



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- II Peter 3:1-13
- II Peter 1:12-15, 19-21
- Hebrews 12:28-29

IMAGE CONSULTING: WHAT

KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU?

- An Urgent Reminder
- Character Assessment

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Therefore, **since all these things** will be destroyed like this, **what kind of people ought you to be** in holy living and godliness,”
2 Peter 3:11 WEBUS

“Therefore, **receiving a Kingdom that can’t be shaken, let’s have grace**, through which we serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our **God is a consuming fire.**” Hebrews 12:28-29 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION: Image Consulting: What kind of person are you?

*Since everything is going to end like this, what kind of people ought you to be in holy living and godliness? Who are you? What is your new **identity**? What characteristics determine who you truly are? And where are you going? What is your ultimate **vision** for God’s people? Do you exercise the ability to think about or plan the future with imagination and wisdom? Do you have a mental image*

*of what the future will or could be like. If so, how will you get there? How and with whom will you accomplish your **mission**, the assignment you are called to carry out for a specific purpose, in a specific way, aided by specific people? And what inspires your fundamental **purpose**? In other words, why do you care about your identity, vision and mission? What are the reasons or what is the inspiration for why you hope to accomplish this thing you are called to do? And on what will you exert your greatest **influence**? Who or what will you effect? What capacity do you have to make an impact on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something else?*

*What **values** dictate your standards? What are your guiding principles? What shapes your behavior? What is most important in your life? And which **priorities** shape your decisions? What things dominate your schedule? What things are regarded or treated as more important than others? What takes precedence over everything else? And to what will you allocate your **resources**? For what will you dedicate your time, talent, and riches? For what will you supply money, materials, assistance, or other assets? What will you dedicate to the vision and mission of others or an organization in order for it to function effectively. This includes your personal attributes and capabilities regarded as able to help or sustain the vision and mission of something greater than yourself.*

Since everything is going to end like this, what kind of person should you be in holy living and godliness? What is your identity, vision, mission, purpose, and influence? What are your values, priorities, and resources? It's time for an urgent reminder and a serious character assessment. It's time for an image consultant.

AN URGENT REMINDER

1. Prophets and Disciples...

A. Words of the holy prophets and His disciples...

(1) Since All These Things are Coming...

(a) A Sincere Reminder

1. "This is now, beloved, **the second letter** that I have written to you; and in both of them **I stir up your sincere mind by reminding you that you should remember the words** which were **spoken before** by the **holy prophets and the commandment of us**, the apostles of the Lord and Savior," 2 Peter 3:1-2

WEBUS

a) Remember the words of the holy prophets...

b) Remember the words of the apostles...

(2) The words of the holy prophets!

(a) The prophetic word confirmed...

1. “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that **no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation**, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God **spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**” II Peter 1:19-21 NKJV

a) **Why the prophets?**

- 1) “*Surely the Lord **GOD does nothing**, Unless He **reveals His secret** to His servants **the prophets.**”*

Amos 3:7 NKJV

(b) What are some of those reminders? (2 Peter 3:10)

1. “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, **and the elements will be dissolved with fervent heat; and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.**” 2 Peter 3:10 WEBUS

a) Never again by flood:

- 1) “*Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; **never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.**”*” Genesis 9:11 NKJV

b) Samples: Malachi, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, and Nahum (No Flood, but instead FIRE!)

1) *““For behold, the day is coming, **Burning like an oven**, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. **And the day which is coming shall burn them up**,” Says the LORD of hosts, “That will leave them neither root nor branch.” Malachi 4:1 NKJV*

2) *““When I choose the proper time, I will judge uprightly. **The earth and all its inhabitants are dissolved**; I set up its pillars firmly. Selah” Psalms 75:2-3 NKJV*

3) *“The earth mourns and fades away, The world languishes and fades away; The haughty people of the earth languish. The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have **transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant**. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. **Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, And few men are left.**” Isaiah 24:4-6 NKJV*

- 4) *“Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, My anger and My fury will be poured out on this place—on man and on beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground. **And it will burn and not be quenched.**””* Jeremiah 7:20 NKJV
- 5) *“**The mountains will melt under Him,** And the valleys **will split Like wax before the fire,** Like waters poured down a steep place.”* Micah 1:4 NKJV
- 6) *“The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of His feet. **He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, And dries up all the rivers.** Bashan and Carmel wither, And the flower of Lebanon wilts. The mountains quake before Him, **The hills melt,** And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it. Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? **His fury is poured out like fire,***

And the rocks are thrown down by Him."

Nahum 1:3-6 NKJV

(3) Be mindful of Christ's words through Apostolic records!

