CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP A Disciplined Christian (Part III)

Dimensions of A Disciplined Life

Scripture Reading:

"8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:8-10).

Introduction:

- **A.** Biblical Discipline has a positive and essential place in the lives of God's children. God has prescribed a way of life for His children we are to be obedient to God and His Word.
- **B.** Noah walked with God because his life was lined up with God's ways. No one can walk together except they be agreed. Two men were trying to get a piece of furniture through a doorway. After much frustration and energy was expended, the men stopped and looked at each other with a puzzled look. It was finally determined they were pulling in opposite directions. Noah walked with God. He went in God's direction.

Points To Ponder:

- 1. A disciplined life causes us to make right choices that leads to godly and positive results.
- 2. It is not always easy to do the Father's will. It was not easy to climb Calvary's Hill. But we as His children, should learn to obey; Not seeking our own but seeking His way.

For this lesson, we will focus on four dimensions of a Disciplined Life:

I. **Disciplined Mind** (Phil 2:5)

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

Christ is the Divine Example for Christians to imitate. We should daily seek to have:

- o A <u>Selfless</u> Mind thinking "on the things of others (Phil 2:4).
- A Sacrificial Mind willing to go the extra mile for others' welfare.
- A Serving Mind a willingness to render any service that will help others.
- o Jesus consistently thought of others. Therefore, we should imitate the "Mind of Christ" in our spiritual lives. The mind that follows Christ produces a life that obeys Christ.
- "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Cor 4:5).
- "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Phil 1:27).
- "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind" (Phil 2:2).

• "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:7).

II. Disciplined Time (Ps 90:12)

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Ps 90:12).

Realizing that life is short should make us value every day of our lives and spend each one wisely in obedience to Christ and in such a way that it will count for eternity.

- **A.** Numbering our days helps us to spend them in pursuit of wisdom, goodness, and The Kingdom of God (Matt 6:33).
- **B.** Numbering our days helps us to realize that each day is a valuable gift and an opportunity to store up treasure in Heaven (Luke 12:34; Rev 22:12).

Study Question #1:

How are you numbering your days? What do you want to do in your lifetime before you die? **Be An Obedient Servant For Jesus!**

III. Disciplined Worship (Heb 10:22-25)

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb 10:25).

- **A.** We should continue to meet together often and never to desert our coming together not even for a short while (as some do "as the manner of some is").
- **B.** Coming together: (1) Draws us Near God (v. 22), (2) Holds fast our profession of Faith (v. 23) and (3) Stirs up one another to love and to do good work (v. 24).

Points To Ponder:

- 1. Christ died for our sins. We are saved by grace (Eph 2:8-9). Jesus is the head of the church (Eph 5:23; Col 1:17-18a). To forsake the church means to turn one's back on Christianity (and revert to Judaism as some did at the writing of this letter).
- 2. Christ purchased the church "with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me; the world behind me, the cross before me, The world behind me, the cross before me; no turning back, no turning back.

IV. Disciplined Bible Study (Prov 2:1-6; 2 Tim 3:14-15)

Christians are to not only possess a Bible, but to read it, study it, memorize it and meditate upon it.

A. Quotes about the Bible

- 1. "Don't fall in the trap of studying the Bible without doing what it says" Fran Chan
- 2. "Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the Book widens and deepens with our years" Charles Spurgeon

- 3. "The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you the Bible" Dwight L. Moody
- **4.** "Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people ever read" William J. Toms

B. Study The Word of God (2 Tim 2:15)

We should be diligent to present ourselves approved unto God. Our efforts should be concentrated on becoming a worker who does not need to be ashamed. We can do this by rightly dividing the Word of Truth – which means to handle the Scripture correctly, to "Hew the Line" or to manage rightly to treat truth fully without falsifying.

C. Meditate on the Word of God (Ps 119:9-11)

We must be able to memorize, meditate, obey, and recite the Word of God. Obey means hiding the Word in the heart.

D. "All Scripture is Given by Inspiration of God" (2 Tim 3:16)

- 1. It is profitable for **Doctrine** Teaching what is right
- 2. It is profitable for **Reproof** Refuting error, what is not right
- 3. It is profitable for <u>Correction</u> Tells how to get right (shows the way to get right)
- **4.** It is profitable for instruction in **Righteousness** It teaches how to stay right, to live Godly lives.

Conclusion:

A. Four Dimensions of a Disciplined Life (Part III)

- **1. Disciplined Mind** we must imitate the mind of Christ: Be selfless, sacrificial, and serving.
- **2. Disciplined Time** due to the brevity of life, value and use each day wisely in obedience to Christ.
- 3. **Disciplined Worship** always come together with fellow Christians. Do not turn your back on Jesus who is the Head of the Church.
- 4. Disciplined Bible Study read, meditate, memorize, and study the Word of God.

B. Take My Life

- 1. "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Ps 90:12).
- 2. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom 12:1).
- <u>3.</u> Take my life and let it be, Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move, at the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet and let them be, Swift and beautiful for Thee.

4. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)

Memory Verse:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom 12:1).

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"...but the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isa 40:8).