

VIGIL



“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

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How to Live Godly in a World So Wrong**

JOSEPH: AN EXAMPLE OF PURITY

Billy Hayes

I love documentaries! Recently I watched a documentary entitled “I Am a Virgin”. The premise of this particular documentary was to place the life of purity in a positive light. Please take time to fully understand the previous statement: to place a life of purity in a positive light. The most terrible idea ever propagated by Satan is that a relationship of a sexual nature is the normal way of life for everyone. This idea has now come to fruition and we, as a society, see those who will live as God commands as odd. We, as society, need to be introduced to the virgin as if he or she is an alien. Living a life regulated by the rule of God ought to be the normal state of affairs rather than the exception. During this article, let’s explore the idea of purity.

In order to understand this delicate subject, we need to understand sex and its God-given intent. The intent of God for the sexual union has been granted only to those who are in a married relationship. The sexual relationship is the ultimate completion of the marriage vows. God has stated for

the married couple to help each other and to satisfy each other’s needs (Genesis 2; 1 Corinthians 7). The sexual union is an honorable union, when it is between husband and wife (Heb.13.4). The most important and serious regulation is that this relationship needs only to be practiced between a husband and a wife. Without the benefit of the marriage vows, sex is a sin. God places it in one of two categories: fornication or adultery.

As I was in the middle of this documentary, I thought of the life of Joseph. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of purity recorded in the Bible. Many times we see Joseph as an example for our young folks. While that is true, the life of Joseph is a great example for all of mankind, no matter the age. Joseph was a man who knew his place. In Genesis 37-38, Moses recorded that Joseph was taught about the most important things in life: following God. His father, Jacob, did just that. He followed God and did that publicly. Joseph saw the laws of God being followed and by that he understood that God’s ways are not shameful nor

are they unprofitable. The greatest idea for purity is to show our children how to follow God.

Joseph was traded to the house of a man named Potiphar (Genesis 39). Potiphar was a man of great authority in the nation of Egypt. He was captain of the guard. Scholars say that Potiphar was the one in charge of the execution of the criminals in this nation. As Joseph was in this house, Potiphar entrusted him with all he possessed. The only exception, over which Joseph had no control, was Potiphar’s wife. His wife saw Joseph and began to long and pine for him, sexually. On that faithful day, when she grabbed Joseph by his coat, Potiphar’s wife changed the rules of the house. She thrust him into a grand test of his faith. He has two choices: follow God or follow self. What really happens if Joseph lies with her? Will anyone in the house ever know? Will this promote his stock in the house and in Egypt?

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EDITORIAL

The World Has Gone Mad!

Ronnie Hayes

Morals, what morals? Justice, what justice? Has the world lost its ability to know the difference between right and wrong? As advanced as we think our society is, truly, we have much to learn. Jeremiah sought for the same answers. "Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it." (Jeremiah 5:1) The truth is mocked as something unobtainable. Likes and dislikes are established as truth. The writer of the book of Judges penned, "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (Judges 21:25) When everyone is the law unto himself or herself, chaos ensues. We see chaos in the book of Judges and in our world today.

Why has the world gone mad? There the world has no moral compass. Instead of referencing the Bible, individuals choose to make decisions for themselves, decision often made out of emotion. In a recent article entitled "95% of Americans have had premarital Sex" the author wrote, "A new study of 38,000 Americans has found that 95 percent had premarital sex, challenging the wisdom of the abstinence-only sex education programs favored by the Bush administration." (Truthdig.com)

Does the fact that 95% of Americans are participating in an act that the Bible defines as sinful (cf Hebrews 13:4) make it okay? I am reminded of the adage, "If every body were jumping off a cliff, would you?" When did majority rule become the moral compass of our society, our family and our religion? Moses warned, "Thou shalt not

follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment." (Exodus 23:2) When it comes to choices about abortion, euthanasia, pre-marital sex, homosexuality, drugs, drinking and a host of other moral choices, it seems popularity, prominent positions, and star power carries more weight than does the word of God. It appears that if Hollywood does it, then everyone who wants to be in the *IN* crowd will follow. In Jeremiah 44:15-19 the children of Judah used the same excuses. They were wrong then just as our society is wrong now.

The world as a whole has no moral compass. What about we as Christians? Are we offended by this lack society? In the *How to take back America Conference '09* there was a speech given entitled Homosexual Extremist Movement by Marr Barber. Mr. Barber quotes from an essay written by his son, Jared, entitled Tolerance:

So, when one states that one believes fornication, homosexual behavior, or adultery to be wrong, the modern world calls this person an "intolerant" "oppressor" of "sexual freedom." Or they are called "hateful." ...This is a problem, grave and immense. This rationale seeks, in its innermost, to undermine the ability of other to challenge these beliefs. By setting themselves up as minorities, people in this realm make disagreement "hatred," "bigotry," "judgment."