(a) **Fulfilling the words of the prophets:**

1. ""Do not think that I came to destroy the Law **or the Prophets**. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. **Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments**, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:17-19 NKJV

(b) **Prophets always point to something:**

1. ""Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. **For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John**. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to

come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Matthew 11:11-15 NKJV

(c) **If you would have believed the prophets:**

1. "Then He said to them, **"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!**

Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" **And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets**, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:25-27 NKJV

(d) **Since you don't believe the prophets:**

1. "Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; **there is one who accuses you—Moses**, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. **But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"**" John 5:45-47 NKJV

(e) **You murdered the prophets:**

1. ""Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **Because you build the tombs of the prophets** and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, **'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of**

the prophets.' "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves **that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets."** {37} "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one **who kills the prophets** and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" Matthew 23:29-31, 37 NKJV

(4) The words of the Apostles!

(a) A trip down memory lane!

1. "Therefore **I will not be negligent to remind you of these things**, though you know them and are established in the present truth. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, **to stir you up by reminding you**, knowing that the putting off of my tent comes swiftly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. Yes, **I will make every effort that you may always be able to remember these things** even after my departure." 2 Peter 1:12-15 WEBUS

a) According to Peter, this is not new information for those to whom he is writing.

- 1) He is writing this down for posterity, so when he is gone, we would always have this information in which to refer.
 - 2) **Special Emphasis:** Clearly this is what Peter was using to disciple first century believers, and yet for modern Christians this model is almost completely unknown.
- b) By way of reminder
- 1) **The first reminder:** take the FREE FAITH you were given through Christ, and in order of development, add: Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, and Love.
 - 2) **The second reminder:** Don't ever forget you were ALREADY cleansed from your past sins. Don't live in them like you are still guilty of them, and don't ever go back to them like a dog returning to his vomit. It is the one thing that will shipwreck the first reminder!
 - 3) See the entire [Discipleship Series](#) on 2 Peter 1 here (20 teachings)
 - 4) See: [Dog Nature & Pig Behavior](#)

B. Willful Negligence

(1) Mockers Will Come

(a) Where is the promise of His coming?

1. “knowing this first, that **in the last days mockers will come, walking after their own lusts** and saying, **“Where is the promise of his coming?** For, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”” 2 Peter 3:3-4 WEBUS

a) First, let me remind you of the dangers of false teachers with three teachings from 2 Peter 2...

- 1) [Maligning the Truth](#) (2 Peter 2:1-11)
- 2) [Ancient Gaslighting](#) (2 Peter 2:12-19)
- 3) [Dog Nature & Pig Behavior](#) (2 Peter 2:20-22)

b) **The way of scoffers from the past:** They walk according to their own lusts (AKA “the dictates of their own hearts!”). It began in the wilderness as Israel insisted on doing things their own way!

- 1) *“and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that **he blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart’—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.**”* Deuteronomy 29:19 NKJV

c) Look at this series of prophecies from Jeremiah warning against such behavior!

1) *"But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.' Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward."* Jeremiah 7:23-24 NKJV

2) *"And the LORD said, "Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them,""* Jeremiah 9:13-14 NKJV

3) *"Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone followed the dictates of his evil heart; therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but which they have not done.' "* And the LORD

said to me, "A conspiracy has been found among the men of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. **They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers who refused to hear My words**, and they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers."

Jeremiah 11:8-10 NKJV

- 4) "Thus says the LORD: 'In this manner I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. **This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who follow the dictates of their hearts**, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing.'" Jeremiah 13:9-10 NKJV

- 5) "And **you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart**, so that no one listens to Me. Therefore I will cast you out of this land into a land that you do not know, neither you nor your fathers; and there you shall serve other gods day

and night, where I will not show you favor.’”

Jeremiah 16:12-13 NKJV

- 6) *“Now therefore, speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: “**Behold, I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.**” ’ ” And they said, “**That is hopeless! So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one obey the dictates of his evil heart.**” ”*

Jeremiah 18:11-12 NKJV

- d) **The way of scoffers in the future:** Mockers love deceiving spirits, doctrines of demons and are lovers of all things SELF!

- 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**, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, **forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who***

believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." I Timothy 4:1-5 NKJV

- 2) "But know this, that ***in the last days perilous times will come:*** For ***men will be*** lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ***having a form of godliness but denying its power.*** And from such people turn away!" II Timothy 3:1-5 NKJV

(2) "Where is the promise of his coming?"

(a) They willfully forget!!!!

1. "For **they willfully forget** that there were **heavens from of old, and an earth formed out of water** and amid water **by the word of God**, by which means the world that existed then, **being overflowed with water, perished.**" 2 Peter 3:5-6 WEBUS

- a) They willfully forget... God formed the earth!
- 1) ***“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the***

*gathering together of the waters He called Seas.
And God saw that it was good.” Genesis 1:1-10
NKJV*

- b) They willfully forget... God flooded the earth because of the wickedness of man!
 - 1) *“Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. **And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. And all flesh died that moved on the earth:** birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. **Only Noah and***

those who were with him in the ark remained alive. And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.” Genesis 7:17-24 NKJV

- c) They willfully forget... God promised to never again flood the earth!
- 1) “And God said: “***This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.*** It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; ***the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.*** The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” And God said to Noah, “***This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.***”” Genesis 9:12-17 NKJV

(b) Even Y'shua reminded us...

