

Lesson 22

FEB 29, 2024

Godly living in relation to Governments

Titus 3:1- Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

Review of Titus 3:1

1. As Christians, we are to obey our governmental authorities, pay our taxes and be good citizens in a government that is operating under God's authority as ministers of God for good.
2. Governments and rulers set up under God have LIMITED authority and if that authority goes outside of its God given authority, we are not required to obey it.
3. We are not to start Revolutions or be the ones trying to overthrow legitimate Government, however, we have the right to resist when government becomes tyrannical. (In this country, the Constitution is that defining law of the land). The elected members that make up this government body, are representatives of the people and all swear an oath to defend the United States Constitution.
4. Resistance is not Revolution. Revolution involves offensive aggression against a government to overthrow it or destroy it. The founding of our country is usually referred to as the

Revolution against Great Britain, but calling it a revolution is a misnomer. The Colonies did not attack or try to overthrow anyone. They wrote a Declaration of Independence to free themselves from the tyrannical king of Great Britain. They did not want war, they simply wanted to be free from tyranny. Of course, King George started the war, but the colonies finished it.

5. Resisting Tyranny is defensive resistance against abuse.

Note To have a greater understanding of these things, you can read Pastor Mike Smith's book called

"Tolerating Tyranny" - Security Sought, Freedom Lost

The link can be found on the homepage of the CBC Website:

countrybiblechurch.us

Godly living in relation to All People

Titus 3:2- to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

to malign no one - Blasphemeo, βλασφημέω, (v.pan); to speak in a disrespectful way that demeans, denigrates, maligns, in relation to human slander, revile, defame.

This has to do with grace orientation and our attitude toward other people. This does not imply we should be a doormat when others malign you, but we are told "to speak evil of no

man" - "to speak evil" is a present active infinitive of "Blasphemeo" which means to malign, to revile, to injure the reputation of someone else because of mental attitude sins toward them. There is a negative word that follows, Medeis, "μηδείς" which means "not even one" or "no one, or "no man."

So, the translation in the Greek reads **"Do not malign anyone, not even one!"**

to be peaceable - Peaceful, not looking for a fight. "to not be brawlers." The word for "brawler" is Amachos, αμαχος. It doesn't just mean avoidance of a fist fight which comes to blows, it really means to be non-contentious. A believer who refrains from sins of the tongue, refrains from being a troublemaker. In other words, maligners and slanderers have mental attitude sin hang-ups, reject authority, become jealous, become vindictive and implacable. A contentious believer has rejected authority.

(question-who's authority?)

James 3:17 - But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

Gentle - means yielding, kind, courteous, tolerant and meekness.

(Meekness) - Not in the way we would use the word, like being a softie, but it means reasonable and fair. It is a grace orientation word. A Christ-like person becomes reasonable and fair and therefore has a relaxed mental attitude toward others; being kind, tolerant, Patient and courteous.

Christian meekness must overcome evil with good when tempted to return evil for evil.

THIS MEEKNESS MUST BE SHOWN, not hidden within ourselves, but it must be brought into the light, so others may have the benefit of it, as this grace is a sign of our faith in Christ, and reflects Christ in us!

Col. 3:12-13 - Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

This character of Grace should be the ornament we wear, whereby we glorify God, and win others to the liking of it.

Meekness is mighty in God's eyes. He loves the meek. They are the most like His Son - resembling Him in just that quality which

was His most prominent characteristic. Still again, the might of meekness is seen in its power to secure happiness.

Who are the winners in the chase of happiness in life? Those who chase Pride? Passions? Ambitions? Wealth? No!

Yet, from the bustling and anxious crowds, we can see the meek man already inheriting the earth and in joyous expectancy of Christ, whom is to come. The need for worldly passions/pleasures is over for the believer. The meek man has learned to recognize, in all events of life that affect him, they are not by accident, but of Providence by God. They are not by a blind fate, but a kind and wise Father is responsible. The peace of God that passes all understanding keeps his heart secure. The meek man is free in Christ!

Phil 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1Tim 3:3 - not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

showing every consideration for all men - We should be considerate for all men. Some are harder to get along with but we must still get along with them.

