

Bible Study - Living for God, Not the World – Continued – Lesson - 19

Pastor Charles A. Hall – September 14th, 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.

To Live for God - We Must Know Who We Are in Christ Jesus

To live a life that is acceptable to God, we must have a clear understanding of who we are in the sight of God. This is essential since God’s assessment of us is of greater importance than anyone else. His opinion matters, because He created us in His own image, and we have life because of Him. We got up this morning because of Him, and if we are blessed to see tomorrow it is totally because of Him. The views and opinions of us by others might have some effect on our earthly standing, but their assessment of us has no relevance to how God sees us. However, what other people say or think about us can have a major impact on the quality of our earthly life. If we allow it, by giving value to their personal assessment of us. Some people will never be all that God desires them to be because they are too concerned with what other people think of them. As if their opinion of us, could have any effect on how God sees us. For this reason, each of us should have a healthy view of who we are in Christ Jesus, if we have any hope of living a life acceptable to Him. I have developed a habit that I do quite often in the mornings while I am getting dress for the day, I try to take a moment while looking at myself in the mirror to ask myself a question, who am I, and who am I in Christ’s eyes? I do this for a couple of reasons, first to make sure that I stay grounded in who I am, so I won’t think that I am more than I really am. Secondly, I do this to make sure that I don’t minimize who I am in the sight of God, and to ensure that the circumstances and situations in my life don’t define who I am, in the view of God Almighty! If we allow the world to determine who we are, we will never be all that God wants us to be, because the world’s views and values are opposite of God’s. The question that we should ask ourselves first before we ask anything else is, “Who am I, am I God’s child or am I a child of the world?” Do not confuse this question with the question of who created you, we all know that God created everything. However, because of man’s sin, humanity was separated from God. We know that not everyone has accepted God’s free offer of reconciliation. Some people believe that they have been reconciled back to God, but in reality many have not been reconciled. These people have not sincerely accepted God’s free gift of salvation, as a result, their lives do not line up with the Word of God. In other words, what they see in the mirror is a lie, and what God sees is the truth, and it is different from what they see.

- **Proverbs 23:7** For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.
- **Galatians 3:26-29** For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye all one in Christ Jesus. (29) And if ye be Christ’s then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

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- **John 1:12-13** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- **Ephesians 1:7** In who we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

We are who we are, because we have been bought out of sin by a price, and that price was the sacrificial shedding of blood by God's only Son, Jesus Christ. Our lives are no longer our own, by accepting God's free gift of salvation we now belong to Him both body and spirit! For this reason, we should honor God with our bodies and spirits. The acceptance of the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross has made us different from other people who live in the world, and special in the eyes of God.

- **1 Corinthians 6:17-20** But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. (18) Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. (19) What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:4-5** But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. (5) Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Since Christ gave His life for us and was crucified on the cross at Calvary for our sins. We live our lives crucified metaphorically with Him, and we have been metaphorically raised from the dead in his likeness. Therefore, our lives no longer belong to us, and even though we live in a fleshly body, we live our life vicariously through Jesus Christ by faith.

- **Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Our supernatural rebirth by the Spirit of God has given believers access to God's supernatural powers. Now as a result of this new birth there is nothing that we I cannot do or accomplished if it is God's desire for our life.

- **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.