1. **“Now learn this parable from the fig tree:** When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, **I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.** Heaven and earth will pass away, **but My words will by no means pass away.** “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. **But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.** For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **and did not know until the flood came** and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” Matthew 24:32-39 NKJV

- a) He reminded us about the suddenness of how things happened at the time of Noah
- b) ...and even though it would not happen again by flood, it will by fire!

- (3) That same word of God that tells us about the pre-flood conditions and then tells us about the flood, tell us this...
- (a) The earth is currently being “preserved;” it is allowed to continue as is... but a FIRE is coming!
1. “But the heavens **that exist now** and the earth, by the same word have been **stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.**” 2 Peter 3:7 WEBUS
- a) The Final Book of the Old Testament
- 1) *““For behold, the day is coming, **Burning like an oven**, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. **And the day which is coming shall burn them up,**” Says the LORD of hosts, “That will leave them neither root nor branch.” Malachi 4:1 NKJV*
- b) God is a consuming FIRE!
- 1) *“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, **“Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.”***

Now this, “Yet once more,” **indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. **For our God is a consuming fire.**” Hebrews 12:25-29 NKJV

c) The Final Book of the New Testament

- 1) “When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Then another angel, having a **golden censer**, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. **Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth.** And there

*were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. **And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.** Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning **with fire was thrown into the sea**, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.” Revelation 8:1-9 NKJV*

C. The Day of the Lord

(1) Don't forget...

(a) God's Timing

1. “But don't forget this one thing, beloved, that **one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**” 2 Peter 3:8 WEBUS

a) God's Clock

- 1) 1 Day = 1000 Years (Why is this so important?)

b) The Week: 7 days

- 1) The Work Week: 6 days

- 2) The Sabbath: the 7th day (Saturday)
 - 3) Food Available: 6 days
 - 4) Double portion: the 6th day
 - 5) Famine (no collection of food): the 7th day (Sabbath)
- c) The Week of Years: 7 years
- 1) The Work Years: 6 years
 - 2) The Sabbatical Year: the 7th year
 - 3) Food Available: 6 years
 - 4) Double portion: 6th year
 - 5) Famine (no harvest of food): the 7th year (Sabbatical)
- d) The Prophetic Week: 7000 years
- 1) The Work Week: 6000 years
 - 2) The Sabbath Millennium: 1000 year reign of the Messiah
 - 3) Food Available: 6000 years
- e) The Spiritual Week: 4000 years pre-Messiah, 2000 years Messiah, 1000 years ruling and reigning with Messiah
- 1) The end of week (before Sabbath): a Thursday and Friday (2000 years)

2) The end of age: a Friday and a Saturday and those who manage it well...

2. What will you be doing when He returns?

a) *“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. “Who then is a **faithful and wise servant**, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? **Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.***

Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.” Matthew 24:44-47 NKJV

(2) Yahweh is not a slacker; all He promised will happen!

(a) He is simply exercising patience...

1. **“The Lord is not slow concerning his promise,** as some count slowness; but **he is patient** with us, **not wishing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”** 2 Peter 3:9 WEBUS

a) He is allowing His prophetic plan to unfold in perfect timing (much like you cannot rush the stages of development of a new born baby into a mature adult.)

b) Maturation follows a lifecycle... Line by Line. Milk is for infants; Meat is for adults!

1) *““Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.” For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, To whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” And, “This is the refreshing”; Yet they would not hear. **But the word of the LORD was to them, “Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little,”** That they might go and fall backward, and be broken And snared and caught.” Isaiah 28:9-13 NKJV*

c) I wish you would grow up already! Are you drinking Milk or eating Solid Food?

1) *“**For though by this time** you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need *milk and not **solid food. For everyone who partakes **only of milk is***

*unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of **full age**, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”* Hebrews 5:12-14 NKJV

d) Elementary Principles or Perfection:

- 1) “Therefore, **leaving the discussion of the *elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to **perfection [maturity, be a grown up who gets off the milk!]**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.” Hebrews 6:1-3 NKJV

2. Two Gospels for two stages of development!

- a) Gospel of Salvation (*milk, elementary principles):

- 1) [1 Corinthians 2:1-5](#)

- b) Gospel of the Kingdom (**solid food, perfection):

- 1) [1 Corinthians 2:6-16](#)

(3) The day of the lord and a thief in the night!

- (a) Three Prophetic Concepts

1. “But **the day of the Lord** will come as **a thief in the night**, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and **the elements will be dissolved with fervent heat; and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.**” 2 Peter 3:10 WEBUS

- a) The day of the Lord!
- b) A thief in the night!
- c) The Earth will be burned!

