
a *Grace Notes* course

Doctrines of the Christian Faith

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Doctrine 207

Old Age

Pride

Promotion

Redeeming the Time

Separation

Grace Notes

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Doctrines of the Christian Faith
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Contents of this Lesson

Old Age 3
Pride 5
Promotion 7
Redeeming the Time..... 9
Separation 12

Old Age

Many people have a tremendous dread of growing old. A great deal of activity during the working years is aimed at preventing many of the problems of old age as possible: dependency on others, lack of money, boredom, ill health, and so forth. The very fear of the problems of old age often make mental and physical wrecks of people - they become old before their time.

God's Plan is that old age be the crowning glory of a person's lifetime. The Word of God shows that old age can have promise, productivity, vitality, confidence, and a great deal of happiness, providing that spiritual preparation has taken place during the younger years.

Age Divisions in the Bible

The Bible indicates that there are three broad divisions of a lifetime.

The period of **youth** lasts up to about 40 years of age. Moses began to sense his responsibility to Israel and to the Lord when he was about 40, Acts 7:23. He spent 40 more years in training, however, before he became leader of the people of Israel. It was during the years from 80 to 120 that he did his great work.

In Acts 4:22, a man is healed and the Sanhedrin wanted to ridicule his testimony. However, "the man was above forty years old on whom this miracle of healing was shown", indicating that he was mature enough to know what had happened.

In 1 Tim. 4:12, Paul writes, "Let no man despise thy youth." Timothy was in his thirties at the time.

The period of **middle age** last from about 40 to 60 years of age. In 1 Tim. 5:9, a 60-year-old widow's retirement was into a full time ministry of prayer supported by the church. Many believers hit their top pace in the middle years. The high priest's work load was heaviest between 30 and 50.

Old age is the period from 60 on. In Daniel 12, Daniel, at age 90, was told to stop acting like a dead man and to get going. In Luke 2:36-38, a woman of great age (84) was very active in serving the Lord.

Some Principles of Old Age

Old age is a mental attitude as well as a physical problem. People shudder when you discuss old age. Next to the subject of death, it is the least favorite topic. There are many ways people try to postpone old age. They try various products to keep on looking and feeling young. They try traveling to relieve boredom and to give a sense of fulfillment. They use gadgets and programs to postpone old age.

But, the older one becomes as a believer, the better life should become! God's Plan is bigger than any problem this life can produce. Of course, to take advantage of this plan, a person must understand Salvation and receive Christ as Saviour. Then, the individual must get Bible teaching every day over a period of years to make it possible to obtain the maximum out of every day of life. According to God's Plan of Grace, which includes the concept of Dying Grace, the last day of your life should be the best.

But some of the most miserable old people around are Christians. They are cantankerous and obnoxious. Their youth is no longer there to protect them. They are seen for what their souls really are, without the camouflage of youth. "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." Youth is excused for bad behavior; but youth is no longer there to cover up. Old age exposes all the faults, habits, obnoxious characteristics, and degeneracy of soul.

When King Solomon reached old age, he wrote Ecclesiastes; and he has some advice for youth. A young person can prepare now to have a happy old age. Happiness is not in working, and it is not in retirement; it is not in this diversion or that. True happiness is in Christian growth, the production of the Fruit of the Spirit, operating on Divine Viewpoint, having a healthy edification structure in the soul -- having the inner beauty of soul.

"Rejoice, O young man!" "Find happiness when you are young." Then you can carry your happiness around with you, the inner mental happiness found in the Word of God, a happiness which does not depend on conditions, circumstances, people, or the details of life. This leads to a marvelous old age!

"And let thy heart cheer you in the days of your youth." Then you won't fight old age; old age will be the best age of all. This type of person is the salt of the earth in his old age, an aristocrat of the Christian family.

"Walk in the ways of your heart." Now the young person who is immersed in doctrine uses the Word of God in living the Christian Way of Life. "In the sight of thine eyes." The application of the Word of God to experience.

