

It is a fact that we are challenged daily in our walk with the Lord. As such, how must we live to follow Christ?

Deuteronomy 5:33, "You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and *that it may be well with you.*"

As such Jesus said:

John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Matthew 16:24, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

John 10:27, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

Why must we follow Christ as Lord?

Ephesians 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Our only secure source of truth being:

Psalms 119:105, "Your Word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

What's more?

Romans 6:4, "We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Therefore:

1 John 2:6, "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

How committed am I to walk to follow Christ and abide in Him?

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How are we enjoined to stand firm against the enemy of our faith?

Ephesians 6:13-17:

<sup>13</sup> "Take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

<sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

<sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God"

What must we be on guard against and why?

Galatians 5:19-21, "The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

What's more?

James 4:7, "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Therefore:

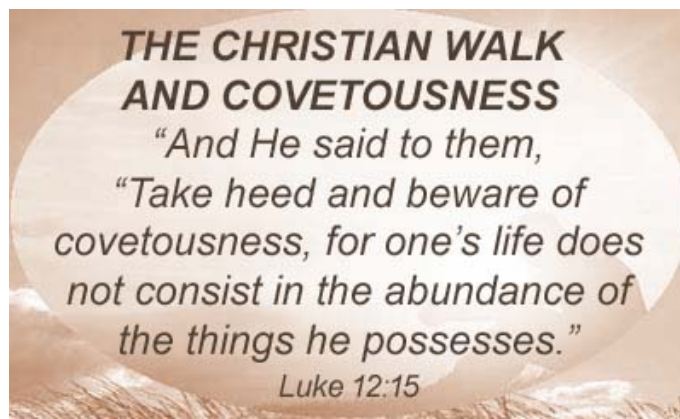
Matthew 26:41, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

1 Corinthians 16:13, "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."

Am I steadfastly wearing the armor of God?

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What does the Word of God teach us about covetousness?

1 John 2:15-17, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

As such Jesus warned us:

Mark 4:19, "The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful."

Luke 12:15, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

What's more?

Ephesians 5:5, "For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

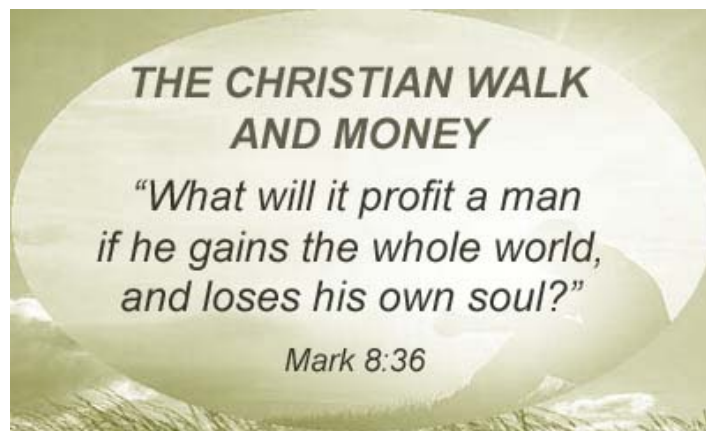
Therefore:

Hebrews 13:5, "*Let your conduct be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

Galatians 5:16, "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Do I trust God or does my hope abide in this world?

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How are we warned against lusting for money?

1 Timothy 6:9, "Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition."

Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Why?

1 Corinthians 6:10, "For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

As such:

Revelation 3:17-18, "You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see."

Why?

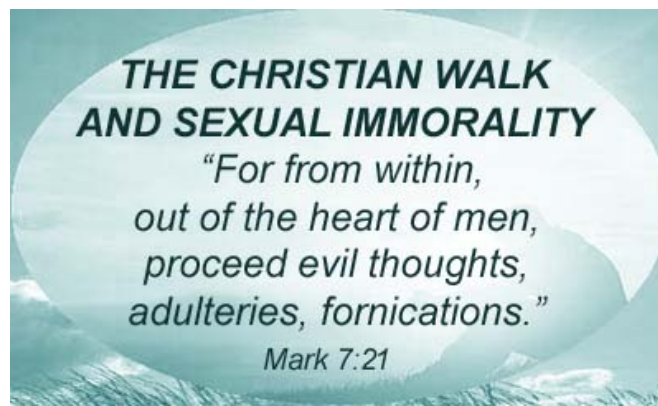
Matthew 6:24, "You cannot serve both God and money."

Therefore:

Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

Whom do I serve, God or money?

