

THE

REVIVAL

LIFE

30 DAYS OF STANDING FOR CULTURAL CHANGE

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The Revival Life: 30 Days of Standing for Cultural Change

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PREFACE

Acts 19:18-20, “18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. 19 A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas (approx. \$6,000,000). 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.”

When I was first saved in the mid-nineties almost every Spirit-filled church I attended preached about revival. The Brownsville Revival was happening and many Assembly of God churches were sending their leaders to Pensacola to receive an impartation and learn how to have a sustained revival in their own churches.

My friends in the non-denominational churches like the Vineyard, were all going to the Toronto Outpouring. For us more mainline Pentecostals, the Toronto Blessing was considered less powerful because they had strange manifestations and didn't emphasize the gospel of repentance as Brownsville did. At the same time, I was happy the church was seeking revival and not satisfied with being lukewarm.

Sadly, both revivals ended sometime in the early 2000's and the Seeker Movement, led by Bill Hybels (Willow Creek church) and Rick Warren (Saddleback church) filled in the gap. They presented a “faster” and more “effective” way of reaching the lost. I was shocked how fast churches changed their focus. One week they were weeping at the altars, crying out for God to save their nation and the next week they were ending services with “meet and greets” in the café. It was as if those churches never wanted revival in the first place, they just wanted numbers. When they saw that they didn't need to pray, evangelize and preach against sin to grow their church; they traded their evangelism teams for guest services, their bold preaching for relevant chats and spiritual gifts for lights and smoke.

God hasn't changed! What He did in the early church is still what He wants to do today in every church.

In our passage we see that Paul and his companions saw a mighty move of God in Ephesus. So much so, that people burned millions of dollars worth of witchcraft to follow Jesus. They not only suffered the loss of their false religion, but they eventually lost their freedom. Over the next few years, church history records that the early Christians were arrested and tortured by the Romans in the same places they used to worship their false gods. Revival cost the first disciples everything, yet they were willing to pay the price because the move of God was worth it.

I want to encourage you today to believe with me that a spiritual revival and a cultural revolution will not be consumer driven with social media hype or customer feedback; rather it will come with riots, persecution and upheaval. If God answered our prayer for citywide repentance, we would literally be signing our death certificate- just like they have to do in India, China and in the Middle East. Why? Because when revival comes, so does riot. Those who don't want the move of God fight against it with everything they have (remember Jesus and the cross?).

In these last days we are promised the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit that the world has ever seen (Acts 2:16-21); likewise, we are promised the greatest time of tribulation, that if it wasn't cut short- even the elect would be deceived! (Matthew 24:24) Therefore, dear friend, let us not take lightly our call to see revival in the church and a moral revolution in our nation. Let us join with the revivalists of old and boldly say, "Whether by life or by death, may God's Kingdom come to earth as it is in heaven!"

HOW TO USE THE BOOK

1. Read a lesson each day consistently for 30 days.
2. Prayerfully consider the reflection at the end of each lesson.
3. Put into practice the three actions listed each day.

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DAY 1: STANDING FIRM

1 Corinthians 16:13, *“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.”*

The definition of revival is, “a spiritual awakening of the church in their love for God and people that impacts the community with salvation, discipleship and community transformation.” Many different kinds of revivals have impacted nations and cities around the world in various generations. But no matter when and where these revivals occurred, they always bore the same fruit- salvation, discipleship and community transformation. Just like in the book of Acts, when the gospel came to a city and the people received it, souls were saved, disciples were made and the community was transformed (Acts 8:4-8 & 19:1-22).

Consider the amazing Methodist revivals in England and in the United States in the 18th and 19th centuries that helped ground these countries in freedom and innovation, especially America’s Bible belt. Also, the Azusa Street revival in Los Angeles during the early 1900’s sent the fire of God all around the world to such places like China, Brazil, South Korea, Philippines, Columbia and Nigeria. As a result, these nations are currently seeing salvations in the millions and transformation of entire communities!

Consider Jesus, He was always bringing revival wherever He went because He lived in personal revival.

It is time in our generation to be a disciple of Christ and impact the world we live in. If we don’t do the basics of being Christ’s disciples, it will not matter how much we pray and fast; nor how many miracles we see. In the wilderness the Israelites saw miracles every day, like manna from God, but they never did the basics by loving God and keeping His commands. However, John the Baptist never performed one miracle, yet he had the biggest revival the Jewish people had seen in over 400 years!

Furthermore, God told Isaiah how to truly fast and experience revival from the inside out; *“6 Is not this the kind of fasting I have*

chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? 8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. 9 Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I” (Isaiah 58:6-9).

Notice how God said in verse 8 that when we do the things He commanded, our light will break forth like the dawn. Therefore, I believe that when we do the things that are listed in this devotional series we will see the nations saved and communities transformed.

Paul wrote in today’s passage the four things we need to do to embark on the lifestyle of revival. First, we must be on our guard against the lies of the devil. Second, be firm in our faith- never give up on God’s promises. Third, be courageous to fight against the evil of our day. Fourth, be strong in God’s power by believing all things are possible with Jesus!

REFLECTION

Do you want to see revival in your community?

ACTION

1. Repent of any sin you may have. Andrew Murray wrote, “A true revival means nothing less than a revolution, casting out the spirit of worldliness and selfishness, and making God and His love triumph in the heart and life.”
2. Prepare yourself to be totally obedient to God’s Word.
3. Ask God to empower you to hate sin and love righteousness.

DAY 2: STANDING AGAINST ABORTION

Proverbs 6:16-17, *“16 There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood.”*

The greatest tragedy of our time is the slaughter of the unborn. Just in the U.S. there have been over 50 million abortions since 1973. China, the leading nation for murdering babies, has shed the blood of over 300 million innocent babies in the last 40 years. God have mercy!

God is clear in the Bible that human life starts at conception and personhood belongs to preborn babies in their mother’s wombs. Such examples can be found in Jeremiah 1:5 when God told Jeremiah, *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.”* From God’s perspective, Jeremiah was a person while he was still in the womb- he wasn’t just a blob of flesh and blood as pro-choice abortionists claim. Also, in Luke 1:41 we learn that John the Baptist was a person able to be blessed by the Holy Spirit while still in his mother’s womb; *“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.”*

In today’s Proverb, God declared the things that He hates and one of them is, *“hands that shed innocent blood.”* Therefore, God hates everyone’s hands that are involved in abortion- including the doctor who performs the abortion, the mother who allows her baby to be murdered, the nurses and staff at the clinics that help the child to be murdered, the boyfriend and family members who support the murder, and even the voters who allow the murder to be “legal.”

All people involved in abortion (from the voters to the doctors) are guilty of murder in God’s court.

If the murderers of the innocent children do not repent to God for their wickedness, they will be condemned to the lake of fire for eternity. John recorded in Revelation 21:8 that *“murderers... will be*

consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur.” Let me once again make this perfectly clear- according to the Bible, God hates abortion because it sheds the blood of innocent children and He will punish all those who support this act of murder in the lake of fire. Repent now if you are guilty of this vile sin. God will forgive you and wash you in the blood of Jesus.

Here are six ways you can stand against abortion; first, teach people that it is God’s will to only have sex in marriage. Second, affirm with the Bible that children are a blessing from the Lord and that abortion is murder (Psalm 127:3). Third, support mothers in your community so they will not abort their babies if they happen to get pregnant outside of marriage or are in a crisis. Fourth, go to the local abortion clinics and publically preach the gospel to everyone there (mothers, staff, security, etc.). Fifth, vote and support candidates that oppose abortion. Sixth, pray for God to change people’s hearts on this issue.

I pray that we will see this sin eradicated in our lifetime!

REFLECTION

Do you hate abortion like God does?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why abortion is the sin of murder. Chuck Baldwin said, “Legalized abortion is a national holocaust.”
2. Pray for God to use you to help end the slaughter of unborn children in your nation.
3. Resources: “*Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments*,” by Randy Alcorn & “*Abortion: A Rational Look at an Emotional Issue*,” by Dr. R.C. Sproul.

DAY 3: STANDING AGAINST THE LGBT AGENDA

Romans 1:27, *“In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.”*

Paul described homosexual behavior in the book of Romans as being unnatural because it perverts the original intent God had in making humans with sexuality (Genesis 1:27). Some liberal scholars try to get around Paul’s rebuke of homosexuality by saying that the only kind of people homosexuality would be unnatural for is those who are heterosexual by nature; like homosexual acts of rap in jail.

In other words, the gay affirming scholars teach that because people turn their backs on God they become male rapists, like men in prison who are mostly straight but rape other men because of their deprived mind and uncontrollable lusts. They consider this kind of wickedness the *“due penalty for their error.”* So for the “Christian” LGBT movement they would say, “We are neither idolaters or rapists- so I am not being punished by God in any way for my love towards a person of the same gender.”

As a result, the LGBT agenda wants to make their sexual identity and preferences to be normal in our culture. In the U.S. they want to be able to marry, adopt children and have their sexuality taught in our schools. Accordingly, to oppose their agenda is to be labeled, “intolerant,” “hateful” and “a religious bigot.” LGBT political activists in the U.S. have actually convinced many lawmakers and media outlets that they are fighting for their civil rights just as the African Americans did in the 1960’s.

It is the job of every disciple to stand against the LGBT agenda.

The LGBT agenda, like all false worldviews, tries to exalt itself above the knowledge of God and needs to be destroyed with Scripture (2 Corinthians 10:5-6). We do not fight against flesh and blood (people are not our enemies- the devil is), nor do we use physical weapons or verbal abuse; but we stand against this demonic mindset with God's love and truth. We are commanded by God to defend the institution of marriage and His created order of two genders (Proverbs 14:34). We do this for the sake of our nation and eternal souls that hang in the balance (including those in the LGBT movement).