"But know that God will bring you to judgment; therefore remove sorrow from your heart, put away evil from thy flesh." This is a picture of judgment, chastisement, confession, claiming promises.

Therefore, old age is a mental attitude developed during a lifetime. The older one becomes as a believer, the better life should become. Happiness in old age is dependent on what is built up during the previous years of youth and middle age.

PROBLEMS OF OLD AGE

As you read the following listing of the problems of old age, meditate on the Word of God and try to think of the doctrinal "antidote" for each problem. The prescription will be given in the succeeding sections of this article; but try finding answers in your own repertoire of doctrine.

- Old age may bring on a lack of mental sharpness. This can occur because of physical debility. Also, if the mind has been neglected, especially if the Word of God has been neglected, there will be a failure of the mentality.
- In old age, there can be a disorientation to life from the standpoint of success standards. A person looks back and regards life as a failure. Maybe he set goals, and now he is old and never realized the goals. There is a great danger of disillusionment.
- There is a tendency for great increase in mental attitude sins in old age, with emphasis on criticism and judgment. These things are often overlooked in youth; but they are horrible in the elderly.
- There is often a lack of security in old age, especially if the old people can't take care of

themselves financially. Their children are in the prime of their lives and often the children's plans do not include them.

- Old age may bring an inability to concentrate, forgetfulness, inability to converse, to hear, to see. So the old person gets used to sitting in a chair daydreaming, vegetating, saying nothing.
- There is sometimes a lack of motive to live, too much idle time, and too much time for complaining. There may be a desire to travel but no means to do so. So there is a lack of significant things to do.
- Old age brings future shock. Old age finds itself out of phase with the younger generations of children and grandchildren. Therefore a dangerous trend can get started toward hypercriticism.
- The older believer may have stopped growing spiritually, or worse, may never have got started. There is, therefore, no edification, no occupation with Christ, no desire for the Word. There is a tendency to stagnate, to become jaded, to rely on the study done years before.
- There can be a tendency toward the negatives of Titus 2:3, becoming false accusers, gossips, evil speakers, vicious in criticism.
- There is a tendency among older believers to drink quite a lot when they don't have anything else going for them.
- Then, there is the tendency to think that getting old means that a person has some wisdom. So there is the garrulous senior citizen who never stops talking and inflicts continuous boredom on his listeners with his platitudes and homely chatter.

A Godly and Grace-Filled Old Age

Coming into old age, the mature believer is assured of his redemption; and he comes into old age as a knowledgeable, productive Christian. He understands both salvation and spirituality. He knows how to claim promises. He understands suffering, has lived through some of it, and looks forward to greater tests. He is ready for both suffering and happiness in old age.

This person comes into old age able to apply the Word of God to experience. Even his mind is saved, according to the principles of Romans 12:2. He realizes that there are many books, but only one Book, the mind of Christ, the Word of God.

The elderly believer uses the Faith-Rest principles of life. While the body is getting weaker, there is this promise of 2 Cor. 4:15.

"For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Characteristics of a Beautiful Old Age

Review the following scripture passages to get a thorough understanding from Bible examples just what an exciting and productive old age can be like.

In 1 Tim. 5:5-10, there is the example of a widow alone who faces the occupational hazard of widowhood in loneliness. However, this woman trusts in God, uses the promises of the Bible, and keeps on praying. A widow who is "well reported for good works" is making the most out of old age.

In Acts 11:36-43 is the story of Dorcas, "full of good works", given to hospitality, who "washed the saints feet", made garments, relieved the afflicted with her nursing skills, and was a producer of divine good. She had mastered the details of life.

In Tim. 2:1,2 there is a discussion of the characteristics of godly elderly men. They are to be healthy minded, alert, sharp, with Christlike character, masters of the details of life ("temperate"), "sound in faith", having spiritual healthy because of doctrine, being free from mental attitude sins such as bitterness, envy, hostility, having mental attitude love.