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What does the Word of God clearly tell us about rejecting sexual immorality?

1 Corinthians 6:18, "Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body."

1 Corinthians 6:9-10, "Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, --- nor adulterers, --- nor homosexuals, --- nor sodomites, will inherit the kingdom of God."

Why?

1 Thessalonians 4:3, "This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality."

What's more?

Matthew 5:28, "I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Leviticus 18:22, "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination."

As such:

Romans 1:27, "Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."

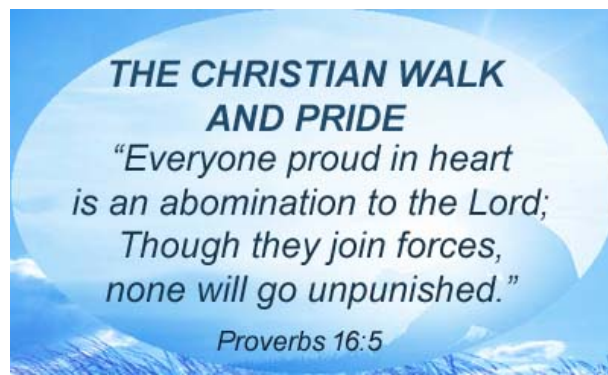
Therefore:

1 Corinthians 6:19, "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"

Colossians 3:5, "Put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire."

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How does God deal with the pride of life?

James 4:6, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Proverbs 8:13, "Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate."

As such:

Proverbs 16:18, "Pride *goes* before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Proverbs 26:12, "Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? *There is* more hope for a fool than for him."

Why?

1John 2:16, "For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world."

Therefore:

Philippians 2:3, "*Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."

Romans 12:16, "Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion."

Titus 2:12, "Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."

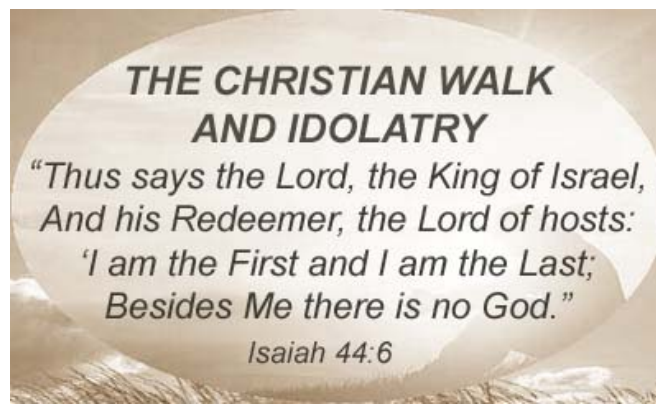
Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Pride being an abomination to God, will I boast of my accomplishments, or will I rather humbly thank God for having given me talents?

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How are we commanded to truly live to worship God as opposed to the idols of the world?

Exodus 20:3, "You shall have no other gods before Me."

As such:

Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other."

The reason why:

Colossians 2:18, "Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind"

What's more?

1 Peter 4:3, "You have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry."

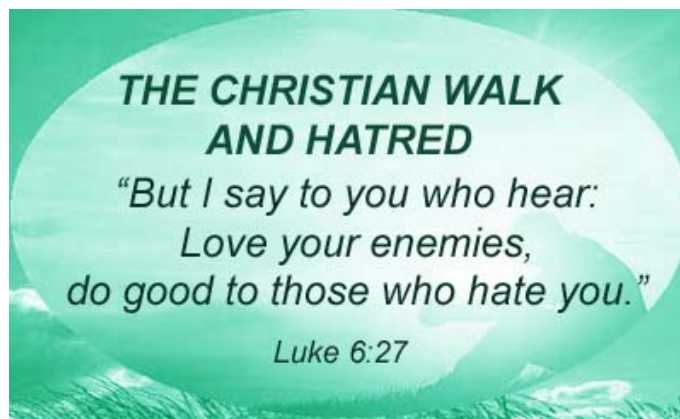
1 Corinthians 5:11, "But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people."

Therefore:

Colossians 3:5, "Put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."

James 1:21, "Lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

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How did God manifest His love towards us?

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

As such, how must we abide in His love?

Matthew 22:37-39, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is *the* first and great commandment. And *the* second *is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

What's more?

Matthew 5:43-45, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

Why?