(b) The Day of the Lord and the Lord’s Day

1. The Final Days

- a) *“For behold, **the day is coming**, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And **the day which is coming** shall burn them up,” Says the LORD of hosts, “That will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this, ” Says the LORD of hosts. “**Remember the Law of Moses, My servant**, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and*

*judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful **day of the LORD**. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”* Malachi 4:1-6 NKJV

2. The Day of the Lord is the Lord's Day

- a) *“I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. **I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day**, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,”*
Revelation 1:9-10 NKJV

(c) A Thief in the Night

1. Be ready!

- a) *“Behold, **I am coming as a thief**. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”* Revelation 16:15 NKJV

2. Be watching!

- a) *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But*

*as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. **Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have **watched**** and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

Matthew 24:36-44 NKJV

3. Be sons of light and when He comes, it will not be as a thief to you!
 - a) *“But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For **you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.***

*For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light** and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. **For God did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."* 1

Thessalonians 5:1-11 NKJV

(d) The earth will be burned with fervent heat!

1. See above... Pages 19-22

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

2. Holy Living and Godliness

A. What Kind of People Ought You to Be?

(1) Image Consulting

(a) Time to Assess Your... Identity, Vision, Mission, Purpose, Influence, Values, Priorities, and Resources

1. “Therefore, **since all these things** will be destroyed like this, **what kind of people ought you to be in holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God**, which will cause the burning **heavens to be dissolved**, and the **elements will melt** with fervent heat? But, **according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.**” 2 Peter

3:11-13 WEBUS

(b) Holy Living and Godliness: Who, What, When Where, How, and Why?

1. **Holy Living:** is to be sanctified or to become set-apart. This process is meant to be pursued in every area of life. Doing so is the very essence of godliness. Notice the holistic nature of sanctification: Spirit, Soul, and Body.

a) *“May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 5:23 WEBUS*

2. **Godliness:** is holistic (See [Object Lesson: Godliness](#)).

To be godly means you have the sincere desire to align every thought and action with God’s will, and that you willingly submit your human spirit to the Holy Spirit!

a) *“But refuse profane and old wives’ fables. **Exercise yourself toward godliness.** For bodily exercise has some value, **but godliness has value in all things,** having the promise of the life which is now and of that which is to come.” 1 Timothy 4:7-8 WEBUS*

- 1) A critical distinction of godliness is that it is meant to be practiced; it’s an exercise that has both temporal and eternal value.
- 2) Your imperfections will be exposed as you progress, but godliness is not characterized by the achievement of perfection.
- 3) Godliness is, instead, the authentic grace-empowered pursuit of perfection.

- 4) It's hallmark is a never-ending desire to pursue God's will in all things (Spirit, Soul, and Body), and to make the appropriate corrections along the way.
- b) *"But **godliness with contentment is great gain**. For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly can't carry anything out."* 1 Timothy 6:6-7

WEBUS

- 1) A sign of godliness: willing to submit to God.
- 2) We can and should find complete satisfaction in the pursuit of the things of God.
- 3) Contentment is the hallmark of godliness, even...
 - a. ...in the midst of the mistakes we make along the way.
 - b. ...with the weaknesses that manifest in our characters.
 - c. ...during the various difficulties that we encounter.
- c) The faithful and wise servant (who is Godly) looks forward to the day of the Lord
 - 1) "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to

give them food in due season? **Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.**" Matthew 24:45-46 NKJV

3. Even as the elements melt with fervent heat!

a) *"For our God is a consuming fire."* Hebrews 12:29 NKJV

1) *"But the heavens **that exist now** and the earth, by the same word have been **stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.**"* 2 Peter 3:7

WEBUS

2) *"Behold, the day is coming, **Burning like an oven**, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. **And the day which is coming shall burn them up,**" Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch." Malachi 4:1 NKJV*

4. His promise of a new heavens and a new earth...

a) *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, **till heaven and earth pass away**, one jot or one tittle will by no*

means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

Matthew 5:17-18 NKJV

5. A new heavens and a new earth in which ONLY righteousness dwells...

a) *“Now I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for **the first heaven and the first earth had passed away**. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, **New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven** from God, **prepared as a bride** adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men**, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Then He who sat on the throne said, “**Behold, I make all things new.**” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him*

who thirsts. **He who overcomes shall inherit all things**, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. **But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone**, which is the second death.” Then one of the seven angels who had **the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues** came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” And he **carried me away in the Spirit** to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, **the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. [vv.12-21]** Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the

*names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. [v. 21]The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. **But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in***

*it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. **But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.***" Revelation 21:1-27 NKJV

b) **The Tree of Life:** the righteous standards continue forever!

1) *"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was **the tree of life**, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. **The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**"* Revelation 22:1-2 NKJV

2) *"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, to repay to each man according to his work.*

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. **Blessed are those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.***” Revelation 22:12-15 WEBUS

B. What kind of person are you in holy living and godliness?

(1) What is your new **Identity**?

(a) **Identity:** the characteristics determining who a person truly is. *Who are **you**?*

1. “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17
WEBUS

a) **You are a new grace-empowered human, one no longer bound to sin!**

1) “*knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so **that we would no longer be in bondage to sin.***” Romans 6:6 WEBUS

2. “We are therefore **ambassadors** on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us: we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf, so **that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**”

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 WEBUS

- a) You have the authority to speak as if He is speaking through you because you have become His righteousness in the earth.