In Tim. 2:3 ff are listed the characteristics of godly older women. Their shining inner beauty reflects the glory of God. They are not false accusers or guilty of maligning, evil speaking, or gossip, and they are not vindictive. They are also temperate

and able to teach good things to the younger women. They had skill and wisdom and had the willing attention of younger women. They taught the young women to be healthy minded, emotionally stable, to have sound judgment, to be poised, in control of themselves, thoughtful, to be free from carnality ("chaste"), to be morally good, and to respond to their husbands.

From these illustrations we conclude that there is plenty to do in old age, that old age can be a golden age, not necessarily in reliving the "good old days", but in actively enjoying the present and the future.

Pride

"THESE SIX THINGS DOETH THE LORD HATE: YEA, SEVEN ARE AN ABOMINATION UNTO HIM: A PROUD LOOK ..."

Introduction

God has a plan for your life. God is perfect, therefore, His plan is perfect.

It is impossible for you with your sin nature to execute the plan of God for your life. Therefore, God has provided through His grace a way for you to execute His plan, purpose, and will during your lifetime.

Whenever a Christian fails in executing the plan of God for his life, sinful pride is the primary reason and motivating cause.

Pride is the basic mental attitude sin. As you will see in this study, sinful pride (or arrogance) precedes and supports all of the sinful mental attitudes the sin nature produces.

Satan was the first creature guilty of pride. His motivation of pride is found in one line of ISA. 14:14. "I will make myself like the Most High God." The original sin of pride is amplified in the following passage.

Ezek 28:14-17. "You were the Anointed Cherub who guards; I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked among the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your slander, they filled your inner life with violence and you sinned. Therefore, I

have cast you as defiled from the mountain of God. I have excluded you, O Guardian Cherub, out from the stones of fire. Your right lobe was lifted up because of your beauty. You corrupted your wisdom because of your glamor. I have cast you to the earth. I have placed you before kings that they may see you.”

A Description of Sinful Pride

Pride is a lofty self-respect totally apart from reality. It is high esteem of oneself from some imagined or real superiority.

Pride is the antithesis of grace. The believer who is arrogant is totally blind to the grace of God.

Pride is synonymous with vanity, which is empty pride in regard to one's person, attainments, or possessions coupled with an excessive desire to be noticed, a lust for attention, lust for approval or praise from others.

Pride is the pomposity of vain glory. It is supercilious and haughty contempt of others.

Pride supports a whole array of sins, such as jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, implacability, revenge motivation, revenge tactics, self-pity, conceit, inordinate ambition and competition, slander, gossip, and maligning.

Pride is a mental attitude sin which overflows into the motivation, decision making and activity of the individual. Pride includes several different concepts.

- Egotism. This is an excessive preoccupation with self and must be distinguished from ego, which is self-consciousness and is perfectly normal.
- Vanity. This is self-admiration and an excessive desire to be admired by others. Hence, vanity is easily flattered and patronized.
- Conceit. This is exaggerated estimate of one's abilities and attainments.

Scriptures Related to the Sin of Pride

Prov 11:2, "When pride comes, then come dishonor.”

Prov 16:18, "Pride precedes destruction, and before a fall there is a lifestyle of pride.”

Prov 23:29, "A person's pride will bring him low, but a lifestyle of humility will attain honor.”

Rom 12:3, "For I say through the grace which has been given to me to everyone who is among you, stop thinking of self in terms of pride beyond what you ought to think, but think in terms of sanity for the purpose of being rational without illusion as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from doctrine.”

Pride is defined in terms of the sin of jealousy in

Jam 3:14-16, "But if you have bitter jealousy and inordinate ambition in your heart, stop being arrogant, and stop lying against the truth [Bible doctrine]. This pseudo wisdom is not that which comes from above, but is earthly, natural, and demonic. For where jealousy and inordinate ambition exist there is disorder and every evil deed.”

Prov 13:10, "Through pride comes strife, but wisdom is with those who receive instruction.”

1 Pet 5:5, "Likewise you younger men be subject to the elder [pastor], and all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another. `For God makes war against the arrogant, but He gives grace to the humble.' Therefore, humble yourselves under the powerful hand of God, that He may promote you at the proper time.”

