

CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” Col 3:2

How is a true Christian defined in the Word of God?

John 5:24: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

2Cor 5:17: “Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

How is that achieved?

James 1:22: “Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

Why?

James 1:23-24: “For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.”

James 2:14: “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?”

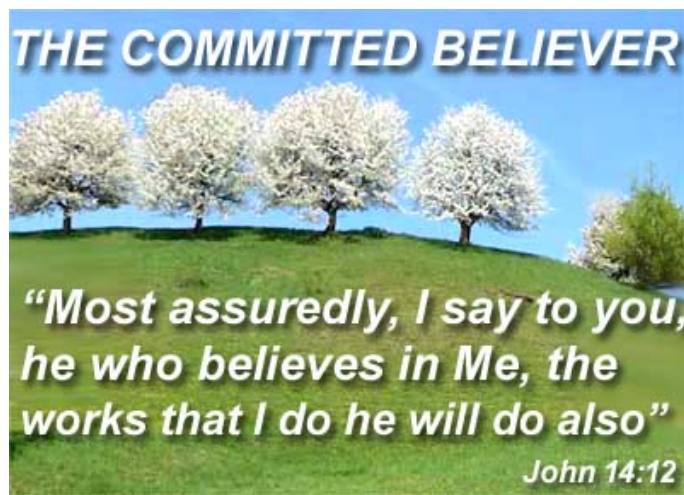
James 2:26: “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

The reason Jesus said:

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.”

Do I understand that true Christianity isn’t simply to acknowledge that Christ is the Son of God, but that we must truly believe in Him, and He must become Lord of our life?

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Why must a true committed believer follow Christ as Lord?

Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

How is that achieved?

Matthew 22:37-39: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

1Peter 1:13: "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

2Peter 1:5-7: "For this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."

2Timothy 2:15: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Where do we find the word of truth?

2Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Can I testify that I am a committed believer in Christ, and that I follow Him through His Word?

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THE UNCOMMITTED BELIEVER

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

Rev 3:15-16

How does the Word of God best describe so-called believers who won't commit to follow Christ?

Titus 1:16: “They profess to know God, but in works they deny *Him*, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

Therefore:

Matthew 10:38: “Whoever does not take up their cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.”

Matthew 12:30: “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”

2John 9: “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”

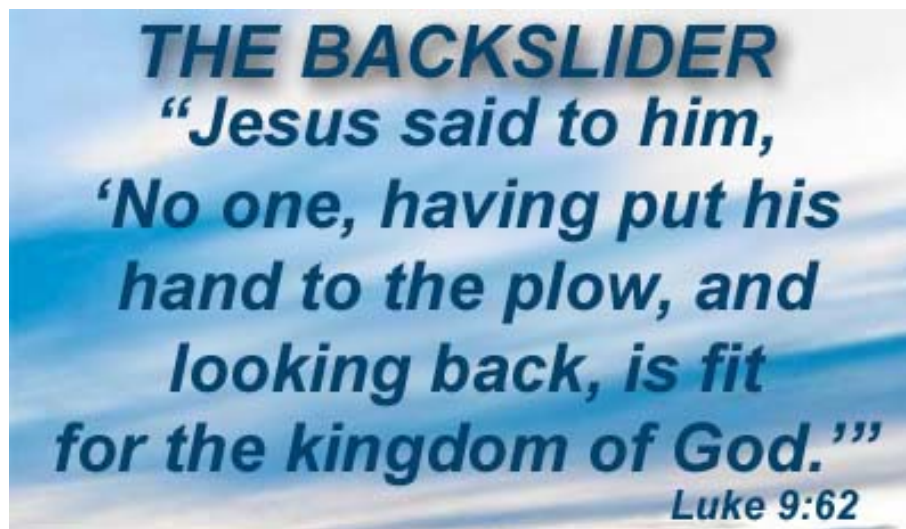
And the serious warnings are:

Matthew 24:35: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

Luke 9:26: “Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and *in His* Father's, and of the holy angels.”

Do I understand the seriousness of what's in store for the “wishy-washy” believer?

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How is one fooled into backsliding from the faith?