3. “and being in readiness to avenge all disobedience **when your obedience is made full.**” 2 Corinthians

10:6 WEBUS

- a) You are to call others to righteous living when you are living righteously.

(2) What is your ultimate **Vision** for God’s people?

- (a) **Vision:** the ability to think about or plan the future with imagination and wisdom. A mental image of what the future will or could be like. *Where are **you** going?*

1. **Prerequisite:** “But as many as received him, to them **he gave the right to become God’s children**, to those who believe in his name:” John 1:12 WEBUS

- a) Before you can have a prophetic vision you must become a child of God!

1) *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only born Son, that **whoever believes in him** should not perish, but have eternal life.”* John 3:16 WEBUS

2) *“For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus **Christ and him crucified.**”* 1 Corinthians 2:2 WEBUS

3) *“that if you will **confess with your mouth** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Romans 10:9 WEBUS

2. **Once Children:** “Beloved, **now we are children** of God. It is not yet revealed **what we will be; but we know that when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him just as he is.** Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, even as he is pure.” 1 John 3:2-3 WEBUS

a) First we are children, but by the time He returns we will have become like Him, and then we will see Him in all His glory!

(b) We will see Him just as He is...

1. “He was changed before them. **His face shone like the sun**, and his garments became as white as the light.” Matthew 17:2 WEBUS
 - a) At the transfiguration, Y’shua gave us a glimpse into the future of what His glorified form would be like.
2. “who also said, “You men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? **This Jesus, who was received up from you into the sky, will come back in the same way** as you saw him going into the sky.”” Acts 1:11 WEBUS
 - a) Y’shua resurrected in His glorified body, and He ascended into heaven in that form. He will return in that same form.
3. “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. **But we all, with unveiled face seeing the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 WEBUS
 - a) We too will be transformed into that same image!
 - b) And all of creation will benefit from that transformation!

- 1) “that the **creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage** of decay into the liberty of **the glory of the children of God.**” Romans 8:21

WEBUS

(3) How and with whom will you accomplish your **Mission**?

- (a) **Mission:** a strongly felt aim, ambition, calling, or assignment carried out for a specific purpose, in a specific way, aided by specific people. *How will **you** get there?*

1. “**Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” Matthew 28:19-20 WEBUS

- a) Make disciples of nations. First lead them to the Lord and then teach them to obey!

2. “**This Good News of the Kingdom will be preached** in the whole world for **a testimony to all the nations**, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14 WEBUS

- a) An obedient church becomes a testimony to the nations as it spreads the Gospel of the Kingdom.

3. “For though you have ten thousand tutors in Christ, you don’t have many fathers. **For in Christ Jesus, I became your father** through the Good News. **I beg you therefore, be imitators of me.**” 1 Corinthians 4:15-16 WEBUS

a) Join the fathers of the faith and imitate what they did!

4. “Brothers, I don’t regard myself as yet having taken hold, but one thing I do: forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, **I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, think this way.** If in anything you think otherwise, God will also reveal that to you. **Nevertheless, to the extent that we have already attained, let’s walk by the same rule.** Let’s be of the same mind. Brothers, **be imitators together of me, and note those who walk this way, even as you have us for an example.**” Philippians 3:13-17

WEBUS

a) The ultimate goal is Christlikeness! That should be every Christians intent!

b) If you don’t yet believe that, you will!

c) Imitate those (like Paul) who have gone before you and have given you the greatest example!

1) “***Be imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ.***” 1 Corinthians 11:1 WEBUS

5. Christ’s example:

a) “For ***I have given you an example***, that you should also do [***wash each other’s feet***] as I have done to you.” John 13:15 WEBUS

b) “he who says he remains in him ***ought himself also to walk just like he walked.***” 1 John 2:6 WEBUS

6. The Holy Spirit:

a) “for ***the Holy Spirit will teach you*** in that same hour what you must say.” Luke 12:12 WEBUS

b) “But ***the Counselor, the Holy Spirit***, whom the Father will send in my name, ***will teach you all things, and will remind you*** of all that I said to you.” John 14:26 WEBUS

c) “When the Counselor has come, whom I will send to you from the Father, ***the Spirit of truth***, who proceeds from the Father, ***he will testify about me.***” John 15:26 WEBUS

- d) “When he has come, he **will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment;**” John 16:8 WEBUS
- e) “However, when he, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, he **will guide you into all truth**, for he will not speak from himself; but whatever he hears, he will speak. **He will declare to you things that are coming.**” John 16:13 WEBUS

(4) What inspires your fundamental **Purpose**?

- (a) **Purpose:** the reason or inspiration for why something is done or created or for why something exists. *Why do you care?*

1. “He is before all things, and **in him all things are held together.**” Colossians 1:17 WEBUS

- a) First and foremost, Y’shua is the glue the holds everything together.
- b) As such, to glorify Him must be at the core of your every inspiration.