Application

If God does not promote you, you are not promoted.

God promotes men and women of who have absorbed the Word of God.

God promotes humble or grace oriented people.

Promotion is a matter of doctrinal inculcation and grace-orientation.

Promotion is a matter of glorifying God through the execution of the plan of God for the believer in the Church Age.

Promoted believers are the invisible heroes of the Church Age..

2 Tim 3:2-7 describes facets of pride. "For persons [, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but having denied its power, in fact, avoid such persons as

these. And among them [immoral arrogant believers] are those who creep into households and captivates silly women who are loaded down with sins and lead on by their multifarious lusts, always learning but never able to come to metabolized knowledge of the truth.”

The Arrogance of Nations Brings Them Under Divine Discipline

Lev 26:19, "And I will break down the pride of your power. And I will make your sky like iron, and your land like bronze."

Isa 9:8-9, "The Lord sends a message against Jacob and it falls on Israel. And all the people know it, that is, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, who spoke with pride and pride of heart. The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with smooth stones."

Ezek 7:10, "Behold, the day is coming. Your doom has gone forth. The rod of discipline has budded because pride has blossomed."

Pride is Always Related to the Rejection of the Word of God

1 Tim 6:3-4, "If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not concur with sound doctrine, those doctrines of our Lord Jesus Christ, even doctrines pertaining to godliness [spirituality], he has become arrogant, understanding nothing. Furthermore, he has morbid obsessions about controversies and verbal conflicts from which originate jealousy, discord, evil speculation."

Pride distracts the believer from doctrine. Pride divorces the believer from reality, both personal and historical. Pride is the corruptor of the soul and the sign that the sin nature is dominating the soul.

Pride destroys capacity for life, love, and happiness.

The Effects of Pride

The arrogant person rejects authority.

Pride motivates emotional sins, such as: fear, worry, anxiety, hatred, anger, violence, murder, guilt. and guilt complex, self-pity.

Pride reproduces itself in jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, implacability, revenge motivation and function, inordinate ambition and competition, gossip, slander, maligning, and judging.

Pride transformed into self-righteousness produces legalism.

The Solution to Pride

Occupation with Christ is the ultimate problem solving device regarding pride. [Refer to the notes on Occupation with Christ]

Prov 8:11, "The respect for the Lord is to hate evil, to hate pride and pride and the evil way. And I hate a perverted mouth."

Daily attention to the techniques of the Christian Way of Life will give you a grace mental attitude that becomes more and more free of pride as you grow in Christ and in the knowledge of His Word.

Promotion

Luke 14:11, For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled. And he who humbles himself shall be promoted.

"Everyone who exalts himself" refers to the believer involved in self-promotion, degeneracy, and the lust pattern of the sin nature, the believer with vacuum in the subconscious.

The believer "is humbled" through the law of volitional responsibility, in which the believer takes the responsibility for his own bad decisions and responds well to divine discipline.

Humbling oneself involves several steps: First, confession of sin resulting in the control of the Holy Spirit; next, intake of Bible teaching through self-discipline in study; finally, many decisions to learn and apply doctrine to life.

There are two kinds of humility: self-imposed humility and spiritual humility. God only promotes on the basis of spiritual humility. You are not humble because you think you are humble or say you are humble.

James 4:10, "Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will promote you."

Spiritual promotion is not related in any way to man promoting himself or being promoted by

some other man.. All promotions in the Christian life are completely and totally fair, because all promotion is accomplished by God and God alone.

God does not promote anyone without humility. Humility only comes from knowledge of Bible doctrine. You cannot make yourself humble; self-effacement is not humility.

1 Pet. 5:5-6, "God makes war against the arrogant [believer], but gives grace to the humble [believer]. Humble yourselves under the powerful hand of God that He may promote you at the proper time."

Humility and grace orientation are always related to grace promotion. This is because with humility comes teachability, and from teachability comes doctrinal orientation, and from doctrinal orientation comes grace orientation and execution of the plan of God.