Here are the two main reasons why we should stand against the LGBT agenda; first, God calls lesbianism, homosexuality, bi-sexuality and transgenderism sin. In Romans 1:26-27, Paul gave a direct reference to the prohibition of same sex acts in Leviticus 18:22 and reinforced the creation of male and female marriage in Genesis 1:27. Anything sexual outside of that is unnatural and is considered "*sexual immorality and impure*" by Paul in Galatians 5:19. The reason why we still look to Leviticus in regards to homosexuality and not to what we should eat (like shrimp or pork) is because Christ carried over the "moral laws" of marriage into the New Covenant in Mark 10:8 but not the dietary laws according to Mark 7:19.

Also, consider that if the LGBT activist says that Jesus' statement on marriage doesn't mean He "limited" marriage to just one man and women because Jesus never forbade homosexuality, then the homosexual would be forced to also extend Jesus' "marital blessing" to incest, zoophilia, pedophilia, polygamy, polyandry and polyamory because He didn't "forbid" those sexual orientations either. Therefore, either Jesus' statement regarding marriage between one man and one woman "excludes" all other sexual orientations or one must accept every sexual fetish. We as biblical Christians must support and defend traditional marriage because it is God's law in both the Old and New Covenants.

Secondly, modern studies of same sex relationships and families show a major negative impact on the children and the partners involved. Dr. Mark Regnerus of the University of Texas did an extensive study of the family life of both homosexuals and lesbians. He found the following to be true; (1) Same sex couples are more likely to suffer depression and physical abuse and (2) The children of same sex couples are more likely to have trouble in school, turn towards crime and be sexually abused. Not to mention the high rates of suicide among those who are transgender. In other words,

being homosexual or trans doesn't work in the real world and being bi-sexual is not any better because it works against stable male-female relationships. God never intended us to change our genders or break the male-female order of the family; without it babies would never be born!

Therefore, the LGBT agenda is not only a sin according to the Bible but it is also harmful to those who are involved- especially for the children. I pray that you would make a stand against this agenda in your home, church and community. Also, believe what Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; that all people in the LGBT lifestyle can be washed, sanctified and justified by the blood of Jesus!

REFLECTION

Do you believe the LGBT agenda is sinful?

ACTION

1. Clearly explain from the Bible why the LGBT agenda is sinful.
2. Pray for God to use you to lovingly confront the errors of the LGBT agenda with the Word of God.
3. Resources: "*The Same Sex Controversy*," by Dr. James White & "*A Queer Thing Happened to America*," by Dr. Michael Brown.

DAY 4: STANDING AGAINST POLITICAL CORRUPTION

Micah 3:9-12, “9 Hear this, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel, who despise justice and distort all that is right; 10 who build Zion with bloodshed, and Jerusalem with wickedness. 11 Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money... 12 Therefore because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.”

God is a good God that stands for truth, justice, righteousness and charity (Isaiah 58:6-10). The Lord has always stood against the corruption and sinful ways of men in power. All throughout the Bible God has judged and brought down nations that rebelled against Him. God judged the Egyptians because of Pharaoh’s pride (Exodus 11-12), He allowed Babylon to be conquered by the Assyrians (Isaiah 13:9), and He even sent the leaders of Judah and Israel into captivity when they refused to obey Him (Micah 3:9-12).

Daniel said in Daniel 2:21, *“He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others.”* Sometimes it may seem like the corrupt leaders in power will never be stopped, but eventually they all come down. God may even use wicked leaders in their corruption to serve a good purpose (like using Babylon to punish Judah); however he will still hold them accountable for their evil (Jeremiah 50:18).

Sadly, in the U.S. we see governmental leaders arrested all the time for bribery, lying and breaking the laws of the land. Sometimes corruption comes in the form of overlooking crime in a certain area because the criminals pay off the local officials. Other times it can be seen when lobbyists pay leaders to vote a certain way to pass a bill. Or corrupt leaders will take money to do illegal favors.

Ordinary citizens like you and me may not be able to always know what our government leaders and local judges are doing, but God does. We must pray for our officials to live righteous lives and ask God to expose any corruption (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

As disciples of Christ, we must encourage our fellow citizens to vote for leaders based on their character and policies, not just their campaign promises. And we must hold our leaders to the standard of God's moral law!

Here are three things you can do to stand against political corruption; first, vote for leaders that hold to godly values and morals. Second, promote integrity in your everyday life so it becomes the normal behavior in your community. Third, pray for God to remove corrupt leaders and to raise up good ones that are God-fearing. King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 29:2, *“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.”*

REFLECTION

Do you believe God can remove corruption from your nation's government?

ACTION

1. Clearly explain from the Bible why political corruption is a sin.
2. Pray for God to raise up good leaders and bring down the corrupt ones. Howard Crosby said, “To let politics become a cesspool, and then avoid it because it is a cesspool, is a double crime.”
3. Resources: *“God & Government,”* by Charles Colson & *“Politics According to the Bible,”* by Dr. Wayne Grudem.

DAY 5: STANDING AGAINST CORPORATE GREED

James 5:4-5, “4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.”

One major way corporate greed occurs is when companies make a surplus of money by abusing and stealing from their employees. The abuse can come in the form of long hours without breaks in harsh working conditions known as “sweatshops.” Sweatshops refer to the work environment in developing countries that are set up by wealthy companies to make products at the lowest cost possible; no matter the harm to the people and environment.

Most of the time these workers are uneducated and have very little rights so they cannot negotiate with the big company for better work environments and hours because the company will simply fire them and hire another willing person. As a result, the poor workers are treated more as slaves than employees and are forced into a lifetime of servitude.

Corporate greed also occurs in developed countries when companies mistreat their employees by not paying acceptable wages and offering health insurance or reasonable time off. This kind of greed not only happens in big companies but it can also be seen in small to mid-sized companies that purposely keep their employees at part time so they don't have to give them benefits.

James pointed out in today's passage that the greedy business leaders of his time could do better for their employees and still make a profit. However, because of their greed they were squeezing every penny out of their employees and harshly ruling over them. A better

solution would be to still have capitalism (free market without government control of the economy like with “socialism” or “communism”), but with good laws and regulations that protect the workers and insure they are getting a fair pay with affordable health benefits.

The solution to corporate greed is biblical capitalism. Like with the Israelites- they could work hard, produce wealth and be kind to the worker all at the same time!

Adrian Rogers said, “Friend, you cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. And what one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government can’t give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody. And when half of the people get the idea they don’t have to work because the other half’s going to take care of them, and when the other half get the idea it does no good to work because somebody’s going to get what I work for. That, dear friend, is about the end of any nation.”

Here are three things you can do to stand against corporate greed; (1) Don’t support companies that are known to treat their employees unfairly. (2) Vote for godly leaders to make laws that protect the workers from oppression. (3) Pray that both the workers and owners will do unto others as they would want done unto themselves!

REFLECTION

Do you believe companies should treat their workers fairly?

ACTION

1. Clearly explain from the Bible why corporate greed is a sin.
2. Pray for God to expose greedy companies and rise up good ones.
3. Resources: *“Rescuing Capitalism from Corporatism,”* by John David Rose & *“Business for the Glory of God,”* by Dr. Wayne Grudem.

DAY 6: STANDING AGAINST POVERTY

Luke 4:18-19, “18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Poverty is defined as, “lacking the basic things needed to live a healthy life.” The main reason people around the world live in poverty is because they reside in a country with a corrupt government that doesn’t provide clean water, safe roads, good jobs or reliable education. Also, war and economic hardships can cause poverty to occur in any country- regardless of the leadership of the nation.

Some people in the U.S. experience poverty because the area they live in doesn’t have good paying jobs or they experienced a hard time in life (loss of a loved one, a sick family member, unexpected bills, etc.). Sadly, many who live in consistent poverty can suffer from a “poverty mentality” because they have been raised in poverty and think receiving government aid like food stamps and “Section 8 Housing” is normal. In these specific cases they lack motivation to work hard because the government has become their provider.

Sometimes a person will come to the U.S. from another country with no governmental help and because they take any job they can get and work long hours, they surpass the U.S. citizen who has received thousands of dollars of monthly support. Why? They had a “get-it-done-mentality” instead of a “give-it-to-me-for-free-mentality.”

Everyone can relate to poverty in one way- spiritually. All of us were broke because of sin and Jesus paid our debt. Now because of Jesus we can work hard and receive His blessings in our lives!

In today's passage, Jesus quoted from Isaiah 61 in regards to His Messianic duty. One of Jesus' duties was to preach good news to the poor and show them the Father's love. He was called to reach out to those who had been forgotten and neglected by society. The gospel (or "good news") to a person living in poverty is that God will save them and give His kingdom blessings without holding their economic class against them (Matthew 6:33). Classism is a sinful way of treating people according to the "social class" they are in based on their monetary value. However, according to Jesus, all people, especially the poor are important to Him.

Therefore, all disciples should stand against poverty in the following three ways; (1) Preach the gospel to the poor so they might be saved and have God's kingdom blessings upon their life. (2) Help educate and assist those who live in poor conditions. (3) Treat those living in poverty with the same respect as you would the rich- don't live with classism (James 2:1-9).

REFLECTION

Do you believe Jesus loves the poor just as much as the rich?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why we should help those living in poverty.
2. Pray for God to end poverty in the community you live in and through missionaries around the world. A wise man once said, "Prayer and hard work are God's answer to poverty."
3. Resources: "*With Justice For All*," by John Perkins and "*Always Enough*," by Roland & Heidi Baker.

DAY 7: STANDING AGAINST RACISM

Acts 17:26, “From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.”