Translation: "To malign no one, to refrain from trouble making, be reasonable, demonstrate [giving outward proof of] grace orientation, face to face with all men."

We reflect God's Grace to others when we do this!

Christian virtues stand out to unbelievers!

Now, here is the reason WHY we should do this:

Titus 3:3 - For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

Paul never forgot the sinful condition from which he and his converts had been salvaged, and he reminded them of it once more. Instead of the gracious, Christ-like people he was encouraging them to be, they once were just the opposite, being foolish instead of sensible, disobedient instead of submissive, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures instead of self-disciplined and ready for every good work. Far from being peaceable, considerate, and humble, they were

characterized by malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. Such is the brutish existence of people apart from God. We all have a history of a life far from God and exceedingly evil. Do we remember from where we came, before Christ delivered us from our slavery to sin?

[We were foolish](#)...unbelievers. (Rom. 11:30, Col, 3:7)

There are two categories of past stupidity:

a) **as an unbeliever** - The unbeliever has no human spirit, therefore has no provision for understanding bible doctrine and is therefore ignorant of spiritual phenomena;

1 Corinthians 2:14 - But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

b) **as a new believer or as a carnal believer**. Negative volition toward Bible doctrine means ignorance. The greatest virtue in the Christian life is knowledge of doctrine. So, the first thing that characterizes our past is lack of understanding of doctrine.

2 Peter 2:20 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and

Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

Disobedient - God allows an **unbeliever** to understand the Gospel message, (Common Grace) then he must decide whether he believes the information to be true. If he does, then he puts his trust in Jesus Christ and is given the free gift of eternal life! (Efficacious Grace) The Holy Spirit takes his positive faith and converts it into Salvation. (Tit. 1:16)

If he decides he does not believe the gospel message, he remains in defiance to God and his destiny is in danger of going to the Lake of Fire.

For a believer.....He can experience divine discipline and eventually suffer from the sin unto death. A believer can restore fellowship with God when he acknowledges his sin to God.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Deceived - meaning to be led astray from the truth. You have received the truth when you heard the gospel. If you reject it, you are being deceived. If you have heard it and believed and then leave your faith, you will enter divine discipline. Many are

deceived by religions that distort the word of God. The right church is critical for getting accurate teaching.

(2 Tim. 3:13)

Enslaved to our many lusts, pleasures and behaviors

These things separate us from God. We all have to work on this area of our lives. We love our sin. We can even be passionate about it.

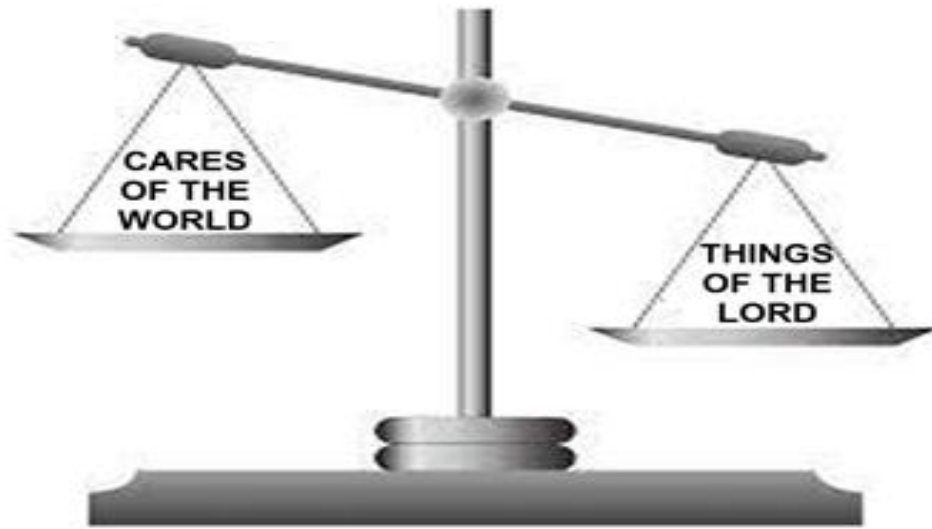
(Enslaved -Rom 6:6,12) (Lusts/Pleasures - 2 Tim 3:6, Tit. 2:12)