1 Peter 2:21, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."

1John 4:8, "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

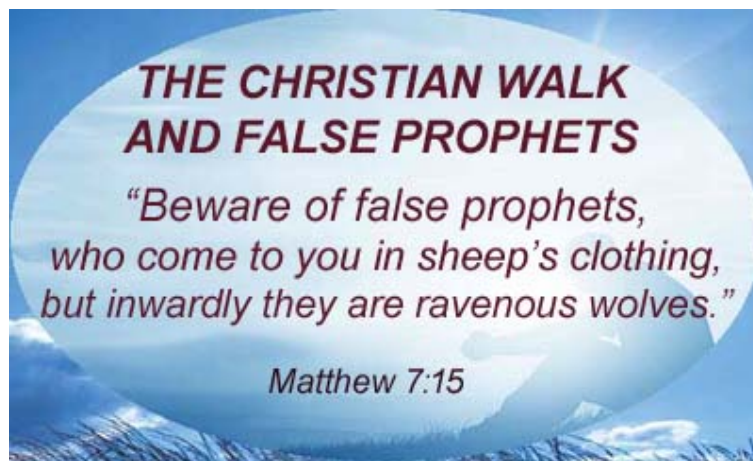
Therefore:

Matthew 7:12, "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." Leviticus 19:18, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the LORD."

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Why does the Word of God warn us against false prophets?

Matthew 24:24, "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

Romans 16:18, "For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple."

What's more?

2 Corinthians 11:13-14, "For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."

Why then do so-called believers follow false prophets?

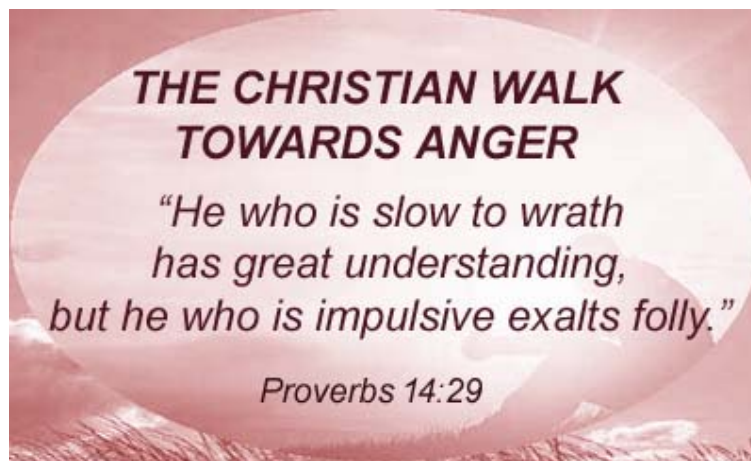
2 Timothy 4:3-4, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

Therefore:

1 John 4:1, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

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What is the source of anger in a person's heart?

James 4:1-2, "Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires* for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war."

As such:

Ecclesiastes 7:9, "Anger rests in the bosom of fools."

Proverbs 29:11, "A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise *man* holds them back."

As true believers in Christ, what should the attitude of our heart display?

1 Corinthians 13:4-5, "Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; nor does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil."

Therefore:

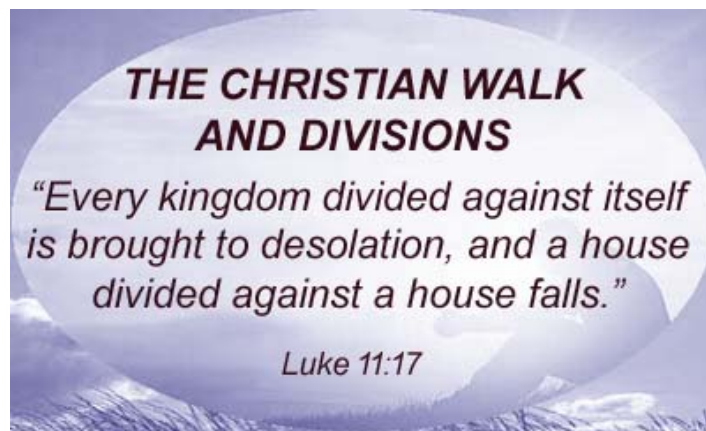
Ephesians 4:31-32, "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

2 Timothy 2:23, "Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife."

Romans 12:19, "Never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Am I harboring anger in my heart or do I rather live to emulate the love of God in Christ Jesus?

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How does the Word of God address the problem of division within the church?

1Corinthians 12:24-25, “God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.”

Obviously, what God has done is impart each of us with the talents He chose, and He as well gave us corresponding duties, for the sole purpose of edifying the body of Christ to His glory.

As such Jesus warned us:

Luke 11:17, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house *divided* against a house falls.”