2. “Yes most certainly, and **I count all things to be a loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus**, my Lord, for whom I suffered **the loss of all things**, and **count them nothing but refuse**, that I may gain Christ” Philippians 3:8 WEBUS

- a) In comparison to your intimacy with Y'shua, everything else must be of minute interest.
- 3. "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, **for those who are called according to his purpose.**" Romans 8:28 WEBUS
 - a) Each one of you has a calling from God that has its roots in why He created you!
- 4. "For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God **prepared before** that we would walk in them." Ephesians 2:10 WEBUS
 - a) You are a unique piece of artwork that God created to be used for a specific reason.
 - 1) "*For **you formed my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb.***" Psalms 139:13 WEBUS
- 5. "We **were also assigned an inheritance in him,** having been **foreordained according to the purpose of him** who does all things after **the counsel of his will,**" Ephesians 1:11 WEBUS
 - a) Your purpose for your life should be God's purpose for your life!
 - 1) **Example:** "***Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I sanctified***

*you. **I have appointed you** a prophet to the nations.”*” Jeremiah 1:5 WEBUS

6. **“Yahweh has made everything for its own end—** yes, even the wicked for the day of evil.” Proverbs 16:4 WEBUS

a) There are no mistakes—everything and everyone has been created for God’s purpose!

- 1) **And what God began, He will finish:** *“being confident of this very thing, that **he who began a good work in you will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ.”* Philippians 1:6 WEBUS

7. **“If anyone speaks,** let it be **as it were the very words of God. If anyone serves,** let it be as of the strength which God supplies, **that in all things God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:11 WEBUS

a) Think of it like this...

- 1) Don’t even say a word without first considering that they are God’s words!
- 2) Don’t even lift a finger without first considering it is God’s finger!

- 3) And don't even take a breath if your intent is to glorify yourself over Him! ***"How can you believe, who receive glory from one another, and you don't seek the glory that comes from the only God?"*** John 5:44 WEBUS
8. "John answered, **"A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. {30} He must increase, but I must decrease.** "He who comes from above is **above all**. He who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks of the earth. **He who comes from heaven is above all."** John 3:27, 30-31 WEBUS
 - a) As a Christian, pursue your life's ambitions with this in mind... you cannot produce anything without God!
 - b) So, get out of the way and place Y'shua at the forefront of your life! *"...do all to the glory of God."* 1 Corinthians 10:31
- (5) On what will you exert your greatest **Influence**?
 - (a) **Influence:** the capacity to have an effect or impact on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or the effect itself. *Who or what will **you** effect?*

1. **“You are the salt of the earth,** but if the salt has lost its flavor, with what will it be salted? It is then good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men. **“You are the light of the world.** A city located on a hill can’t be hidden. Neither do you light a lamp and put it under a measuring basket, but on a **stand**; and it shines to all who are in the house. Even so, **let your light shine before men,** that they may see your good works and **glorify your Father who is in heaven.”** Matthew 5:13-16 WEBUS

a) You are the “Salt of the Earth”...

- 1) Salt preserves things and keeps them from decaying; salt also enhances flavor and makes them more palatable.
- 2) Be a refreshment to others and may your influence over them save their souls from eternal decay!
- 3) And may your life be an inspiration to others!
- 4) If you cannot exercise influence over others for God, then what use are you?

b) You are the “Light of the World”...

- 1) Y'shua said... ***"I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."*** (John 8:12)
 - 2) It's a potential impact that you must consider one of the greatest privileges in all of God's creation; **He passed on the responsibility of spreading His light to the world to you!**
 - 3) Stand up and let His light (glory) shine through you to the world!
- c) But even so, we see that your impact on the world is meant to glorify God!
2. "Do you see a man skilled in his work? **He will serve kings.** He won't serve obscure men." Proverbs 22:29
WEBUS
 - a) Accentuate your natural God-given talents and God will be able to use you mightily!
 3. "Yes, and **you will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony to them and to the nations.** But when they deliver you up, don't be anxious how or what you will say, for it will be given you in that hour what you will say. For **it is not you who speak, but the Spirit** of your Father who speaks in you." Matthew 10:18-20 WEBUS

- a) You will make a powerful impact on the world if you would just let God use you!
- 4. “But **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. **You will be witnesses** to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.”” Acts 1:8 WEBUS
 - a) Let Holy Spirit power be your witness!
- 5. “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. **Always be ready to give an answer to everyone** who asks you a reason **concerning the hope** that is in you, with humility and fear,” 1 Peter 3:15 WEBUS
 - a) Be ready at all times to give testimony for why you have so much hope and in what you have hope!
(See: [Hopeology](#))
- 6. “But arise, and stand on your feet, for **I have appeared to you for this purpose: to appoint you a servant and a witness** both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will reveal to you; delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I send you, **to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light** and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance** among those

who are sanctified by faith in me.'" Acts 26:16-18

WEBUS

a) For what purpose did Christ encounter Paul, as an example, (and you?):

- 1) To appoint him a servant and a witness.
- 2) To open the eyes of others and turn them from darkness to light.
- 3) So, they may receive forgiveness and an eternal inheritance..

b) And to you...