1Tim 4:1: “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

Jude 4: “For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

James 4:4: “You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

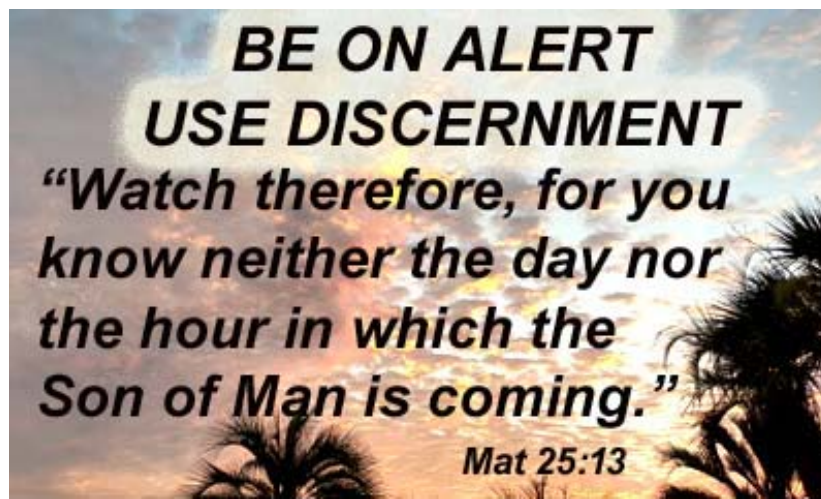
What’s in store for those people?

Heb 6:4-6: “For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame.”

2Peter 2:20: “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.”

Clear enough?

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A fundamental principle to move forward in Christ is, that we must be on alert at all times, so we can discern between right and wrong.

How is that achieved?

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.”

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.”

1Peter 1:13: “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians 6:10-12: “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

So...:

Philippians 1:9: “That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment.”

Am I wearing the full armor of God, so I can discern what the will of God is, and live to abide in Christ?

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RESIST TEMPTATIONS

***“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and make no provision
for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”***

Rom 13:14

A second equally important principle to follow Christ is that we must resist temptations to indulge in the flesh, as scripture teaches us:

Romans 6:12-13: “Do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

How?

1John 2:15-16: “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 lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world.”

Galatians 5:16-17: “Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”

Mark 14:38: “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

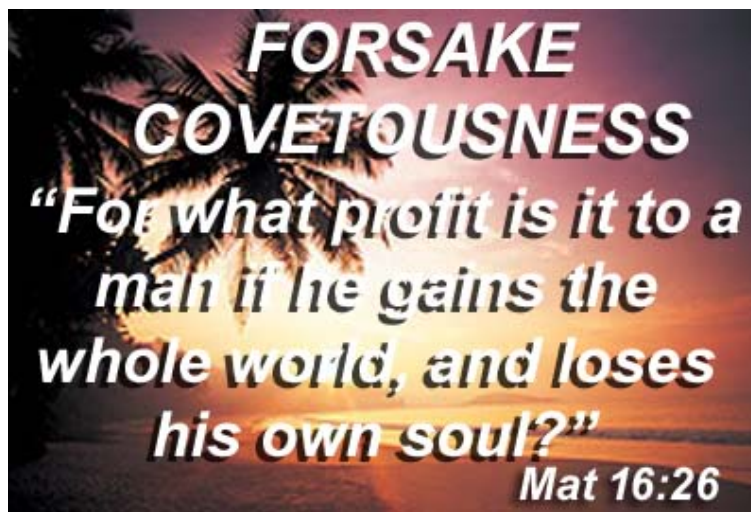
James 4:7: “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

Why?

Galatians 5:24: “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there.”

Does my life testify that I belong to Christ?

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Our world is deeply immersed into the prideful lusts for money, possessions and whatever pleases the flesh. What does the Word of God teach us about money and possessions?

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

1Timothy 6:9-10: "Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

Matthew 6:19-20: "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal."

Hebrews 13:5: "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"

Therefore:

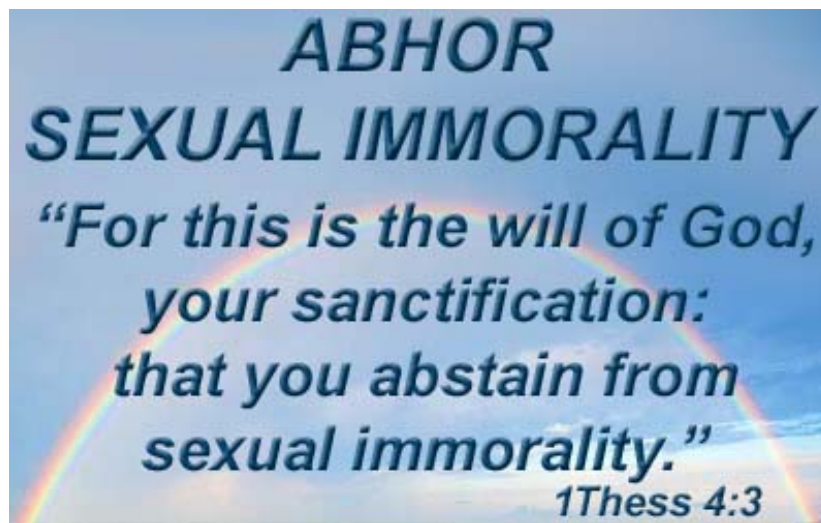
Colossians 3:2: "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

Why?

Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Where does my heart lay right now?

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Sexual immorality has invaded our world to such an extent, that debauchery is rampant and is even proliferated aggressively.

What does the Word of God proclaim on this?

1Corinthians 6:9-10(b): “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ‘Will inherit the kingdom of God.’”

Romans 1:26-27: “For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 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.”

What’s our solution?

1Corinthians 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.”

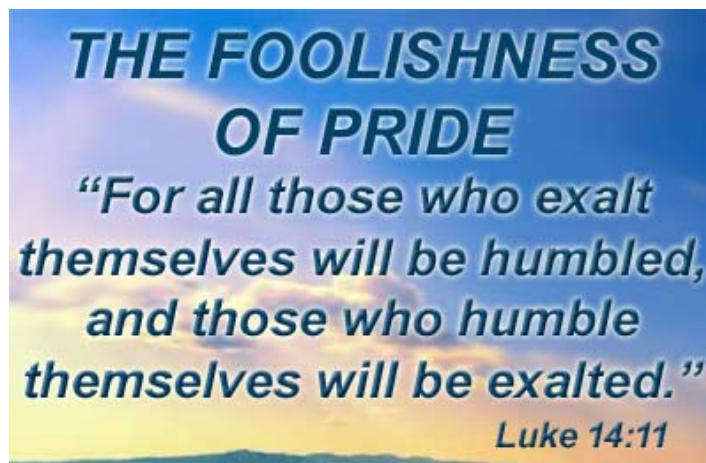
Colossians 3:5: “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

What’s more?

1Corinthians 5:9: “I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people.”

Do I stand with God on this, or have I espoused the sexual immorality of the world?

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How is pride addressed in the Word of God?

Proverbs 16:18: “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

Proverbs 26:12: “Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them.”

1Corinthians 1:27: “God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.”

How then should we live humbly to honor God?

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

Jeremiah 9:23: “Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches.”

Why?

James 4:6: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

What’s in store for those who live with pride?

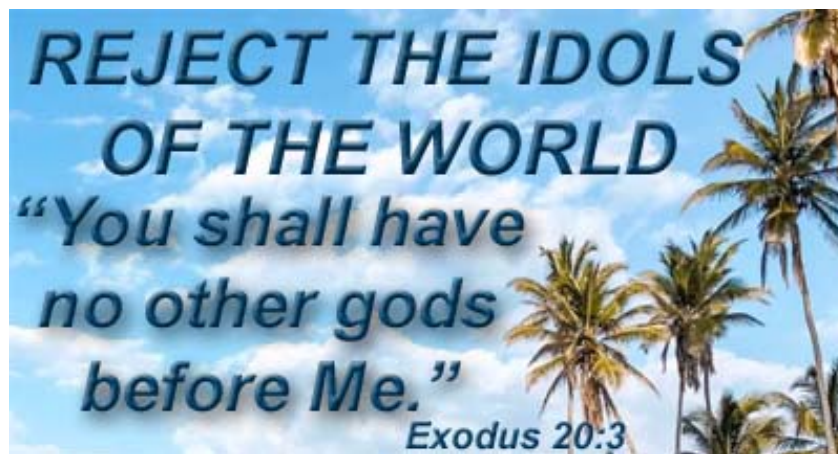
Isaiah 2:11-12: “The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.”

Finally:

Proverbs 16:5: “Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.”

In light of this, are my personal opinions on life more important than living humbly, as the Word of God teaches us?

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How does God define idolatry?

Colossians 3:5: "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry."

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

1Samuel 15:23: "For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry."

In other words, any rebellion against God is idolatry.

Why must we worship God only?

Isaiah 42:8: "I am the LORD; that is My Name! I will not yield My glory to another or My praise to idols."

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."

Jonah 2:8: "Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy."

Matthew 6:24: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other."

Therefore:

Exodus 34:14: "Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."