Racism is a devil’s lie that divides humanity into different categories according to skin color, facial distinctions and culture.

According to the Bible there is only one race; the human race.

There are not different races or kinds of humans but just different variations of the same human race (i.e., “mankind”). Some people have darker or lighter skin, some have bigger or smaller noses, others have different shapes and positions of their eyelids; however, the entire human race with all its variations are all equally human, descendants from Adam and Eve and are loved the same by God.

It would be good to remember the words of the ole’ Sunday school song, “Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight- Jesus loves the little children of the world!”

Sadly, racism has made its way into almost every culture throughout human history. For example, just in the last hundred years there was ethnic cleansing of the Jews in Germany, black segregation in the U.S., the Rwandan genocide and even still to this day race-based slavery exists in certain African and Middle Eastern countries like Libya, Sudan, Syria and Dubai.

As a result, disciples today must preach against racism and teach the biblical perspective that Paul proclaimed in today’s passage while he was in Athens. Our message is that God has placed everyone in different cultures to reach out to Him and receive salvation. As disciples of Christ, we’re commanded to stand against racial injustice and love the world the way Jesus does. Paul said in Galatians 3:28,

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Therefore, every disciple should stand against racism in the following four ways; (1) Believe and teach that there is only one race- the human race. (2) Preach salvation to all people in hopes that they will be saved. (3) Reject any form of racism that would exalt one race of people over another. (4) Stand for equality when you see oppression of certain people based on their culture.

REFLECTION

Do you believe God only made one race- the human race?

ACTION

1. Repent if you have ever been guilty of racism. For example, if you treated people in a negative way simply based on their skin color or culture.
2. Pray for God to end racism in your nation and around the world.
3. Resources: *“One Race-One Blood,”* by Ken Ham and *“Oneness Embraced,”* by Dr. Tony Evans.

DAY 8: STANDING AGAINST EVOLUTION

Genesis 1:1, *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

Evolution is the belief that all living things share the same ancestral tree. Evolutionists believe that life arose on earth from non-living things, such as watery rocks billions of years ago, and through random chance and time all the different kinds of living things, “came from the goo through the zoo to you.” Their supposed proof comes from the fossil records, variations within species and chemistry experiments.

More studied scientists have exposed the evolutionary system as nothing more than man’s attempt to be his own “god” and remove the truth of the living God from the earth. David wrote in Psalm 14:1, *“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.”* Though evolutionists say there is no God, the Bible teaches they already know there is a God, but they willfully suppress their knowledge of Him to live as if He doesn’t exist.

Paul said in Romans 1:18-20, *“18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”*

Evolutionary scientists have never proved with chemistry or in physics that it is possible for living cells and organisms to come from non-living things. Due to the complexity of just one cell, it would be more likely a printing press could explode and then over millions of years form the plays of Shakespeare; then for DNA to come from a gooey rock billions of years ago. Some may object and say the printing press is not itself active in anyway to move the paper and ink into a written play, like the basic building blocks of nature are always

moving based on the laws of nature- therefore it's possible given enough time they could form complex living forms. Yet, the problem still remains (even if that were true); where did all the matter come from, along with the laws of nature? From nothing, nothing comes.

For the sake of argument, even if it were possible for non-living things to form life, it would be even more proof of God because of the intelligence needed for matter to function according to complex laws. However, God did not use evolution to create life, He did it within six literal days. Christian Astrophysicist Dr. Jason Lisle said, "The reason that science works is because God upholds the universe in a consistent and uniform way."

Another problem for evolution is the supposed "tree of life" that shows every living thing came from the same single celled organisms that arose from the "primordial soup." The most popular picture of evolution is the one that shows the branch of human evolution in which monkeys evolved into men. This picture is supposed to show how modern man evolved over millions of years from an "ape-like ancestor." However, what the picture doesn't show is the proof- it's not science, it's science fiction!

There is no scientific proof that evolution is true. All that we observe and can prove with biology is what the Bible teaches- all living things reproduce after their kind.

All the fossil record shows are the different variations of God's creation that have lived and died upon the earth. All humans are variations of Adam and Eve (there is only one race, the human race) and all animals today are variations of the kind of animals God created in the Garden of Eden. In other words, all dogs share a common ancestor; a dog. All birds share a common ancestor; a bird... and so on.

If evolution were only a bad scientific theory, its harm would be minimal. However, evolution has become the "belief" or "worldview" that has led to some of the greatest tragedies known to mankind. For example, Nazi Germany wanted to create a perfect Arian race and exterminate the "less evolved" Jews. European and American slave traders loved the theory of evolution because they were able to justify their animal like treatment of Africans. Since they believed the Africans were closer to the apes on the evolutionary tree, they didn't have the same rights as a human being. Also, abortionists

in such countries like China and the U.S., with a total of over 400 million combined murdered children, find their justification in evolutionary ideals because they believe the unborn child is just a fetus without any human rights.

Likewise, in today's culture, when businessmen and world leaders are taught that only the strong survive and the weak are meat; they can easily lie, cheat and steal their way to the top without any regard for their fellowman. And if they get caught they can justify their actions by saying they live in a "dog-eat-dog" world brought about by godless evolution. Is it any wonder that after the public schools started teaching our children they were nothing but highly evolved animals, that they started acting like animals in urban violence, school shootings and corrupt businesses?

Therefore, Christians need to stand against evolutionary science and ethics in the following ways; (1) Study and learn from godly scientist how God's story of creation fits with the facts of life. (2) Reject the morality that evolution breeds; mainly racism, abortion, euthanasia, suicide, greed, genocide and selfishness. (3) Teach others the truth about evolution from the Bible and provable science.

REFLECTION

Do you believe God created the heavens and the earth in six literal days?

ACTION

1. Explain why believing in evolution is wrong according the Bible.
2. Pray for God to raise up more scientists, pastors and leaders to confront the errors and lies of evolution.
3. Resources: "*The Lie: Evolution,*" by Ken Ham & "*The Ultimate Proof of Creation,*" by Dr. Jason Lisle.

DAY 9: STANDING AGAINST ATHEISM

Psalm 14:1, *“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.”*

Atheism is the belief that there is no god. We must stand against this godless worldview with the truth and love of Jesus Christ. According to multiple surveys in the U.S. and Europe, atheism is on the rise and Christianity is on the decline because younger people are leaving the church in record numbers. Thankfully, in other places like China and Russia where atheism used to be prominent, Christianity is growing in even greater numbers, thus there is a net growth in the world.

Why is there a decline in the belief in God among our young in U.S.? I believe the Bible gives the reason in 2 Thessalonians 2:10, *“They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”* Paul, like David in today’s passage, taught that if you deny God and His truth you are only left with man-centered and satanic inspired lies. Atheism, is just another lie believed by men and women so that they can live however is right in their own eyes.

Whenever people suppress the knowledge of God in their conscience, history proves that horrific evils become normative.

It is estimated that around 250 million people were murdered in the 20th century alone due to atheistic regimes. Atheist dictators like Mao in China murdered over forty million of his own people and Stalin in Russia put to death tens of millions in his revolution. Also, Pol Pot in Cambodia, Kim Song II in North Korea and Ho Chi Min in Vietnam were responsible for millions of deaths due to their rejection of God. This may seem extreme, but we already see the death toll of unborn children in the tens of millions in the U.S. and record rates of suicide, mass shootings, urban violence, gender dysphoria, sexual perversion and depression because our young people are trying to live without God in their life.

Therefore, we as Christians should stand up against atheism in the following ways; first, we should expose the foolishness of not believing in God with the gospel and apologetics. For example, we should teach disciples how to expose the self-contradicting nature of atheistic presuppositions and affirm the validity of the Christian arguments for God from the first cause, design and objective morals. Dr. Cornelius Van Til said, “I hold that belief in God is not merely as reasonable as other belief, or even a little or infinitely more probably true than other belief; I hold rather that unless you believe in God you can logically believe in nothing else.”

Second, Christians should clearly teach young people the Bible and all its truths with the evidence of modern scholarship, such as explaining the Bible’s reliability, proof for Jesus’ resurrection and the evidence of Noah’s flood. Third, we should live such good lives in front of non-believers that they will be compelled to acknowledge God is alive in us.

REFLECTION

Do you believe in God?

ACTION

1. Explain why atheism is both sinful and destructive.
2. Pray that God will use you to reach unbelievers with the truth of Jesus Christ.
3. Resources: “*On Guard*,” by Dr. William Lane Craig & “*I Don’t Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*,” by Dr. Norman Geisler.

DAY 10: STANDING AGAINST FALSE RELIGIONS

John 14:6, *“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

False religious beliefs are claims about God that contradict the Bible. The devil has given the world a buffet of false religions to choose from. Christianity, as it has been taught for the last two thousands years, is the only means of separating the truth from the lies of the devil.

The strongest weapon against a lie is the truth.

Jesus said in John 8:44 that the devil *“is a liar and the father of lies,”* so when he tells a lie he is speaking consistent with his character. Likewise, Jesus is the “truth,” so when He speaks the truth, He is speaking according to His nature. Therefore, all truth in the world has its origin in Jesus and all lies have their roots in the devil.

The most effective lies the devil tells people are through false prophets and lying teachers, which Jesus foretold would increase before His return in Matthew 24:11. False prophets appear as wolves in sheep’s clothing and are either intentionally lying or they have been deceived themselves. Either way, their lies are from the devil.

Some of the most popular false religions today are Islam, Hinduism, Roman Catholicism, Jehovah Witnesses and Mormonism. Sadly, new religious movements are starting all the time to deceive the vulnerable. For example, there is a former pastor in the Philippines and a new age guru in Russia who both claim to be Jesus Christ- God have mercy!

