UNTO THE HUMBLE.

Unforgiveness: Unwilling or unable to forgive: A sin that causes us to think and do evils things. Unforgiveness hinders our fellowship with God.

- **Mark 11:25-26** And when ye stand praying forgive, it ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (26) But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Idolatry: The worship of someone or something other than God as though it were God

- **Exodus 20:3** Thou shall have no other gods before me.

Fornication: sexual intimacy between an unmarried man, and an unmarried woman.

- **Ephesians 5:3** But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

Envy: A sin of jealousy over the blessings and achievements of others, "To want what belongs to someone else" An act of the flesh and the result of human sin.

- **Galatians 5:21** Envy, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.