

Today's Sermons

Morning: Christian Living is about Sacrifice
 Evening: Studies in Ephesians: Walk In Unity

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	40
Sunday AM Worship	51
Sunday PM Worship	23
Wed. Bible Study	28
Offering	\$1596



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What Manner of Persons Ought You to Be?

Jim Bullington

The word "ought" is a word that speaks of obligation and duty. Peter's question, "What manner of persons ought you to be..." in 2 Peter 3:11 speaks these things. The larger context says, "Therefore, since all these things [the physical universe] will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?" (2 Peter 3:11-12). There are two things in this section of 2 Peter that Christians ought to do. We will examine these two things.

First, Christians are to "be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless" and to "beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked" (2 Peter 3:11 and 2 Peter 3:17). Christians ought to act in a manner that moves us closer to Christ and further away from the error of the wicked. Remaining faithful to God is not a passive matter; it requires diligent effort. When Peter said "be diligent," he imposed upon us the requirement of concerted and focused effort. Furthermore, when he said, "Beware," he spoke of imminent danger that might befall us. A shepherd "keeps watch" over his sheep (Luke 2:8), and a soldier "guards" his prisoner (Acts 28:16). In just that way, Christians are to "beware" lest we fall from our own steadfastness.

Continued Inside

Minister:

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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship:...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

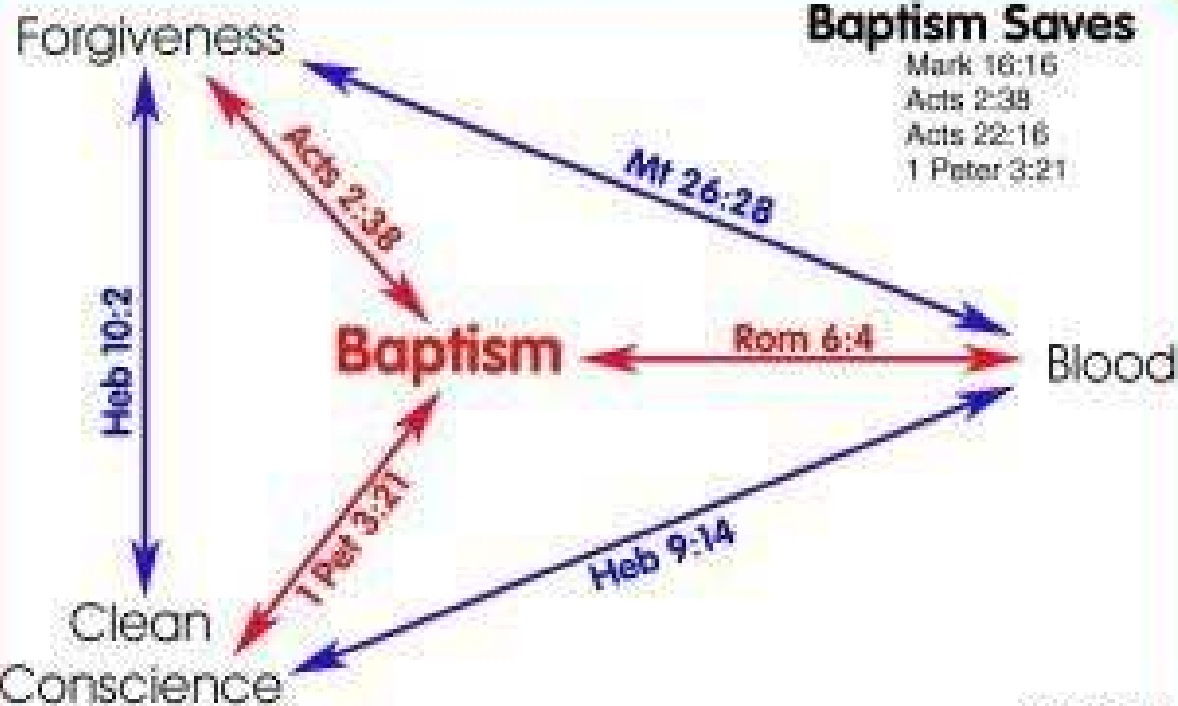
Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**



A MAN OF GOD

Leon Cole

Secondly, Christians are challenged to "...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18a). The operative word here is "grow." In his first epistle, Peter wrote, "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Peter 2:1-3; emphasis mine, jb). The laying aside of carnal things was to be accompanied by an increase in desire for spiritual things. Their growth was to be accomplished through a sincere desire for the pure milk of God's word. In that same manner, Peter challenges his readers to "...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Growth in Christ is accomplished through the diligent study and application of His word; unlike growth in the physical arena which may cease or be diminished due to genetic or other influences over which we have no control.

Therefore, Christians "ought" to order their lives in a particular manner. God has the right as the One Lawgiver, to determine what we ought and ought not to be and do (James 4:12). We did not create ourselves; God is our Sovereign Creator. We owe Him! That debt of gratitude and service is inherent in every soul. Like the person who is devoid of rational thinking and who continues to spend when their funds are no more, we can deny our spiritual debt and keep charging against tomorrow. However, the fact is, we are all spiritually bankrupt. The only way out of debt is to acknowledge Christ's supremacy and receive healing through His gospel.

Beware! Grow! These are Christian duties and responsibilities. Heed!

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"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:19-21).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Oct 30 – Song Service
- Nov 6 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

The word "man" in the Bible is used in at least two senses: the generic sense and to designate the male of the species. Another expression in the Bible regarding man is "man of God". Moses, Elisha, and David are called "men of God". A casual glance at our world prompts one to see that men of God are quite rare.

A misconception exists as to what makes a man of God. Piety or generosity does not necessarily make for a man of God. First he must be a Christian having been born again (John 3:5).

A man of God has a strong abiding faith in God. Romans 4:3 states, "Abraham believed God and it was accounted unto him for righteousness". When Abraham believed God, he did what God told him to do. Hence a man of God will actively serve God and not content himself with taking the Lord's Supper once a week.

The man of God does not conform to society's standards. To be a real man according to society one may be uncouth, a social tippler and extremely broad-minded. But Paul tells the man of God to "flee these things" (1 Timothy 6:11). How is it then that it has almost become commonplace to hear of members of the church using profane language and telling smutty jokes?

The man of God conducts himself properly as a husband and father. The husband is the head of the wife (Ephesians 5:22-24). A man who is governed by the whims of his wife is not a man but just a male of the species wearing pants. There is difficulty in determining what is needed most: the woman being told where her place is or the man given a whipping for being a slacker. Husbands are to dwell with their wives according to knowledge in love, looking upon her as the weaker vessel. If he is a man of God he will love, honor, cherish, protect and provide for his wife.

A man of God will be a good father, if he has children. A father is not to provoke his children to wrath (Ephesians 6:4). Fathers sometimes issue unreasonable commands or they may be needlessly severe or punish in a fit of anger. There is often an inclination to restrain and punish a child without first teaching and training. So often, we make the mistake of thinking children should act like adults! There are times when we need to be children with them while acting as an advisory council for them.

There's not much challenge to be a man by the standards of society. But to be a man by God's standards is a rather difficult task. I wonder how many are meeting the challenge.