Certainly, the largest and most dangerous false religion today is Islam because it has over a billion followers and their holy book (the Qur’an) commands Muslims to conquer the world through jihad (see Surah 2:191-193 & 4:89). Also, Muslim ruled countries like Iran,

Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan heavily persecute Christians who teach the truth about Mohammed being a demon-possessed false prophet (Galatians 1:8-9). Consider what Mohammed said in Surah 9:29 as an example of his evil teachings, “Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.”

This kind of hate filled teaching is the exact opposite of what Jesus taught six hundred years prior in Matthew 5:9 when He said, “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*” Thankfully, Islam is losing its control over their people as many are coming to Jesus in record numbers! Though leaving Islam is punishable by death according to Surah 8:12, Muslim nations are experiencing great Holy Ghost revival!

Here are three ways you can stand against false religions; (1) Know and defend the truth of the Bible and the Christian faith. (2) Lovingly and wisely refute the lies that false prophets and other religions teach. (3) Pray for God to open the eyes of those who are deceived.

REFLECTION

Do you believe Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why false religions are sinful. Dr. Norman Geisler wrote, “All views can’t be true because all views are opposite; this is the logical aspect. For example, Islam says we are good in nature; Christianity says we are born in sin. Islam says Jesus is a man; Christianity says He is more than a man, He is God. All truths can’t be the same.”
2. Pray that God will use you to lovingly reach those in other religions with the truth of Jesus Christ.
3. Resources: “*The Kingdom of the Cults,*” by Dr. Walter Martin & “*Answering Islam,*” by Dr. Norman Geisler.

DAY 11: STANDING AGAINST VIOLENCE

Genesis 6:11, “*Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence.*”

During the time of Noah, the book of Genesis describes the earth as violent and corrupt. Mankind was set only on doing evil and the imaginations of their hearts were continually filled with wickedness. Furthermore Genesis 6:6-7 records, “*6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the Lord said, ‘I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.’*”

Sadly, today we are seeing the same kind of violence and corruption on the earth that marked the days of Noah. Urban violence in the U.S. has reached unimaginable heights in cities like Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Detroit and New York. The average number of homicides in the U.S. per year is around 16,000. Per year the homicides in the U.S. are more than double the total loss of life in both the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars since 2001 (around 6,700 deaths)!

Every murder has its own unique circumstances and background story; however, one thing is certain- God was against every one of them! “*Thou shall not murder*” has been the foundation of God’s moral code since the time of Cain and Abel and the Ten Commandments given to Moses.

God said the reason He hates murder is because it is wrongfully ending the life of one of His image-bearers.

After the flood God told Noah the value of human life and that the penalty of murder is death; Genesis 9:6, “*Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.*” In the New Covenant Jesus expanded the reach of what He considered murder to also include hatred; Matthew

5:22, *“But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”*

Even though hatred doesn't have the same judicial penalty on earth (death), it does have the same spiritual judgment- eternity in hell. John said in Revelation 21:8, *“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers... they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur.”*

Therefore, we should stand against violence in the following five ways; (1) Pray for murderers and wrathful people to be born again. (2) Forgive your enemies for the sins they have committed against you in anger. (3) Try to make peace with those who cause trouble in the community. (4) Protect the innocent from those who try to hurt people. (5) Pray for God to remove violence from the land through preaching the gospel of peace (Ephesians 6:15).

REFLECTION

Do you believe Jesus is the answer to anger and violence?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why violence is sinful. Martin Luther wrote, “Nothing good ever comes of violence.”
2. Pray that God will use you to reach those who are violent with the gospel of peace and that you will not let anger have mastery over you.
3. Resources: *“The Cross and the Switchblade,”* by David Wilkerson & *“Anger: Handling a Powerful Emotion in a Healthy Way,”* by Gary Chapman.

DAY 12: STANDING AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

1 Timothy 1:9-11, “9 We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, 10 for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine 11 that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.”

Slave trading in the Bible is considered a sin- period. There has never been a time in biblical history when slave trading was acceptable. Taking captives of war was common in the Old Covenant but it was never God’s will to capture people in peace times and make them slaves like Islam teaches in Surah 4:24 and what European colonialism promoted in the Atlantic Slave Trade. The slaves (or captives) of Israel were treated with dignity and respect. God told the Israelites to remember that they used to be slaves in Egypt. As a result, whenever they had slaves captured in war or because of economic debt, they were to treat them as they would have wanted to be treated when they were in captivity (Deuteronomy 24:17-19).

In the New Testament times Paul urged slaves to obey their masters because the Roman society, like all societies of that time, had economic and wartime slaves. Paul’s command of submission wasn’t because he affirmed the practice of Roman slavery but because he wanted the Christians to be at peace in their culture. At the same time, the Christian masters were commanded to treat their slaves in the same way Jesus treated them because Paul said we are all slaves (servants) of Christ (Ephesians 6:5-9). Furthermore, when Paul was able to influence the culture in a greater way, he encouraged

Christians to release their slaves and give them freedom (Philemon 1:14-18).

One of Jesus' main messages was to preach freedom to the captives (Luke 4:18). He loves to set free all slaves, whether spiritual or physical ones, by the power of His love!

Sadly, according to current studies, there are more slaves in the world today than ever before. Current studies estimate that there are around twenty-seven million people in some kind of slavery. Such countries like China, Russia, Libya, Sudan, Pakistan, Thailand and Uzbekistan have the highest rates of human trafficking.

Most slaves are captured and exploited for their labor or sexuality (sex slaves). The average age a person is trafficked is only around twelve years old. Though some might think this tragedy only exists in poor nations without stable governments, the truth is tens of thousands of people are bought and sold all throughout Europe and the United States.

Therefore, the church needs to stand against human trafficking by; (1) Exposing the sinful practices of slave traders wherever they may be found; like with prostitution and forced labor. (2) Offering help to those who've been impacted by slavery by helping them gain freedom. (3) Praying for God to convict both the slave trader and the slave owner of their sins against humanity.

REFLECTION

Do you believe human trafficking is a sin?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why human trafficking is sinful. Someone once said, "You never know how valuable freedom is until someone takes yours away."
2. Financially support organizations that help victims of slavery.
3. Resources: "*God in a Brothel*," by Daniel Walker & "*Modern Slavery*," by Kevin Bales.

DAY 13: STANDING AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY

Matthew 5:27-28, “27 You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Pornography is the explicit portrayal of people for the purpose of sexual arousal. Current studies report that over 42% of Internet users view porn and the average age of initial pornography exposure is just eleven years old. About 64% of young adult men and 18% of women use porn a minimum of once a week. Another 17% of men and another 30% of women use porn 1-2x per month; for a staggering combined total of 81% of all men and 48% of women regularly view porn every month- God have mercy!

Some may think that porn has no impact upon society other than personal gratification; however, one-in-thirteen U.S. teenage girls reported participating in group-sex as a result of watching excessive pornography at the average age of only 15 years old. Also, due to the sexualization of our teens, cities like Philadelphia have lowered the age for condom distribution to eleven years old (fifth grade)- God help us!

Other negative results of porn are; (1) The degrading of the those who make it. (2) The addictive nature for those who enjoy it. (3) People who view porn are more likely to become desensitized to real relationships like marriage and are more likely to have affairs. (4) And most importantly, porn is the sin of lust according to God’s Word and can lead to being cast into the lake of fire. John wrote in Revelation 21:8, *“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral... they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”*

Pornography is what people do when they're not satisfied with their sexuality as God designed it. They choose to live in selfishness and fictional relationships rather than enjoy the eternal pleasures of God and the true love of a spouse.

We need to stand against pornography in the following ways: (1) Remove all porn related materials and videos from your home, computer and life (including explicit video games and movies/TV shows). (2) Stay accountable in your sexuality to a trusted friend of the same gender to live a victorious life over lust. (3) Teach others that porn is sinful and help porn users cut it out of their lives (Matthew 5:29-30).

REFLECTION

Do you live a porn free life?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why pornography is sinful. Jeremy Taylor wrote, "Lust is a captivity of the reason and an enraging of the passions. It hinders business and distracts counsel. It sins against the body and weakens the soul."
2. Pray that God will use you to reach out to those who either make porn or enjoy it.
3. Resources: "*Pure Eyes*," by Craig Gross & "*Every Man's Battle*," by Stephen Arterburn. Also, consider visiting www.xxxchurch.com for more resources including accountability computer software.

DAY 14: STANDING AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Galatians 5:19-21, “19 The acts of the flesh are obvious... debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft... 21 drunkenness... and the like, I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Substance abuse has been a major problem since the beginning of time. The Bible speaks primarily of alcohol abuse and depicts people’s real struggle with it; even people like Noah in Genesis 9:21 and Solomon in Ecclesiastes 2:3 were said to have abused alcohol at different times in their lives. Everyone can be lead astray by addiction if they don’t guard their heart and stay close to Jesus.

The sinful flesh is like a bucket with a giant hole in it- no matter what you give it, it will never be full, because it can’t be satisfied without God’s Spirit to fill it.

King Solomon himself warned in Proverbs 23:29-30 the problems associated with alcohol abuse, “29 *Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? 30 Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.*” On one hand, it’s clear from the Bible that drunkenness and alcoholism is a sin. Still, around eighteen million adults (30%), have abused alcohol at some time in their life. On the other hand, the Bible allows Christians to drink alcohol in moderation if they want to (Colossians 2:16 & Romans 14:17). If you choose to drink in moderation remember the warnings found in Proverbs 20:1 and do so in holiness with the fear of the Lord.