Paul says this:

Rom 6:16 - Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

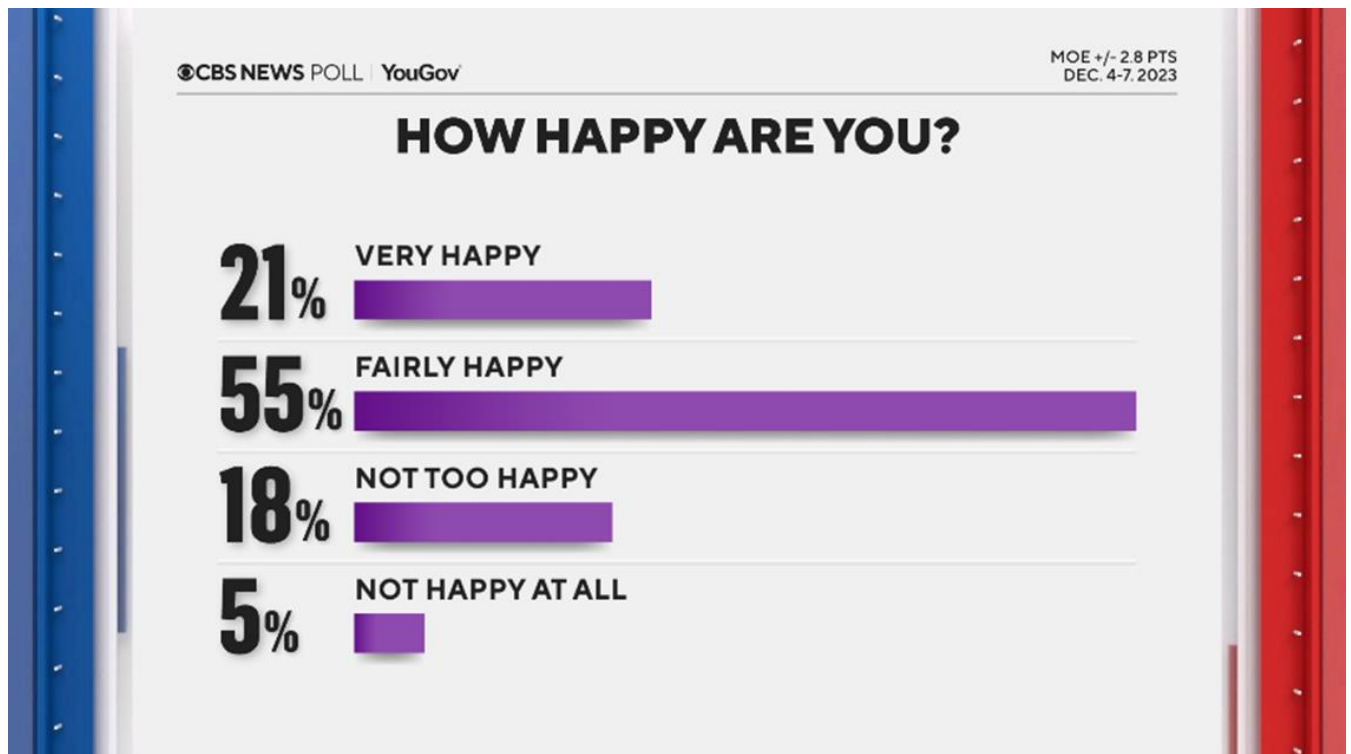
Rom 6:20 - For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. (Following the Cares of the world)

Rom 6:18 - and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. (Following the things of the Lord)



We surround ourselves with worldly pleasures that we put before God. Do they really make us happy? Maybe temporarily, and then we are on to the next thing, searching for happiness.

What pleasures are in your life that take you away from God?



Ecclesiastes 2:26 - For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight; but to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Psalm 144:15b Happy are the people whose God is the LORD! People are on a frantic search for happiness. It is impossible to find happiness absent of the Lord.