Therefore:

Romans 16:17-18, “I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.”

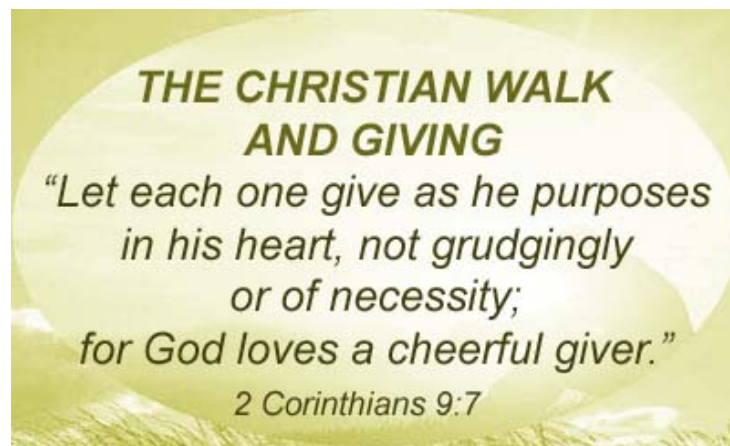
Why?

Ephesians 4:4-6, “*There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.”

What’s more?

1 Corinthians 14:33, “God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace.”

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What does the Word of God teach us about giving?

Deuteronomy 16:17, "Every man *shall give* as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you."

Luke 6:38, "Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Proverbs 3:27, "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so."

As such:

1 John 3:17, "Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

Why?

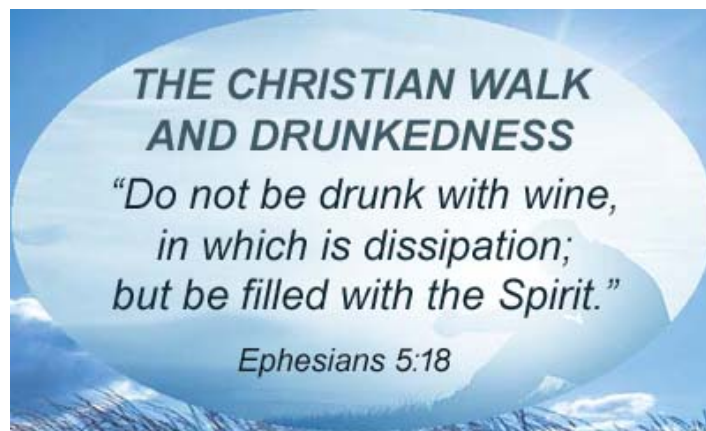
Matthew 22:39, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Romans 14:7-8, "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."

Therefore:

Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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How does the Word of God warn us about drunkenness and its traps? Proverbs 20:1, "Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 3:17, "If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him."

Jesus even warned us saying:

Luke 21:34, "Take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly."

Therefore: 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

Romans 13:13-14, "Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

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How must we truly live to abide in Christ, in His Word?

John 15:4-6, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered."

As such we are warned:

Matthew 7:21, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

Matthew 24:42, "Watch, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."

What's more?

John 15:7-8, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

Why?

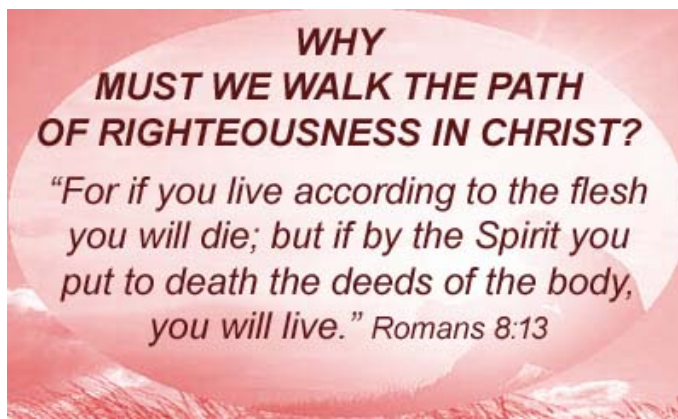
1 John 5:4, "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

Therefore:

Psalms 139:23-24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if *there is any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

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Romans 8:5-15,

<sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

<sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

<sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

<sup>10</sup> And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

<sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

<sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

<sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

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How are believers blessed in following Christ as Lord?

Romans 8:28-30, "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."

As such:

Romans 8:18, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

What's more?

Romans 8:37-39, "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Therefore:

1 Peter 3:15, "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you."

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