- 1) "...he breathed on them, and said to them, ***"Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive anyone's sins, they have been forgiven them. If you retain anyone's sins, they have been retained."***" John 20:22-23

7. "and that you make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, even as we instructed you, **that you may walk properly toward those who are outside,** and may have need of nothing." 1 Thessalonians

4:11-12 WEBUS

a) Do what you do also to influence those outside the church!

b) And in that spirit, do whatever it takes (without sinning) to impact as many people as possible!

1) *“To the weak I became as weak, that I might gain the weak. **I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.**”* 1

Corinthians 9:22 WEBUS

8. “As each has **received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God** in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10 WEBUS

a) You have been saved by God’s grace, his glorious empowerment...

1) *“for **by grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,”* Ephesians 2:8 WEBUS

b) Therefore, be a good steward of that grace to have maximum impact on the world!

1) *“Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; **through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace** in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”* Romans 5:1-2

WEBUS

(6) What **Values** will shape your standards?

(a) **Values:** a person's principles or standards of behavior; one's judgment of what is important in life. *What are **your** guiding principles?*

1. "Therefore **watch carefully how you walk**, not as unwise, but as wise, **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15-16 WEBUS

a) Measure each step you take in life carefully.

b) Be wise: wisdom is the godly application of knowledge and understanding.

c) Time might be the most valuable commodity; don't waste it with frivolity!

2. "**Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.** Let your **speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt**, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." Colossians 4:5-6 WEBUS

a) If wisdom is an important standard in your life, it will have a powerful effect on others.

b) Let it guide your every word!

c) Remember "salt" is only useful if it maintains its attributes to "prevent decay" and "enhance flavor"!

d) If your words won't promote life and won't strengthen others, then keep them to yourself!

- 1) ***“Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but only what is good for building others up as the need may be, that it may **give [impart] grace** to those who hear.”*** Ephesians 4:29

WEBUS

3. ***“Let’s not be weary in doing good,*** for we will reap in due season if we don’t give up. So then, as we have opportunity, ***let’s do what is good toward all men,*** and ***especially toward*** those who are of ***the household of the faith.”*** Galatians 6:9-10 WEBUS

- a) Make virtuous behavior a standard in your life!
- b) Make this your guiding principle; others first!
 - 1) *“doing nothing through rivalry or through conceit, but in humility, each **counting others better than himself;**”* Philippians 2:3 WEBUS

- c) SOP (Standard Operating Procedure)

- 1) Other Christians first; then everyone else!
- 2) ***“Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.*** For the commandments, *“You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other commandments*

*there are, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**” Love doesn’t harm a neighbor. Love **therefore is the fulfillment of the law.**” Romans 13:8-10 WEBUS (See also [Leviticus 19:17-18](#)*

4. “But I say this, brothers: the **time is short**. From now on, both those who have wives may be **as though** they had none; and those who weep, **as though** they didn’t weep; and those who rejoice, **as though** they didn’t rejoice; and those who buy, **as though** they didn’t possess; and those who use the world, **as not** using it to the fullest. **For the mode of this world passes away. But I desire to have you to be free from cares.** He who is unmarried is concerned for the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord;” 1 Corinthians 7:29-32 WEBUS

- a) **Principle Value:** Live AS THOUGH there is very little time remaining and AS THOUGH you are free from every care of this world!
- b) And live that way right up to your dying breath!
- 1) *“For I am already being offered [a drink offering], and the time of my departure has come. **I have fought the good fight.** I have*

*finished the course. **I have kept the faith.***" 2

Timothy 4:6-7

c) And don't concern yourself for tomorrow!

1) *"Therefore **don't be anxious for tomorrow**, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day's own evil is sufficient."* Matthew 6:34 WEBUS

2) *"**Don't boast about tomorrow**; for you don't know what a day may bring."* Proverbs 27:1
WEBUS

5. "For to me **to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**"

Philippians 1:21 WEBUS

a) All things for Christ—in life or death!

1) *"For **if we live, we live to the Lord. Or if we die, we die to the Lord.** If therefore we live or die, we are the Lord's."* Romans 14:8 WEBUS

2) *"Whether therefore you eat or drink, or **whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**"* 1
Corinthians 10:31 WEBUS

6. "Finally then, brothers, we beg and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that **as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God**, that you abound more and more." 1 Thessalonians 4:1 WEBUS

a) Your chief objective in life must be to please God!

(7) Which **Priorities** will shape your decisions?

(a) **Priorities:** things that are regarded or treated as more important than other things; what takes precedence over everything else. *What will shape **your** schedule?*

1. “But **the end of all things is near**. Therefore be of sound mind, self-controlled, and sober in prayer.” 1

Peter 4:7 WEBUS

a) Priorities...

1) A sound mind

2) Self-control

3) Prayer

2. “Therefore be ready also, for **the Son of Man is coming** in an hour that you don’t expect him.”” Luke 12:40 WEBUS

a) So, cherish every day; you don’t know your last!