The Bible doesn’t just warn against alcohol abuse, it also warns against illicit drug use. The Greek word for “witchcraft” in today’s passage is, “*pharmakeia*,” which is where we get the English word,

“pharmaceuticals.” In the time of Jesus, the word meant, “casting spells or using drugs.” As a result, the Bible calls all drug use outside of safe medical usage to be like the sin of sorcery and witchcraft. Many practices in witchcraft involve taking drug-based potions to produce “spiritual” effects. For example, some Native Americans in the Southwest used peyote for its mescaline to induce hallucinations to enter the “spirit” world.

Pharmakeia is warned against in the Bible because drugs change one’s understanding of reality and open our soul to demonic powers. That is why the Bible commands disciples to always be of a sober mind. Both alcohol and drug abuse intoxicate the mind to such an extent that the devil can tempt people to do things that they wouldn’t normally do. Peter wrote, *“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”* (1 Peter 5:8).

Therefore, we should stand against alcohol and drug abuse in the following ways; (1) Warn those who drink alcohol that if they get drunk they are sinning against God. (2) Teach that recreational drug use is considered sorcery and witchcraft in the Bible. (3) Encourage everyone to not seek worldly pleasure for spiritual fulfillment in life, but rather seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit as Paul taught in Ephesians 5:18.

REFLECTION

Are you free from drug and alcohol abuse?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why alcohol and drug abuse is sinful.
2. Pray that God will use you to bring freedom to the addicted. The ole’ timers used to say, “There ain’t no high like the Most High!”
3. Resources: *“Addiction and Grace,”* by Gerald May & *“The Twelve Steps for Christians,”* by Friends in Recovery.

DAY 15: STANDING AGAINST EVIL ENTERTAINMENT

Matthew 5:29, "If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."

Did you know that the average American spends almost 34 hours each week watching TV? That is around 5 hours a day! Plus, most Americans spend another 17 hours a week online, which is an average of about 2.5 hours a day. Certainly, some of this time is spent "multi-tasking" by surfing the Internet while watching TV, but nonetheless the time we waste every week is staggering! Not to mention the time spent at the movies, sporting events and concerts each year.

Also, did you know that much of what is viewed on primetime TV used to be considered pornographic or horrific just 50 years ago? For example; (1) Two girls (or guys) kissing on a sitcom is now the new norm for our culture. (2) Seeing a couple make love under the sheets exposing almost everything for extended periods of time is common. (3) Excessive blood and guts being splattered all over the screen has replaced the "ole' western one shot to the chest." (4) The use of many vulgar words that once were taboo in public now come from the mouths of babes!

From graphic sex scenes, to open homosexuality and everything in between- we must take a stand to not allow perverted entertainment to cause us to sin.

With all the perversion, death and godless living in entertainment, along with all the sinful content found in much of today's pop songs, it's hard to escape and find a safe place to enjoy art. Today's disciples have to war against the spirit of perversion and

violence in this age in the places they used to go for solace. Let us remember the words of Jesus found in the prayer He taught us, “*lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one*” (Matthew 6:13). And what King David said in Psalm 101:3, “*I will not look with approval on anything that is vile.*” Likewise, we would do good to heed the ole’ saying, “Garbage in, garbage out!”

As Jesus taught in today’s passage, we must be vigilant to cut out the things in our lives that cause us to sin. For what in this life is worth going to hell for? I’d rather never watch TV again or see another movie than sin one more time against my Lord and Savior. Though Jesus used a metaphor to make His point- the point still remains powerful- cut out of your life whatever causes you to sin!

Therefore, here are three ways we can stand against evil entertainment; (1) Cut off all forms of entertainment that entice and tempt you to sin- including TV shows, movies, social media, music and video games. (2) Only watch and listen to that which is good and wholesome. We can change what Hollywood produces if we reject the bad and keep choosing the good. (3) Pray for actors, producers, entertainment companies and musicians to get saved and produce godly content.

REFLECTION

Do you believe evil entertainment can negatively impact people’s walk with God?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why evil entertainment is sinful.
2. Pray that God will use you to reach out to those who enjoy evil entertainment.
3. Resources: “*Meaning at the Movies,*” by Grant Horner & “*Hollywood Worldviews,*” by Brian Godawa.

DAY 16: STANDING AGAINST FALSE DOCTRINES

2 Timothy 4:3-4, “3 *For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*”

Not only is the disciple commanded to stand against false religions such as Islam and Mormonism but we are also required to stand against false doctrines in the Christian church. In other words, if Satan cannot get us to forsake the Christian religion for another one on his “buffet of spirituality,” he will try to introduce false teachings into the church itself.

In today’s passage, Paul listed three ways false teachers attract people in the church to believe them. First, the false teachings will suit your own sinful desires. The teacher will attract you by the lusts of your heart. Second, the unbiblical doctrine will tickle (scratch) your ears. It will be like sugar- sweet to the taste but unhealthy for the body. And lastly, they will preach myths as if they were truths. Their doctrine will sound more like a Disney movie than the book of Revelation.

Paul doesn’t hesitate in writing the consequences of such beliefs as seen in Galatians 1:8, “*But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse!*” Paul even went on to write in Galatians 3:1 that the act of believing false doctrines about Christ is like being under a spell, “*You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?*”

Today in the church there are many false doctrines that the disciple has to be aware of. Some false teachings involve keeping the

Jewish laws to be right with God, others may teach that once you are saved you will always be saved no matter how you live (this belief becomes like a “license to sin”). Still today there are false teachers that over emphasize the blessings of God and make prayer and the Christian life all about being rich and comfortable.

No matter the teaching or how convincing the teacher is, if it doesn't line up with the Word of God it's to be rejected.

Here are three ways to stand against false doctrines; (1) Study the Bible and know what it clearly teaches (2 Timothy 2:15). (2) Whenever you encounter a teaching that is not taught in Scripture reject it- no matter who teaches it. (3) Pray for those who have been deceived by believing unbiblical teachings to repent and return to the sound doctrine of the Bible.

REFLECTION

What false doctrines have you encountered in Christian churches?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why false doctrines are sinful. J.C. Ryle said, “We should no more tolerate false doctrine that we would tolerate sin.”
2. Pray that God will use you to reach out to those who have been deceived by unbiblical teachings.
3. Resources: “*Systematic Theology: Revised Edition*,” by Dr. Stanley Horton & “*Biblical Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective*,” by Dr. William Menzies.

DAY 17: STANDING AGAINST CHRISTIAN APATHY

Matthew 24:12-13, *“12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”*

Apathy means, “to lack passion and concern for certain things in life.” To be apathetic in the church means, “to lose one’s passion for the things of God.” Jesus said in today’s passage that in the last days people would grow cold in their love for Him because of the increase of wickedness. James also said, *“If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them”* (James 4:17). Apathy is sin.

The disciple of Christ should never lose their passion for God but rather should do all the good they can, for as long as they can and to as many people as they can.

Today Christians are facing a “War of Worldviews.” As the LGBT agenda has fought its way out of the closet they have slowly pushed Christians into the closet. The same is true in the media, they say they want “diversity,” however; they try to silence whoever has a different opinion than them!

At one time in the U.S. it was mainstream to be a Christian and hold to a biblical worldview, yet now we live in a time where “good” is called “evil” and “evil” is called “good” (Isaiah 5:20-21). For example, when we stand up for traditional marriage we are called “intolerant,” “evil” and “bigoted.” Yet, they call it “good” and “compassionate” to encourage children to get sex changes and be pumped full of dangerous chemicals the rest of their lives!

The pressure to be considered “tolerant,” “accepting” and “loving” has caused many Christians to become apathetic to the world

around them. Some have altogether left the gospel ship and have set sail with the wicked. While others have a “hide and huddle” mindset because they are afraid to rock the boat of culture wanting not to be labeled a “hatemonger.” Still there are some that get more emotional when their favorite sports team loses, than watching their culture be destroyed from the inside out. As Jesus warned in today’s passage, if we’re not careful the love of wickedness in our land can make our hearts cold towards God.

Therefore, we need to rise up and be like the mighty men and women of God that Hebrews 11 described in the “Hall of Faith.” We need to fight the good fight of faith- not only for our generation, but also for all generations to come after us until Jesus returns. In love, we must resist the powers of Satan that use people to bring about his destruction on the earth and establish the Kingdom of God here as it is in heaven.

Here are three ways to stand against apathy; (1) Get on fire for God and stay on fire by the power of the Holy Spirit. (2) Do all the good you can for as long as you can. A wise man once said, “You may not be able to do everything, but you can do something.” (3) Pray for people who are apathetic to awake and be world changers and generation shakers for God!

REFLECTION

Have you been apathetic?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why apathy is sinful.
2. Pray that God will use you to reach out to those in the church who have been apathetic.
3. Resources: *“Revolution in the Church”* & *“Saving a Sick America”* by Dr. Michael Brown.

DAY 18: STANDING FOR JESUS & THE GOSPEL

Hebrews 13:8, *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”*

Kingdoms rise and fall, trends come in and out of style and great leaders build empires and monuments to themselves, but no one can stand in comparison to the unchanging greatness of Jesus Christ. Today’s passage in Hebrews reminds us that Jesus’ power over the universe is unchanging!

John declared in his gospel, *“1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made”* (John 1:1-3). Jesus existed as God the Son in the beginning with God the Father and He made everything you see for His Father’s glory.

By becoming a man, the Son did not lose His divinity but simply added to His nature humanity; thus Jesus was and is fully God and fully man (Philippians 2:6-10 & Colossians 1:15-17). For even after His resurrection, Jesus has chosen to stay in union with the flesh as means of re-making humanity in His image, both in body and spirit (Romans 8:29).

Paul wrote about Jesus’ preeminence over all creation in Philippians 2:10-11, *“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* There is no escaping Jesus’ Kingdom, be sure of this, everyone will bow before Jesus and confess Him as Lord. Are you ready to bow before your Maker?

