

Bible Study
Living for God, Not the World – Continued – Lesson - 15
Pastor Charles A. Hall – August 03rd, 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**
- **1 John 2:15-17**

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
- Lesson # 12 Not Being Ashamed of Who You are In Christ
- Lesson # 13 Setting Aside Those Things that throw Us Off Course
- Lesson # 14 Living Among them without Being one of Them

Living For God Requires a Personal Paradigm Shift

The word paradigm is a Greek verb which means “to show,” and in English it means “example” or “pattern.” A pattern or structure that describes a process or behavior. Our thinking and actions are guided by paradigm. As individuals our paradigms are our personal framework or thought processes that enable us to make sense of things in this world. Our set paradigm’s guide our understanding of what we believe is reality. In simple English, our opinion about things, whether true or false as well as the resulting action is based on our in-place paradigms. In order to alter our view, beliefs, and action about something that we have already made a mental decision about, we must experience what is known as a shift in paradigm (a change of course) which requires us to be able to think beyond our normal thought processes, and to be able to consider new information and facts. However, if we process this new information in an old thought process (paradigm), we will produce the same old answer. Our individual paradigm are mental subconscious instructions that influence and guide our daily actions, and our feelings. This subconscious influencer, or guide operates at a layer beneath our conscious state.

Bible Study
Living for God, Not the World – Continued – Lesson - 15
Pastor Charles A. Hall – August 03rd, 2023

Our individual paradigms are the result of our experiences, our upbringing, our education, our parents, our friends, our environment, where we work, our family, our church, or what we read, or what we don't read.

The above facts are meant to establish or confirm that each of us has our own set ways, thoughts, and processes that guide our earthly life. Many of us do not want to change. Although some do profess to want to change, few actually pursue real change. Our struggle, and our Christian challenge as followers of Jesus Christ, is that it requires us to change! To be a follower of Jesus Christ demands that we turn away from the world, and turn toward Him. This is not a one-time turn; it is a life-changing event. This change is continual, although the foundational change occurs the moment we receive the gift of salvation and eternal life. Then we devote a lifetime to trying our best to transform ourselves into the image of Jesus Christ.

- **Romans 12:1-2** I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- **2 Corinthians 3:17-18** Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.
- **Ephesians 4:20-24** But ye have not so learned Christ. (21) If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: (22) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Our spiritual life (walk with the Lord) should be uninhibited with any past failures and ignorance. We should not allow any of our worldly assumptions, ideas, beliefs, or thoughts to hinder or disrupt our maturing process into the image of Jesus Christ. In other words do not hold on to anything, or anybody that jeopardize (risk) your intimacy (closeness) with Jesus.

- **Romans 38:5** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
- **Romans 8:38-39** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, (39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.