Is God the center of my worship through abiding in Christ, whether in thoughts, actions or words?

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Our society nowadays displays serious attitudes of anger, bitterness and even hatred. What does the Word of God teach us on this?

James 4:1-3: “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”

1John 4:19-20: “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”

Therefore:

Romans 12:19: “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord’.”

Psalm 37:8: “Cease from anger, and forsake wrath.”

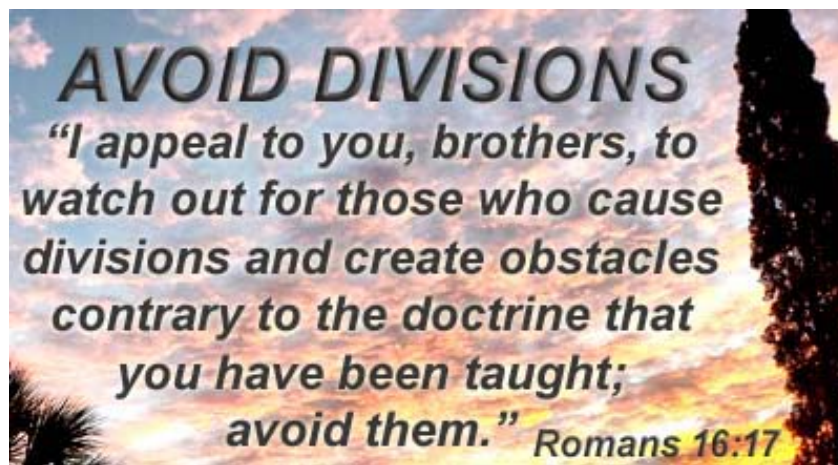
Eph 4:31-32: “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Why?

Matthew 6:15: “If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

How do I react when facing strong adversity?

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How must we live, as true believers, so we don't cause divisions in the Body of Christ?

2Timothy 2:15: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

Ephesians 4:1-3: "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

How must we deal with those who sow division?

2Thessalonians 3:6: "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us."

Why?

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

2John 9: "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God."

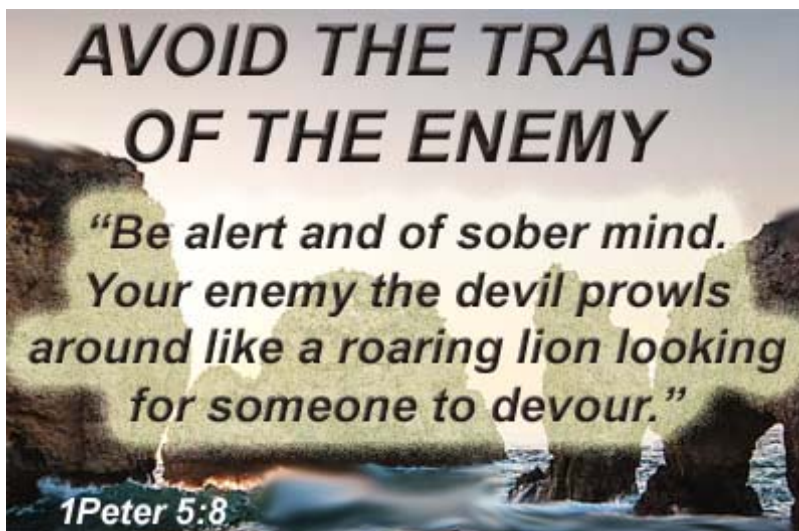
Acts 5:29: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Therefore:

Colossians 3:1: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God."

Do I live in unity of the Spirit of Christ, or do I allow worldly opinions to control my life?

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Why must we abstain from alcohol so as to not be deceived by the enemy?

1Corinthians 6:19-20: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."

Ephesians 5:18: "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

Proverbs 20:1: "Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise."

What should we then do?

Romans 12:1-2: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Romans 13:13: "Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy."

What's more?

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."

Am I constantly on alert and of sober mind?

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AVOID DECEIVERS / LIARS TRUST THE WORD OF GOD

***“Beware of false prophets who
come disguised as harmless sheep
but are really vicious wolves.”***

Matthew 7:15

False teachers and preachers are a serious threat to the world, in that disguised as followers of Christ, they are in fact Satan’s ministers.

Why?

2Corinthians 11:13-14: “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

The reason we are warned:

Jude 4: “For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.”

Mark 7:6-7: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”

Therefore:

1John 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.”

Am I anchored in the Word of God and following Christ, or am I allowing false prophets to deceive me?

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