In a time when the world proudly defies God, comedians and musicians alike ridicule His followers and politicians try to outlaw His Words; Jesus remains unchanged and unmoved. You will grow old and die, your strength will fail and all your accomplishments will evaporate like dew in the heat of day, but Jesus will remain unchanged- shining brighter than the sun.

Every great author's books will vanish, all the wisdom of humanity will disappear but Jesus and His gospel will last forever.

In the end Jesus' gospel will cover the earth like satellite airwaves cover the globe with TV and Internet. John wrote in Revelation 14:6, "*Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.*" Have you accepted Jesus' gospel; the good news of His death, burial and resurrection?

Here are three ways you can stand with Jesus and His gospel; (1) Repent and believe the good news of Jesus Christ. (2) Preach the gospel to as many people as you can. (3) Pray for God to save sinners with His gospel and establish His Kingdom in every part of the world.

REFLECTION

Are you standing for Jesus and the gospel?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why you should stand with Jesus and the gospel.
2. Pray for God to use you to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost. C.T. Studd said, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."
3. Resources: "*The Case for Christ,*" by Lee Strobel & "*The Gospel and Personal Evangelism,*" by Dr. Mark Dever.

DAY 19: STANDING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

2 Timothy 3:16-17, *“16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

“The B-I-B-L-E, yes that’s the book for me. I stand alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E, Bible!” That ole’ children’s song should be the anthem and theme of every disciple’s life for everyday of their life. We don’t stand on the sinking sand of man’s wisdom and opinions, we stand with our head’s held high, shoulders straight and our feet firmly planted on, “Thus saith the Lord!” As the ole’ timers used to say, “If God said it, I believe it and that settles it!”

Sadly, in our culture many who have heard the Word of God have been deceived by evolutionists, atheistic philosophers and the vain babblings of biblical critics and thus have lost their childlike trust in God’s Word. However, despite each and every attack on the Bible—the sixty-six books of the Holy Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation remain firmly intact as God’s inspired and perfect Word.

Remember, unbelievers don’t disobey God’s Word because of historical issues, scientific problems or even because it testifies of miracles; no, unbelievers don’t obey God’s Word because they love their sin.

The sinner’s evil desires allow the devil to keep their eyes blinded to the Scriptures’ relevance and life-changing power. If they would simply humble themselves and repent of their pride, God would open their eyes to the wisdom of His Word. Jesus said in Matthew 13:19, *“When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart.”* God will never force people to believe His Word; each person must decide if they will follow Jesus or not.

Whether a person believes the Bible is their choice; however God's Word will forever be true and every promise, including the ones of judgment, will come to pass. God is not a liar; He will do all that He said He would do (Numbers 23:19). Jesus said in John 12:47-48, *"47 If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day."*

Here are three ways to stand for the Word of God; (1) Believe and accept the validity and veracity of the Bible in its present form. (2) Study the Word of God daily so you can rightly apply it to every area of your life. (3) Preach, pray and plug away. Preach the Word everywhere you go, pray the Word of God everyday and be faithful to plug away until Jesus comes back!

REFLECTION

Is your life built on the Word of God?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why you should stand for the Word of God.
2. Pray that God will use you to reach out to everyone around you with the Word of God.
3. Resources: *"It's Time to Rock the Boat,"* by Dr. Michael Brown & *"Reinventing Jesus,"* by Dr. Daniel Wallace.

DAY 20: STANDING FOR A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

1 John 4:4-5, “4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.”

A “worldview” is the way in which you see the world. Included in one’s worldview are beliefs about God, the purpose of life, morality, family values and even politics. Consider a worldview like the glasses you see the entire world through.

Everyone has a worldview, however, not all worldviews are created equal nor are they all used consistently.

For example, if you had an “atheistic worldview” then everything you see would be filtered through the assumption that there is no god. If you were to be consistent with your worldview while looking at flowers you’d say, “Look at what blind evolutionary processes made accidentally over time.” Or when looking at a baby, “Here is a clump of cells that will help reproduce the human species so that it can hopefully survive another generation.”

However, if you have a “biblical worldview” you’d see the same flowers as the atheist but you’d say, “Look at what God created through His natural laws.” Or when looking at a baby, “I see a beautiful and unique person created in the image of God.” There are many worldviews in life people can chose from. For example, the Islamic worldview, the New Age/Hindu worldview or even the materialistic “me-centered” worldview are options to see the world. However, according to God’s Word there are only two real worldviews- God’s and the world’s.

That is why John in today's passage taught we need to recognize the difference between things that come from God and things that come from the world (including the devil's work because he is the "god/ruler of this age"). The good news for the disciple is that our worldview is greater than all the other perspectives because it comes from God Himself. We shouldn't get discouraged when we see worldly-minded people prospering or convincing other worldly people of their view because Jesus has overcome the world! (John 16:33)

Here are three ways to stand for a biblical worldview; (1) Base all your values on the Word of God. (2) Live your life by God's Word, with prayer being led by the Holy Spirit. (3) Confront other worldviews with the Word of God. Remember; don't let society force you to take off your biblical worldview glasses when you enter the work place, school or government. Everyone, including the godless, wear their worldview glasses everywhere they go- so be sure to wear yours!

REFLECTION

Are you standing for a biblical worldview?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why you should stand for a biblical worldview. Alister McGrath said, "Christianity offers a worldview that leads to the generation of moral values and ideals that are able to give moral meaning and dignity to our existence."
2. Pray that God will use you to reach out with His worldview and compel with sound biblical reason those who see things differently.
3. Resources: "*Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*" by Dr. J.P. Moreland & "*Foundations of Christian Thought*," by Dr. Mark Cosgrove.

DAY 21: STANDING FOR THE TRUTH

2 Corinthians 13:8, *“For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.”*

We live in a time like that of ancient Rome when after Pilot heard Jesus’ mission to *“testify to the truth,”* he proudly retorted, *“What is truth?”* (John 18:37-38). Many people today have adopted a view of truth known as “relativism.” Relativism is a belief system that holds to the point of view that there is no absolute truth. When a relativist hears Christians make biblical truth claims about morality they will usually respond by saying, “Well, that may be true for you, but it’s not true for me.” The reason why they react this way is because they don’t believe truth exists, all truth is really just personal opinion.

However, what is remarkable about this erroneous view of truth is that people actually believe it, even though it is self-defeating and contradictory. For example, when the relativist states, “There is no absolute truth” they are actually making an absolute truth claim. In other words, if there were no absolute truths, no statement could ever be absolutely true, including the one they just made! So a great response to the claim, “There is no absolute truth,” is, “Do you believe your statement, ‘There is no absolute truth’ is absolutely true?”

Another example of relativism’s contradictory nature is when they say, “Your belief may be true for you, but it’s not true for me because nothing is true for everybody.” Like before, this statement makes a claim that truth is always relative. But if truth is always relative, than the statement itself couldn’t be true because it is stated absolutely. You could respond, “Is the statement, ‘It’s true for you but it’s not true for everybody,’ true for everybody?”

I know dealing with people like this can be hard and even seem confusing but the only reason it feels so “mind bending” is because relativism tries to divorce truth (facts corresponding to reality) from logic (how we understand and reason within reality).

If truth and logic don't work together to form a proper understanding of reality the world is reduced to nonsense.

Likewise, if something is illogical it cannot be true and when something is true it will always be logical. Therefore, may we all be like Paul who stated in today's passage, "*We cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth!*"

Here are three ways you can stand for truth; (1) Believe that absolute truth exists because Jesus (the Truth) exists. (2) Demonstrate that science, math and logic discover truth because God made humans in His image to use His well-designed universe to learn more about Him. In other words, the pursuit of truth is really the pursuit to understand the Mind of God. (3) Use the Bible, God's foundation for truth, to help others understand that truth comes from God and is applicable to all areas of their lives. For example, the best scientists, doctors, politicians, workers, inventors, teachers, businessmen and parents are those who believe in God's truths and apply them to their everyday lives.

REFLECTION

What ways have you seen God's truth attacked in your culture?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why it's important to stand for truth.
2. Pray that God will use you to reach out to those who think truth is relative. Dr. Gordon Clark said, "Objections to dogmatism are always dogmatic, and relativisms are always asserted absolutely,"
3. Resources: "*Apologetics: A Justification of Christian Belief*," by Dr. John Frame & "*Stealing from God*," by Dr. Frank Turek.

DAY 22: STANDING FOR THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 3:15, *“If I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”*

The Greek word for church is “*ekklesia*,” and means, “the gathered and called out ones.” Specifically, in regards to Jesus, the church refers to the disciples who are gathered together under the lordship of Jesus to proclaim the gospel and make disciples of the nations. From the Day of Pentecost until now Jesus has been building His church upon disciples that make disciples.

The church made up of Christ’s disciples is the pillar and foundation of all truth in this world.

The church is the only thing that Jesus said He would personally build. He promised the church that the gates of hell would never overcome it (Matthew 16:18). He didn’t say He was going to build a “religion;” Jesus said He was going to build the greatest living organism known to humanity- the church!

The church is also called Christ’s Bride in Revelation 21:9 and His Body in Ephesians 5:23. Jesus chose twelve men to be the foundation of His church and all these men, except for Judas, became the pillars for the church with Jesus as the Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). In New Jerusalem each of the twelve disciples’ names (minus Judas, possibly replaced with Paul) will be on the foundation of the walls and they will rule from twelve thrones as the supreme court of God’s Kingdom (Revelation 12:14 & Luke 22:30).

