



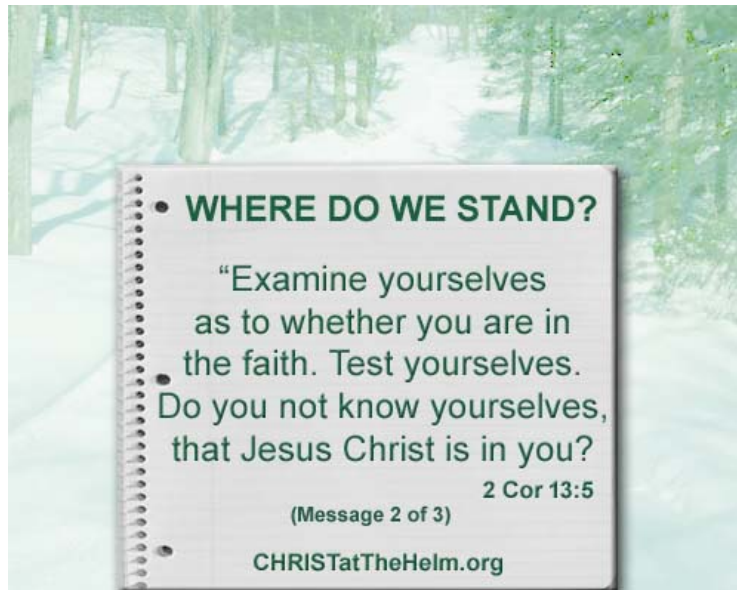
Jesus never used the world’s diplomacy when teaching about God. He also didn’t sugarcoat His words when speaking to the self-righteous proud, or lovers of the flesh, money and power. He made clear that believing in God and Christ isn’t simply in words, but must be in action and deeds from the heart.

Rev 3:15 says, “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.” In other words, let’s not be hypocrites but rather let’s be totally surrendered and committed to follow His Word.

James 4:4 adds, “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” Obviously, it’s either Christ or the world as there are no in-betweens with God. Paul in 2 Cor 5:14 warned us this way; “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”

Are those enough warnings to get our attention? Are we hot for the Lord, cold and uninterested, or are we the lukewarm hypocrites referred to in these warnings?

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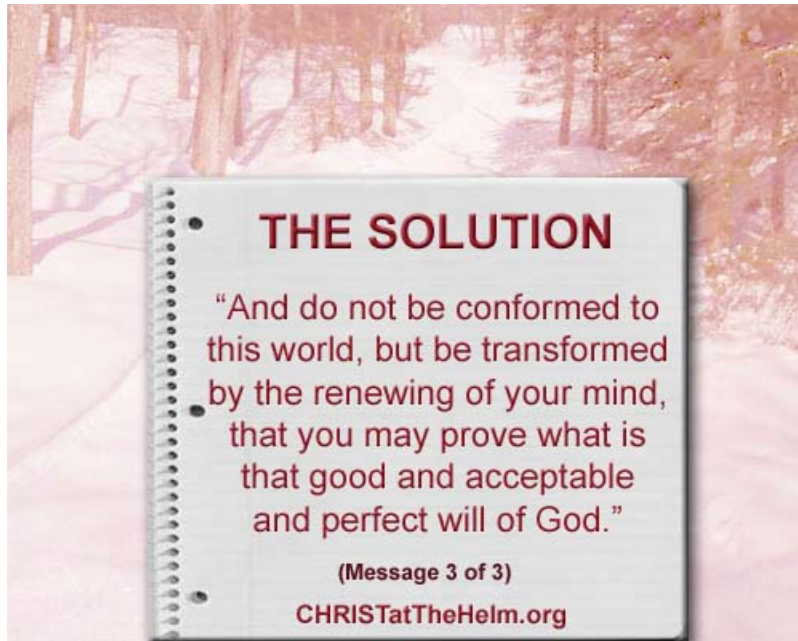
It is surprising at times to encounter people who claim salvation in Christ, yet their lives are most representative of the world, and they also have no clue as to where they stand with God. Titus 1:16 highlights this, "They profess to know God, but in works they deny *Him*, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work." In essence, false prophets know how to easily deceive and captivate people who aren't truly surrendered and dedicated to follow Christ.

Jesus in Matthew 5:13 said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men." In other words, if we are truly saved, shouldn't we extol Christ through our lives as opposed to walking on both sides of the fence, and being deceived?

That's why Paul in 2 Tim 4:3-4 said "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." Jesus made it clear when He said, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

Let's examine ourselves and make sure we are completely dedicated to follow Christ!

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No matter how much we desire to live to be true to our commitment to Christ, the world around us will always be a source of attraction and temptation to draw our hearts away from the Lord. It comes in many forms, and sometimes even in ways we never expected, yet tempt us to sin.

What is the solution to ensure we will always be equipped to first recognize temptations, and furthermore fight off the enemy so we become conquerors for Christ? In James 1:22 we read, “But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” Obviously here, we can only be doers of the Word if... we know the Word of God through study and hearing, right?

Our Christian walk is a matter of learning to walk the path to God, leaving no room for the temptations of the world to make us deviate from God’s righteous way. Can we be both a conservative and a liberal, depending on whom we’re with? In the same vein, can we be both committed to God and to the devil?

In essence, we’re either for one or the other, and the one important difference is that while the world will always welcome us to its corrupt nature no matter our beliefs, with God it’s either one or the other. Let’s be steadfast in our commitment to Christ.

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