Doctrinal orientation plus grace orientation equals promotion. Promotion implies the execution of the plan of God.

Promotion occurs through the distribution of blessings for both time and eternity by our Lord Jesus Christ. These blessings remain on deposit in heaven forever for every believer and are always available. **Eph. 1:3.**

Promotion implies that you have become grace oriented, which means he has capacity for every divine blessing associated with promotion. The arrogant believer involved in degeneracy can be classified as one who is in high visibility carnality, a Christian who is self-promoting. The arrogance of self-promotion results in failure to execute God's plan.

The believer who lives in the world is always involved in self-promotion. The arrogance of the self-promotion results in failure to execute God's plan. This believer is classified as a loser.

Prov. 16:18, "Arrogance precedes destruction, and before a fall [there is] a lifestyle of destruction."

Prov. 11:2, "When arrogance comes, then comes dishonor. But with the humble there is wisdom."

Prov 29:23, "A person's arrogance will bring him low, but with the humble is wisdom."

Humility is something you have to acquire. No one is born humble, naturally humble, or humbled by their circumstances.

With humility, objectivity, and orientation to authority comes teachability. Teachability means doctrinal orientation. From doctrinal orientation comes grace orientation. Doctrinal orientation plus grace orientation equals promotion.

2 Cor. 10:18, "For not he who promotes [commends] himself is approved, but whom the Lord promotes."

Humility is related to the spiritual skills of the filling of the Holy Spirit; cognition of doctrine; and execution of the protocol plan of God.

Principles of Promotion

Never covet what God has not provided in grace.

The arrogant person becomes involved in the lust pattern of the sin nature and covets all kinds of things that God has not provided. But humility and grace orientation set aside the lust pattern through perception of doctrine, and therefore, develop a great capacity for life, love, happiness, and grace blessing from God. As we develop capacity, God provides more blessing and greater promotion.

No Church Age believer can be promoted without at least five things:

- Knowledge of the plan of God.
- Knowledge of our catalog of spiritual blessings - our logistical support.
- Knowledge of the unique characteristics of the Church Age.
- Understanding and using the problem solving devices for Christians in the Church Age.
- Understanding of principles of suffering for blessing and its contribution to spiritual momentum.

Promotion in the plan of God is based on applied doctrine in the soul and never comes from Christian service or good deeds.

Christian service and Christian works is the result of functioning within the plan of God, but never the means of promotion. Therefore, do not confuse means and result in the Christian life.

If God does not promote you, you are not promoted!

God promotes the humble believer who is classified as a grace oriented Christian. Humility is not self-effacement - putting yourself down.

Grace orientation comes through applying Bible doctrine, which can also be called cognition of Bible doctrine. Cognition is an act of process of learning or perception, hence, something known or perceived. We do not withdraw from this doctrine under stress, pressure, or adversity.

Divine promotion in the plan of God requires humility, authority orientation, objectivity, teachability, flexibility, and grace orientation. All of your thoughtfulness, tenderness, kindness, and love in life have to be based on motivation.

Promotion from God begins in spiritual adulthood. No believer is promoted until he or she reaches spiritual self-esteem. Spiritual adulthood has three stages:

- Spiritual self-esteem, which is self-confidence.
- Spiritual autonomy, which is independence.
- Spiritual maturity, which is invincibility.

When God can promote you, God is glorified. Promotion is always based upon the grace of God, and when God acts in grace, He is glorified. Divine promotion is always fair.

The promoted believer has maximum historical impact in the Church Age toward people and angels.

Redeeming the Time

Have the Time of Your Life!

Every day that we live is a grace gift from God. We do not earn or deserve the time that God gives us in life. The only time that we have to honor God in this life on earth is the number of days He provides for us in the Christian life. The fact that we are alive each morning is a sign of God's grace and faithfulness.

James 4:13-15, Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."

Lam. 3:20-25, Surely my soul remembers And is bowed down within me.

This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope.

The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness.

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him."

The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.