Though in the last two thousand years there have been certain “churches” and mainline denominations, like the Roman Catholic Church, that have backslid and have been overcome by the devil’s deception. However, the actual Bride of Christ has remained unblemished throughout every generation. She is pure and holy

because Jesus Christ (her husband) has protected her with His Word (sound doctrine) as Paul taught in Ephesians 5:25-27. Someone once said, “The church is in Christ as Eve was in Adam.” Jesus is one with His church and will never be separated from her (Ephesians 5:31-32). Though Satan has tried to use false teachings, perversion, greed and sinful leaders to stop the church, he has failed because today the unified and global church is reaching more people with the truth than ever before!

Therefore, you and I need to stand with the church of Jesus Christ in our generation in the following three ways; (1) Join a biblically based church in your community and be committed to serve and pray for the leadership. (2) Financially support your church with tithes and offerings. The last thing the devil wants is a church with enough money to send missionaries around world and impact its community with charity. (3) Become a leader and join with the other living stones and build Christ’s church for the glory of God (1 Peter 2:5).

REFLECTION

In what ways can you stand for the church in your community?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why you should stand for the church.
2. Pray that God will use you to make disciples that make disciples.
3. Resources: “*Discipleship Based Churches*,” by Joe Wyrostek & “*The Disciple-Making Church*,” by Bill Hull.

DAY 23: STANDING FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28:19-20, “19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The only way the world can be saved is through the power of the gospel (Romans 1:16). The only way the gospel can be heard is if disciples preach it to all creation (Mark 16:15). And the only way disciples can preach the gospel is if they have been trained and sent out by other disciples.

That is why Paul wrote the following in Romans 10:14-15, “*14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’*”

Therefore, Jesus commands every person that believes in Him to be a trained disciple that is sent out to make new disciples. In today’s passage Jesus gave the clearest way in which disciples are made and sent out. These powerful words of Jesus have been known in church history as the “Great Commission.” The Great Commission simply refers to the command for disciples to be trained and commissioned to make new disciples by teaching them all that Jesus commanded.

Jesus’ command to “go and make disciple of all nations” is for all people at all times.

There is no one that is exempt from Jesus' command to be a disciple that makes disciples of the nations. No matter who you are, what you do for a career, your level of education, personality, national identity or schedule in life; you're commanded by Jesus Christ to stand for the Great Commission. No excuses, just results matter to Jesus. Be a fruitful vine in the Father's vineyard or get cut off and thrown out to be burned with the weeds.

Jesus said in John 15:2, "*He [the Father] cuts off every branch in me [Jesus] that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.*" Though good works don't save us, our faith should produce good works because the Father prepared them for us- and there is no greater work than to make a disciple for Jesus (Ephesians 2:10).

Here are three ways you can stand for the Great Commission; (1) Be a disciple that is trained in the local church to be sent out to make new disciples. (2) Pray for God to use you to make disciples for the rest of your life. (3) Encourage every believer in Christ to obey Jesus' command to be a disciple maker of the nations.

REFLECTION

Who are you currently discipling?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why you should stand for the Great Commission.
2. Pray that God will use you to reach out and build the church with disciples that make disciples. The ole' timers used to say, "If you're not trying to make a new disciple, I question if you're really one yourself!"
3. Resources: "*Growing True Disciples,*" by George Barna & "*Disciples That Make Disciples,*" by Joe Wyrstek.

DAY 24: STANDING FOR PRAYER

Mark 14:37, “*Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour?*”

The night of Jesus’ arrest He asked His disciples if they could pray for just one hour, but they ended up falling asleep. The Bible records this event in Mark 14:37-38, “*Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. ‘Simon,’ he said to Peter, ‘are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? 38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.’*”

I still believe Jesus is asking us as His disciples to pray with Him for one hour. We will sit down and watch a two-hour movie and time will fly by. We will attend our favorite sporting games and three hours will pass like seconds and we’ll even get excited when it goes into overtime. However, when it comes to daily private prayer with the Lord, hardly any Christian spends one hour or more alone with God. And sadly, those who try to have a consistent prayer life often times consider their daily devotion more of a chore than a joy.

We as a church should be grieved that the Lord Himself has asked us to pray with Him for one hour and we refuse to make the time.

Is it any wonder we don’t see our lost family members saved or sense God’s presence in our homes? Is it any wonder that our church services are weak and powerless or that we hardly see any demons cast out? Is it any wonder our marriages are falling apart just like in the world or that our children are more depressed and anxious than any generation? Is it any wonder that Marxism is taking over our universities or that most of our politicians and big business are corrupted? Is it any wonder that most Christians feel weak and beat up all the time or that our children have more in common with rappers and sport stars than the disciples in the book of Acts? Prayerlessness always results in powerlessness.

If Jesus, God in the flesh, made time to pray for hours at a time, how much more should we pray for at least one hour a day? One preacher noted concerning today's passage, "When Jesus prayed, the disciples slept. However, when the Jews came to arrest Jesus, they ran away afraid but Jesus stood strong. What made the difference? Prayer." Another way of saying it is, "Those who pray- stay; and those who don't pray- stray."

Make a personal stand for prayer in the following four ways; (1) Develop a consistent prayer life everyday (1 Thessalonians 5:17). (2) Encourage those around you to faithfully pray and seek God's will for their life (Matthew 7:7-8). (3) Pray with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6). (4) Make prayer and communion with God as normal as thinking to yourself. Be aware of God's presence everywhere you go (Psalm 16:11).

REFLECTION

How is your prayer life?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why you should stand for prayer. The reason prayer was so easily removed from our schools and government is because it was already removed from our homes and churches.
2. Pray that God will use you to encourage others to have a prayer life.
3. Resources: "*Prayer*," by E.M. Bounds & "*Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*," by Jim Cymbala.

DAY 25: STANDING FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Ephesians 5:31-32, “31 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.”

God said it was not good for man to be alone so He gave Eve to Adam and told them to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:28). Families were designed by God to be a place where relational and emotional needs can be met everyday. Martin Luther wrote, “There is no more lovely, friendly or charming relationship, communion or company, than a good marriage.”

When a family is built on the Word of God, with God at the center, it is the single greatest force on the earth.

You must decide that you and your house are going to serve the Lord together (Joshua 24:15). Each member in the family should be the person God commanded them to be and desire unity in the home. When the family operates in divine unity, God will pour out His blessings upon the house and all who live in it.

Sadly, one of the newest and most destructive trends eroding the foundations of marriage and the family in the U.S. is couples living together and not being married. Between 2006 and 2010, 48% of women 15 to 44 years old said they were not married to their spouse or partner when they first lived with them; that is up from 34% in 1995.

Nearly 75% of all women ages 30 or younger said they lived with a partner outside of marriage at some point in their lives. And the length of time people now live together before marriage is increasing from 13 months in 1995 to 22 months in 2010. As a result of living together before marriage, only 31% of women today are married as compared to 92% in 1920, which is basically a 60% drop in marriage over the last 100 years. The average age for a woman to get married is

at a record high of 27 years old. And if the cohabitating couple ever does get married (only around 1 out of 5 actually do), they have an 80% higher rate of divorce than those who didn't live together before marriage!

Therefore, take a stand for godly marriage and families in the following five ways; (1) Read God's Word together as a family at home. (2) Worship and sing songs to God. (3) Pray and lift up each other's needs. (4) Talk to each other about things that really matter in life. Ask each family member what his or her specific needs are and help them through challenging times. (5) Plan special days and events just to be alone as a family- no TV, phones or distractions.

God gave humanity marriage and family so that we could feel love from each other and not be alone in this world. Decide right now to personally stand for your family!

REFLECTION

In what ways can you stand for marriage and family in your life?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why you should stand for godly marriage and family.
2. Pray that God will use you to reach out to others who don't have a healthy marriage or family.
3. Resources: "*Five Love Languages*," by Dr. Gary Chapman & "*God, Marriage, and Family*," by Dr. Andreas Kostenberger.

DAY 26: STANDING FOR CHRISTIAN CHARITY

Matthew 25:35-36, “35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

In today’s passage Jesus gave a picture of Judgment Day in regards to charitable giving to His people. According to this entire passage known as “The Sheep and the Goats,” one of the main things that Jesus is going to judge us by is our acts of kindness to others, especially Christians. These acts of kindness such as feeding the hungry, housing the homeless and clothing the naked will be considered as done unto Jesus Himself, when we do them in His name.

Therefore, every disciple of Christ should stand for Christian Charity (acts of kindness done in Jesus’ name). On average Christians account for the largest single group of people who give to charitable causes- over \$545 billion dollars worldwide. Though this number is enormous it is only 1.8% of Christianity’s annual income, which is around \$30.5 trillion dollars (totaled by adding together all who claim Christ around the world).

Just in the U.S. the average Christian currently gives less to the church in terms of percentage than during the Great Depression, from 3.3% to 2.6% of their total income. We as Christians can do more for others if we do less for ourselves. Do we really need all the stuff we spend our money on? I believe we should all spend less and give away more. For Jesus said, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*” (Acts 20:35).

What we do for others in Christ’s name will become treasures in heaven to be enjoyed forevermore in the Kingdom of our God.

Here are three ways to stand for Christian charity; (1) Be faithful to give 10% of your total income (a tithe) to your local church and 5% to charities (specifically to missions and local church outreaches). (2) Live a generous life towards those around you. For example, consider giving away what you would normally try to sell in a “garage sale.” (3) Pray for God to use you to touch people’s hearts with your life by meeting their needs. Look for opportunities each day to do something for someone else.

REFLECTION

Do you give to Christian charities?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why you should stand for Christian charity.
2. Pray that God will use you to be a generous giver. A pastor once said, “God increases our wealth not only to increase our standard of living, but to also increase our standard of giving!”
3. Resources: “*Compassion, Justice, and the Christian Life*,” by Dr. Robert Lupton & “*When Helping Hurts*,” by Steve Corbett.

