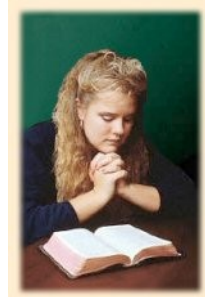


HOW TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE IN AN UNGODLY WORLD BY ROBERT NOTGRASS

Being a Christian means that you are dedicating your life to God. It means that you want to follow Him and do what is right, but sometimes this is hard to do. It certainly becomes hard when your neighbor, or brother, boss, father or friends bring difficulties in your life that challenges your faith. So, what can we do to help us overcome?



First, we must first please God (2 Cor. 5:9). Our goal, our mindset, our decisions should be that which pleases God. If we put money (1 Tim. 6:10), pride, careers or relationships first, it will consume all our time and we will then have no time for God, no time for our faith to become strong. But, if we put God first, our heart, yea our faith, will be in the right place. You know, sometimes following God is hard. But, when we seek God and his priorities, our worries are reduced to rubble. And, it is amazing that Jesus said if we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, he predicted that God would meet our needs (Matt. 6:33). Therefore, we do not have to worry about tomorrow's problems.

Second, we must think on the good stuff (Phil. 4:8). What we think about is a major factor in how we deal with evil in our world. For example, if we think about hurt, hating, greed, lust, conflict, sin, revenge and hate—our thoughts will be focused on evil and the consequences of evil is sin. Now, some may say, "but we can't control our thoughts, we just think what we think." God would not tell us to choose good thinking if it was not possible. We should be thinking based upon faith, hope and righteousness instead of doom and gloom and sin. Paul advises us about this in Phil. 4:8.

DID YOU KNOW?

The early church grew when:

Members were of one heart and soul, striving toward a common end.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Acts 1:14 | Acts 4:24 |
| Acts 2:1 | Acts 4:32 |
| Acts 2:46 | Acts 5:12 |

THOSE TO REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS TO GOD

Doris Pendleton, Verna Butler, Lynna Shanks, Elnora Shanks, Ethel Runge, Glenis McDonald and Tex Kinman.

Also remember: Richard Massey, Verma Long, Nelta Brock, Connie Gass, Grayson Castillo, Ruby Backus, Marvin Howard, Habermehl family, Cheryl Harris Evonelle Calkins, Dawn Tivoli, Brian Williams, Emma Stantliff, Pamela Robinson, Jim Murrell and the Martin Family.

Remember also: The lost, our leaders & those in our military.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a sign up sheet in the back for all who would like to host the teens at their home. • There is a brief VBS meeting with all teachers this morning. • There is a men's business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meeting today at 4:30pm. • See the Note board for events and announcements. • 22 attended last week. Evangelism class Monday @ 7pm. See you there. • Item for Fairhaven Children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • home is: Honey & Microwave popcorn. • All are invited to the Notgrass's tonight after services. • Please check the schedule in the back for those who are serving today. |
|---|---|--|

Times of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm

Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm

Sermons are recorded for those who would like a copy.



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TEEN CULT



Third, notice Rom. 12:9. We must hate evil and love the good. Hating evil means that we do not approve of what evil does. Sadly, our culture places very high values on tolerance. "Let people do their own thing," they say. They also suggest that nothing is wrong unless it hurts someone else, and even that may not be wrong. While previous generations called abortions, pornography and sexual relations outside of marriage sin—our generation likes to call all these things, "choice and personal preference." The attitude is, "Keep quiet. Look the other way. Shut up. Mind your own business." But, while the world says what it may, the Bible says: "Abhor that which is evil."

Fourth, we must really believe that God is greater than evil (1 Jn. 4:4). This takes faith to believe this. The Bible teaches that we are in a great spiritual battle between the forces of evil and the forces of good, between Satan and God. This war is real, ferocious, deadly and sometimes the fight is not so obvious. It seems at times that we are stepping around land mines in that we never know where sin will rear its ugly head. Some of what we see and experience is insane, crazy, wild, irrational and senseless. But, that's the way sin is. Yet, John stated that faithful Christians have ultimate victory over it (1 Jn. 4:4). Sure we may get tired, discouraged and beaten on by the world, but remember that God will win and so will we if we are faithful to Him.

Fifth, we must learn to treat others well (Matt. 7:12). While this is of the Old Law, the "Golden Rule" distinguishes us as Christians. We will love our enemies and return good for evil, we will forgive when people come and asked to be forgiven because we are like God than like those who do what is wrong. The Bible states, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Paul said, "Recompense to no man evil for evil . . . Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Rom. 12:17-18). We are to do what is right in our beliefs, morals and reactions and be like Jesus who once walked among mankind living a Godly life in an ungodly world.

Call of the Cross

Why did Jesus, facing death in Jerusalem, insist on going up to the famous city? Luke tells us, "when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem," (Lk. 9:51).

Why? It was because He heard the call of the cross!

It was a call from God. God sent Him into the world to "seek and save the lost." If he had turned back, he would have been untrue to the purpose of God. He was teaching us what God was like. So, at the heart of God is a cross. This is the nature of the universe—one where there is suffering. Man could not redeem himself; it took God's own Son. He knew no sin; he was the "lamb without blemish"; he was the pure one. And he died for us!

It was the call of the world. The philosophy of the world is, "Lord it over

the other fellow." We think meekness is weakness, so we fight back. The cross is not for us. But deep down, the world wants the cross too. We feel the guilt in our own souls, for we put this strange man upon the cross. And we cry for forgiveness from sin and find it in the cross.

It was the call of the future. Jesus looked down the vista of years and saw the needs of men in all ages. They needed salvation; they needed God; they needed what the cross could do for them—and so he went to Jerusalem. Earlier he had said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (Jn. 12:32). Do you not see Jesus Christ there crucified upon a tree, giving his life for you and does that not draw you to him today?