Every day is given us by God; therefore, every day is very important. A growing Christian thinks of every day as alike and lives one day at a time.

Rom. 14:5,6. One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind.

He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

Ps. 90:12, So teach us to number our days, That we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom.

God has provided spiritual assets in the form of Bible truth to make each day count for His glory. Therefore it is important to learn God's Word every day.

Jer. 15:16. Thy words were found and I ate them, And Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Thy name, O Lord God of hosts.

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

Since there is no suffering in eternity, God can only demonstrate His grace provision for suffering while we are alive on earth. The testing that we undergo gives God the Father maximum

opportunity to show His grace provision while we continue to live one day at a time.

2 Cor. 12:7-10, And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!

Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Ps. 1:1-3, How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.

And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Our time must be used wisely.

Eph. 5:15-17, Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of [redeeming] your time, because the days are evil.

So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

1 Cor. 7:29-31, But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none;

and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess;

and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.

John 11:9,10. Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.

Don't Waste Time!

A Christian wastes time when he is out of fellowship and under God's chastisement (divine discipline). Every day that you are under God's discipline is a day that you have lost.

Ps. 102:2-4, Do not hide Thy face from me in the day of my distress; Incline Thine ear to me; In the day when I call answer me quickly.

For my days have been consumed in smoke, And my bones have been scorched like a hearth.

My heart has been smitten like grass and has withered away, Indeed, I forget to eat my bread.

Ps. 102:23-28, He has weakened my strength in the way; He has shortened my days.

I say, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days, Thy years are throughout all generations.

"Of old Thou didst found the earth; And the heavens are the work of Thy hands.

"Even they will perish, but Thou dost endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing Thou wilt change them, and they will be changed.

"But Thou art the same, And Thy years will not come to an end.

"The children of Thy servants will continue, And their descendants will be established before Thee."

Ps. 90:7-9, For we have been consumed by Thine anger, And by Thy wrath we have been dismayed.

Thou hast placed our iniquities before Thee, Our secret sins in the light of Thy presence.

For all our days have declined in Thy fury; We have finished our years like a sigh.

Consummate human pride (arrogance) destroys a Christian's ability to profit from the divine provision of each day.

Prov. 27:1, Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

Redeem the Time!

It is important to purchase time each day.

Eph. 5:15-18 (above)

Days are meaningful and prosperous when there is spiritual growth through learning and applying the Word of God.

Ps. 90:14, O satisfy us in the morning with Thy lovingkindness, That we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Jer. 15:16, Thy words were found and I ate them, And Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Thy name, O Lord God of hosts.

Matt. 4:4, But He answered and said, "It is written, ' Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

Each day that God provides by His grace only has meaning as it is devoted to fulfilling the plan of God.

Ps. 34:11-14, Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who is the man who desires life, And loves {length of} days that he may see good?

Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.

Depart from evil, and do good; Seek peace, and pursue it.

1 John 1:6-9, If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Prov. 3:1-2, My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;

For length of days and years of life, And peace they will add to you.

A Christian's day by day life only has meaning as it is related to the principles and doctrines of God's Word.

Prov. 3:13-17, How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding.

For its profit is better than the profit of silver, And its gain than fine gold.

She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her.

Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor.

Her ways are pleasant ways, And all her paths are peace.

All of the dynamics of daily living are related to Bible truth.

Ps. 25:4-6, Make me know Thy ways, O Lord; Teach me Thy paths.

Lead me in Thy truth and teach me, For Thou art the God of my salvation; For Thee I wait all the day.

Remember, O Lord, Thy compassion and Thy lovingkindnesses, For they have been from of old.

Ps. 119:96-102, I have seen a limit to all perfection; Thy commandment is exceedingly broad.

O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.

Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine.

I have more insight than all my teachers, For Thy testimonies are my meditation.

I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Thy precepts.

I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Thy word.

I have not turned aside from Thine ordinances,
For Thou Thyself hast taught me.

Prov. 23:17-19, Do not let your heart envy
sinners, But live in the fear of the \Lord\ always.