DAY 27: STANDING FOR HOLINESS

1 Thessalonians 5:23, *“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

When Jesus came to this earth He walked in perfect holiness. He lived a life that was separate from the sinful world. Jesus taught His disciples to come out from the world and live like Him. For you to truly be the disciple Jesus wants you to be, you must desire to be holy how He is holy (2 Corinthians 6:17).

Peter also outlined the call to be holy in 1 Peter 1:13-16, *“13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”*

Holiness is first “being” holy and second “doing” holy things. Jesus said to “be” perfect like your Heavenly Father is perfect because we can never live sinless until we’ve first been made sinless (Matthew 5:48). God knows that no one is born perfect, that is why He sent Jesus to die for our sins to make us perfect when we’re born again. Therefore, holiness is not just “doing” what God commanded, it is “being” who God commanded.

On the cross, Jesus became what I was (sinful) so that I might become what He is (righteous).

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:21, *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”* God’s plan was not only for us to be saved from our sins but also to be sanctified from our sins. Like Paul wrote in today’s passage we are to be completely sanctified in our body, soul (mind, will &

emotions) and spirit; being kept blameless (perfect, holy and without sin) until Jesus returns.

In other words, Jesus commanded us to be perfect like His Father because He not only came to give us salvation but He also came to give us total sanctification. Sanctification means to be made perfectly holy- without sin, stain or blemish. Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 that when we were saved we were also sanctified; along with being washed and justified. He wrote, “*9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*”

The power of sin was broken in your life and the presence of sin was totally removed the moment you were saved. By the righteousness of Jesus you are able to live a holy life free from sin- now that’s good news! John Wesley said, “This great gift of God, the salvation of our souls, is no other than the image of God fresh stamped on our hearts.”

Therefore, stand for holiness in the following three ways: (1) Believe and declare that by the blood of Jesus you have been saved and sanctified. You’ve been made holy to live holy. (2) Live holy by the indwelling power and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. (3) Teach others to forsake all their sin and live for Jesus!

REFLECTION

Are you holy like God is holy?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why you should stand for holiness.
2. Pray that God will use you to teach others about holiness.
3. Resources: “*A Plain Account of Christian Perfection,*” by John Wesley & “*The Knowledge of the Holy,*” by A.W. Tozer.

DAY 28: STANDING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

James 5:16, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

Accountability is an important part of church life that is missing today in many churches. Sadly, most Christians aren't accountable to anyone. When they struggle with sin they often times don't know the path of victory and when they need encouragement they have to go looking for someone to help instead of already having someone in place. King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 11:14, "*Victory is won through many advisers.*" God designed us to grow in community.

For example, when a married man battles with pornography in the church, most of the time he will do so alone. He will not have encouragement or receive the power that is given through praying with other disciples. Every church should have accountability as a normal part of its culture because as James said in today's passage, confessing our sins to each other brings healing and deliverance.

If every church taught its people to have an accountability partner, hypocrisy would leave and community change would come through transformed lives!

Accountability is nothing new. We expect it in our government, with our police and on our jobs. Any time you ask to speak with a manager you're practicing accountability because you want the employee to be held to a higher standard. Similarly everyone in society is held accountable to the laws of the land and if they break them they suffer the consequences. Even violating the law and receiving parking tickets, if left unpaid, could result in someone being sent to jail.

Jesus taught accountability in the church because He didn't want His people going rogue and doing whatever they felt was right. He gave a standard of living based on His commands and He wanted

all His disciples to live by them. At the same time, if some people didn't want to follow His commands, He set up disciplinary procedures to protect the sheep in Matthew 18:15-17.

Today's local church leadership must take the appropriate actions to insure that their disciples are holy and that the church they oversee is unified in biblical order. Leaders are to even disfellowship and expel people who are unrepentant of their sin so that God's people can thrive without rebellion in their midst (1 Corinthians 5:1-13). Thankfully, most people will never be in the kinds of situations Jesus and Paul mentioned in regards to "Church Discipline." However, they serve as good reminders to how serious God takes our obedience.

Here are three ways to stand for accountability in the church;

- (1) Be in an accountable relationship with someone of the same gender so that you can grow spiritually. Confess your weaknesses, celebrate your victories and pray together. Someone once said, "Those who aren't accountable to somebody, should be trusted by nobody."
- (2) Continually set goals based on what you want to see change in your life. For example, "be patient," "speak words of encouragement," "live free from perversion," "have a great marriage," etc.
- (3) Be a person of good character and godly conduct in all that you do. Paul said in Ephesians 5:3, "*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.*"

REFLECTION

Do you have an accountability partner?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why you should stand for accountability. Stephen R. Covey said, "Accountability breeds responsibility."
2. Pray that God will use you to reach out to those who need accountability.
3. Resources: "*Covenant Discipleship*," by David Watson & "*Great Excuses of the Bible*," by Howard Goldthwaite.

DAY 29: STANDING FOR SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

Hosea 6:1-2, “1 Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.”

The definition of revival is, “a spiritual awakening of the church in their love for God and people that impacts the community with salvation, discipleship and community transformation.” The basis of revival can be seen in the Old Testament, as the prophets would express the heart of God towards backslidden Israel. For example, in today’s passage Hosea is pleading with the people of Israel to come back to God and ask for His healing because their sin brought about His judgment. Hosea went on to write in the same chapter, “*Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth*” (Hosea 6:3). For something to be revived or brought back to life it must have been living. Revival is about God’s people coming back to Him and following His ways.

Revival is not for those who are already dead spiritually but rather it is for those who’ve been alive and are now dying.

The book of Acts doesn’t mention the need for the disciples to experience a spiritual revival because the early Christians lived in a state of revival. However, by the end of the 1st century, John recorded in Revelation that Jesus said some of the churches had lost their first love (Revelation 2:4), were full of false doctrine (Revelation 2:14-16) and had become lukewarm (Revelation 3:16).

Consider how much more the great majority of churches in the U.S. (and many around the world) need to be revived. Some churches

have gone so far from the truth that they ordain homosexuals in the ministry. Also, there are many churches with good doctrines but they have lost their passion to win the lost and make disciples because the pastors are more concerned with preaching to those in the pews than reaching the lost on the streets! Still others have polluted the pure gospel with greed, lawlessness and selfish ambition. One preacher said, “The church can’t change the world because the world has already changed the church.”

I can speak personally as a leader in the U.S. that we need to see a massive awakening of the church in our country or we will lose an entire generation. Already stats point to just 7% of Americans are committed Christians and the number is as low as 4% with those under 30! While we have the largest churches, hippest music, coolest websites, entertaining social media and the most popular speakers- the gospel ship is sinking faster than at any other time in our history. Christianity has declined in the U.S., while Islam and Atheism have grown exponentially. We need a move of God and we need it now! Our prayer should be, “*God send revival- start in my life, family and church.*”

Here are four ways to stand for spiritual revival; (1) No matter the cost, live 100% for Jesus Christ. (2) Be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, and be an empowered witness for Jesus (Acts 1:8). (3) Join a church that lives in a state of revival. (4) Reach out to lukewarm Christians and inspire change by your Christ-centered life!

REFLECTION

Do you know any Christians that need to experience spiritual revival?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why you should stand for spiritual revival.
2. Pray for backslidden Christians and leaders to return to Jesus.
3. Resources: “*Why Revival Tarries,*” by Leonard Ravenhill & “*Revival Fire,*” by Dr. Wesley Duewel.

DAY 30: STANDING FOR CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Proverbs 29:2, *“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.”*

The definition of a cultural revolution is, “the inward turning of a society to the commands of God resulting in the forsaking of sin for the righteousness of God.” Examples of cultural revolutions birthed by the Holy Spirit can be seen in Jonah 3:7-10, Acts 8:4-8 and Acts 19:11-20.

Whenever Christians live like Christ, cultures are turned around for the glory of God.

This cultural shift may move slowly like it does currently in China with the underground house church movement or fast like it has in the African nations of Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. Whether the change is fast or slow, it is impossible for a culture to stay the same when Christians live like disciples of Christ.

Within 300 years of Jesus’ ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Roman Empire became a Christian nation. Jesus brought Rome to its knees without one battle. Also consider that during the founding of the United States of America, currently the most powerful and wealthiest nation in the world, the Bible was the main source for governmental structure, economic policies and human rights; along with Christianity being the foundation for universities like Harvard, Princeton and Yale.

America’s founding President George Washington in his first Thanksgiving Proclamation in 1789 boldly declared over the newly founded nation, “That we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions- to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and

relative duties properly and punctually- to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed- to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord- To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue and the increase of science among them and us- and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.”

Sadly, the reason why the U.S. is plagued with violence and corruption today is because we have left the foundation of God’s Word for the sandy ways of men. However, when the lights go out in your house you don’t curse the darkness and expect change. Rather you change the light bulb and let light chase away the darkness. In the same way, we cannot curse the wickedness of our culture and expect change; we must change our values and shine like the lights Jesus made us to be.

Here are three ways to stand for a cultural revolution; (1) Live your life for God in such a way that people around you will want the kind of life you possess. (2) Practice the values of your faith in everything you do- on the job, when you vote, with your neighbors, etc. (3) Pray for God’s Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven! (Matthew 6:10)

REFLECTION

Do you believe God can transform your culture?

ACTION

1. Explain from the Bible why you should stand for a cultural revolution.
2. Pray that God will use you to bring a cultural revolution.
3. Resources: “*Revolution in the Church*,” by Dr. Michael Brown & “*Turn the World Upside Down*,” by Dr. Michael Maiden.

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