1) “So **teach us to count our days**, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Psalms 90:12 WEBUS

3. “I have been crucified with Christ, and **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me**. That life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.” Galatians 2:20 WEBUS

a) Priority: Christ in me, not me in me!

4. “But **these things don’t count; nor do I hold my life dear to myself**, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to fully testify to the Good News of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24 WEBUS

a) Not Priorities!

1) My own life...

2) My own suffering... “...*the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that **bonds and afflictions wait for me.***” Acts 20:23

(8) To what will you allocate your **Resources?**

(a) **Resources:** a supply of money, materials, assistance, or other assets that can be dedicated to the vision and mission of others or an organization in order for it to function effectively. This includes one’s personal attributes and capabilities regarded as able to help or sustain the vision and mission. *For what will **you** dedicate your time, talent, and riches?*

1. “For it is **God who works in you** both **to will** and to work for **his good pleasure.**” Philippians 2:13 WEBUS

a) God’s desire is to use you and all your time, talent, and riches for His purposes!

2. “And God is able to **make all grace abound** to you, that you, always **having all sufficiency in everything**, may abound to every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

WEBUS

- a) He will pour out His grace over your life and He is the source who supplies all your needs!

3. “But you shall remember Yahweh your God, for **it is he who gives you power to get wealth**, that he may establish his covenant which he swore to your fathers, as it is today.” Deuteronomy 8:18 WEBUS

- a) If you have great wealth, it is because of God and God alone! Thus, use your wealth for God!

- b) If you obey Him...

- 1) ***“Yahweh will make you the head, and not the tail. You will be above only, and you will not be beneath, if you listen to the commandments of Yahweh your God which I command you today, to observe and to do,”*** Deuteronomy 28:13

WEBUS

4. “Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, **go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven;** and come, follow me.””

Matthew 19:21 WEBUS

- a) If required, you must be willing to part with all your earthy treasures!
 - 1) *“It is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye than for **a rich man** to enter into God’s Kingdom.”* Mark 10:25 WEBUS

- b) Thus, you must be a faithful steward of what God has given you!
 - 1) *“Here, moreover, **it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.**”* 1 Corinthians 4:2
WEBUS

- 5. **“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be given to you. For with the same measure you measure it will be measured back to you.”** Luke 6:38
WEBUS

- a) If you freely give, what will come back to you is immeasurable! Note: You can’t out-give God!
- b) So don’t ever stop doing what is right in God’s eyes—no matter what!
 - 1) *“**Let’s not be weary in doing good,** for we will reap in due season if we don’t give up.”*
Galatians 6:9 WEBUS

c) And if you find you are lacking in anything,
examine your motives!

1) *“You ask, and don’t receive, because **you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.**”* James 4:3 WEBUS

6. *““He said to him, ‘**Well done, you good servant!** Because you were found faithful with very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’”* Luke 19:17
WEBUS

a) The ultimate payoff: ***“Well done, you good servant!”***

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

**1. Holy living means is to be sanctified or to become set-apart.
This process is meant to be pursued in every area of life. Doing so is the very essence of godliness.**

A. What is the holistic nature of holiness according to 1
Thessalonians 5:23?

**2. To be godly means you have the sincere desire to align every
thought and action with God’s will, and that you willingly
submit your human spirit to the Holy Spirit!**

- A. A critical distinction of godliness is that it is meant to be practiced; how is that supported by 1 Timothy 4:7-8?
 - B. Please write a short essay explaining the depth of 1 Timothy 6:6-7.
3. **Identity:** the characteristics determining who a person truly is.
- A. What is your new **Identity**?
 - B. Who are **you**?
4. **Vision:** the ability to think about or plan the future with imagination and wisdom. A mental image of what the future will or could be like.
- A. What is your ultimate **Vision** for God's people?
 - B. Where are **you** going?
5. **Mission:** a strongly felt aim, ambition, calling, or assignment carried out for a specific purpose, in a specific way, aided by specific people.
- A. How and with whom will you accomplish your **Mission**?
 - B. How will **you** get there?
6. **Purpose:** the reason or inspiration for why something is done or created or for why something exists.
- A. What inspires your fundamental **Purpose**?
 - B. Why do **you** care?
7. **Values:** a person's principles or standards of behavior; one's judgment of what is important in life.

- A. What **Values** will shape your standards?
- B. What are **your** guiding principles?
- 8. **Influence:** the capacity to have an effect or impact on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or the effect itself.
 - A. On who or what will you exert your greatest **Influence**?
 - B. Who or what will **you** effect?
- 9. **Priorities:** things that are regarded or treated as more important than other things; what takes precedence over everything else.
 - A. Which **Priorities** will shape your decisions?
 - B. What will shape **your** schedule?
- 10. **Resources:** a supply of money, materials, assistance, or other assets that can be dedicated to the vision and mission of others or an organization in order for it to function effectively. This includes one's personal attributes and capabilities regarded as able to help or sustain the vision and mission.
 - A. To what will you allocate your **Resources**?
 - B. For what will **you** dedicate your time, talent, and riches?