Surely there is a future, And your hope will not
be cut off.

Listen, my son, and be wise, And direct your
heart in the way.

2 Cor. 4:16-18, Therefore we do not lose heart,
but though our outer man is decaying, yet our
inner man is being renewed day by day.

For momentary, light affliction is producing for
us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all
comparison,

while we look not at the things which are seen,
but at the things which are not seen; for the
things which are seen are temporal, but the
things which are not seen are eternal.

Separation

The ability to stand alone for that which is right is
one of the truest signs of maturity in the Christian
life. It is the sign that one has openly identified
himself with a superior way of life - with the
person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When a person takes a stand, he is saying to others
that he has something worth standing for. This
type of commitment attracts followers and is one
of the primary characteristics of a good leader.

One of the strongest pressures against being true to
the Word of God comes from friends who have
compromised their own standards or who have
rejected Christ's standards in some way. The most
serious consequence of not taking a stand is that
the Word of God is not upheld by the believer's
testimony. The Bible has a great deal to say about
the believer's obligation to separate from people
who knowingly and willfully disobey the Lord.

**Separate yourself from those who are
doctrinally disorderly.**

I Tim. 6:3-5. "If any man teach otherwise, and
consent not to wholesome words, even the
words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the
doctrine which is according to godliness: He is
proud, knowing nothing, but doting about

questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh
envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse
disputings of men of corrupt minds, and
destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is
godliness; from such withdraw thyself."

II Tim 3:1-5. "This know also, that in the last
days perilous times shall come. For men shall
be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters,
proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents,
unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection,
truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent,
fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors,
heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more
than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness,
but denying the power thereof: from such turn
away."

Avoid those who cause divisions and offense.

Romans 16:17,18. "Now I beseech you
brethren, mark them which cause divisions and
offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have
learned; and avoid them. For they that are such
serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own
belly; and by good words and fair speeches
deceive the hearts of the simple."

Separate from the world.

John 15:19 "If ye were of the world, the world
would love his own: but because ye are not of
the world, but I have chosen you out of the
world, therefore the world hateth you."

Separate from the works of darkness.

Eph. 5:11,12 "And have no fellowship with the
unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove
them. For it is a shame even to speak of those
things which are done of them in secret."

Separate from Christians walking disorderly.

II Thess. 3:6 "Now we command you, brethren,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye
withdraw yourselves from every brother that
walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition
which he received of us."

Those who would not repent were excommunicated.

Matt. 18:15-17 "Moreoever if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

Titus 3:9-11 "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."

Separate from false teachers.

II John v. 10 "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:"

Col. 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Prov. 19:27 "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge."

Prov. 14:6-8 "A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth. Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge. The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit."

Psalm 1:1. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

Separate from the sinful activities of the unbeliever.

I Cor. 5:9-11

I Kings 11:12

II Cor. 6:14

II Chron. 19:2

Heb. 13:13

Ex. 34:12

I Pet. 4:1-5

Prov. 1:10-19; 4:14; 24:1

Num. 33:55

The Christian's main goals in life should be occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ, conformity to His image, and fulfilling the Plan of God for his life. The believer must make careful decisions about his purpose in life. Then, he must compare every activity in his life with his goals to see whether the activity helps or hinders him in reaching the goals.

The following notes provide examples of the uses of the word ἀφοριζω (separation) in the Bible:

Matt. 13:49-51, the wicked are separated from the righteous at the final judgment.

Matt. 25:31-46, the sheep are separated from the goats.

Are you one of the righteous? How do you know? Can you explain to a friend how he can be one of the sheep instead of one of the goats?

Luke. 6:22, the righteous man is ostracized by the worldly.

Acts 13:2, Barnabas and Saul (Paul) were separated to the work of the ministry.

2 Cor. 6:17, "touch not the unclean thing."

Gal. 1:15, Paul separated from his mother's womb.

Gal. 2:12, Peter wrongfully separated himself from Gentiles for fear of the opinion of the Jews.