

Bible Study - Living for God, Not the World – Continued – Lesson - 20

Pastor Charles A. Hall – September 28th, 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, stop living for the world, and why is it so difficult.
- 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
- Lesson # 15 Living for God Requires a Personal Paradigm Shift
- Lesson # 16 Living for God, Requires a Personal Sacrifice
- Lesson # 17 To Live For God, We Must be Willing To Be different
- Lesson # 18 Being Able To Discern God's Will From Our Personal Desires
- Lesson # 19 To Live for God, We Must know Who We Are in Christ Jesus

Theme: To Live for God, We must Be Standard Bearer Of Righteousness

As true believers when we came out of darkness into the marvelous light by accepting God’s free gift of salvation. Each of us became standard bearers for Jesus Christ and His kingdom. As standard bearers we are called by God to show the world what the moral standard of God looks, and acts like in this present world, with the anticipation of being with Him one day. We are called to be the light of righteousness in the midst of a dark, evil, and perverted world. From a biblical standpoint the word light has a couple of specific meanings, first it means truths, and secondly it means righteous or holy. And from a biblical perspective the word darkness has a couple of meanings as well, first it means, ignorance or wrong, and secondly it means evil. In other words God is calling His followers to show this world, and the worldly people, who are consumed with evil, the difference between worldly, and carnal living, as appose to Godly and righteous living.

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- **John 12:46** I am come a light into the world that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness
- **Romans 13:12-14** The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. (13) Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness not in strife and envying. (14) But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.
- **Isaiah 5:20** Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.

The challenge we have as believers of Jesus Christ is to live in His likeness while at the same time, being physically present in a world filled with darkness, and corruption. The Word of God commands us as believers to come out from among those living in darkness, and to allow the spirit of God that is in us, to manifest the likeness of Jesus to be on full display for the world to see. What does this mean? It means that we as believers and followers of Jesus Christ are called, and commanded by God to live a life in accordance with His divine biblical truths. If we hear and received these biblical truths and hide them in our heart they will reveal themselves at the appropriate time as we journey through this earthly life.

- **Ephesians 5:7-9** Be not ye therefore partakers with them. (8) For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light. (9) (For the fruit of the spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)
- **Psalms 119:105** Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
- **John 8:12** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Jesus tells those that truly believe in Him that they are the standard bearer of the entire world. If believers fail to uphold this standard the whole world will lose its desire and ability to maintain holy, righteous values. Jesus' preaching style included using a parable (short story) to illustrate His message. On the sermon on the mount Jesus refers to this holy standard as salt, with the understanding that salt was used to give flavor and to preserve, melt coldness, heal wounds. This parable was a direct description of the role of believers in the world today.

- **Matthew 5:13-16** Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. (14) Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. (15) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. (16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
- **2 Corinthians 4:4** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.