Another problem arises here, though; and it is this: Christians, as a whole, focus too much on the homosexual issue alone. They attack it solely, denounce it, and live whichever way they please. Adultery, fornication, racism, pride, jealousy, selfish ambition, drunkenness; all of these immoral acts take to the background in view of homosexuality, and so we as Christians are set up as anti-gay instead of anti-immorality. We need to end our own hypocrisy, all of us, I as much as any, so that we can more

blamelessly broach this subject and others. (howtotakebackamerican.org)

Unfortunately, hypocrisy is apparent in Christianity as well as the secular world. When is the last time you heard a sermon on modesty, the dangers of drinking, fornication or following a multitude to do evil? You know I'm blessed to speak in several Gospel Meetings each year and often I hear, "We don't hear preaching like that anymore." Shame on us as Gospel Preachers when we don't proclaim the whole counsel of God!

What can we do to awaken the church? (1) Preach the truth about sin and its effects. We must expose sin wherever it is. Just because the school supports an activity does not make it right. Proms, dances, and any sport activity that requires our children to dress or act immodestly should be pointed out. The Bible still demands that we dress modestly. (cf. 1 Timothy 2:9) The Bible still commands that we be pure in actions. (Philippians 4:8) (2) Promote education concerning these moral issues. Know what the Bible says about these issues. It is our responsibility as Christians (cf 2 Timothy 2:15) to be ready to give an answer for the things we believe. (cf. 1 Peter 3:15) One of the wisest ways to spend our time is to teach our children God's Word. The best way for our children to defeat these allurements of Satan is to be forearmed. (cf. Ephesians 6:11-18) (3) Provide wholesome activities for every age group. Do you know where your children are and what they are doing? If you are really concerned about them and their salvation, you will. Provide wholesome entertainment for your children or Satan will provide something else (cf. Hebrews 11:25).

May God help us to straighten out a world that has gone so wrong.

COURAGE IN SPITE OF THE HEAT

Patrick Morrison

Likely one of your favorite Bible stories from your youth is the account of the three Hebrew youths Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3). Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (later given the Babylonian names Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) were taken captive to Babylon during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar (606 B.C.). With the threat of being burned alive in a fiery furnace looming over them, these three young men refused to give in to the king's command to bow down and worship a ninety-foot tall image of his likeness. What can we learn from them about conviction, compromise, courage, and character?

Conviction Breeds Courage

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had been raised up with the word of God. The very names their parents gave them were to serve as a reminder of their belief and trust in the God of heaven. Hananiah's name meant "Jehovah has favored." Mishael's name meant "who is what God is?" Azariah's name meant "Jehovah has helped." When these young men, along with Daniel, were forcibly removed from their homes and taken away captive into Babylon, their faith was immediately put to the test. The three joined Daniel in the refusal to partake of the king's meat and the king's wine, which was being fed to the noble sons of the Hebrew captives (Daniel 1:8, 17), even though such a stand could have cost them their lives. Real courage is born out of true conviction. Upon hearing the command of Nebuchadnezzar, that at the sound of the instruments of music the entire nation was to bow down to the golden likeness of the king, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego already knew that they would refuse to honor such a request. It wasn't that their courage suddenly caused them to stand up for their convictions; it was that they were so

convicted of the truth about the one true and living God that they were willing to suffer whatever may come as a result of standing foursquare upon it! Just how convicted were these three young men? When asked of Nebuchadnezzar, "[a]nd who is that God who shall deliver you out of my hands?" (Daniel 3:15), these three remarkable youths spoke with unmistakable conviction: "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto the, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Daniel 3:17-18.) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted fully in God's power to deliver them, but, even if God chose not to do so, they would gladly die in order to remain true to their God! Are we so convicted of the truths of God's word that, when our feet are held to the fire, our faith will stand the test?

Conviction Bucks Compromise

How easy do you suppose it would have been for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to have given into Nebuchadnezzar and bowed down to worship his image? After all, they were young; they were far away from home, far away from the eyes of those who knew them and who would disapprove of their actions. They could be taken from the city of God, and they could have their names changed in order to remove the thought of God from them, but these three Hebrew youths would not allow their convictions to be taken from them, or compromised in any way! Will we attend all assemblies of the church faithfully when on vacation, even when those we know are nowhere around? Will we be tempted to compromise our modesty and dress like the world when among the worldly? Remember, it is far easier to give in

than to stand in! Compromise is a sign of cowardice, and cowardice in regard to standing for the truth will cost us our souls (Revelation 21:8).

Conviction Builds Character

How could three young men stand so firmly against the threats of the mightiest king on earth? God had already brought them through one test, as recorded in Daniel chapter one. Why could they make the request to eat only vegetables and drink only water while their brothers in the flesh were feasting on the king's meat and wine? Every time these young men were willing to stand for what was right, God had blessed them, cared for them, provided for them, and had been with them through every trial. With each test of their faith successfully passed, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego could take comfort in knowing that the next trial could be overcome just as had those before it. Paul by inspiration tells us that the trying of our faith works experience (Romans 5:4, KJV), or builds character (ESV). As the fire of trial grew hotter, the character of the three young men grew stronger and more refined.

Will your faith stand the test of fiery trial, or will your soul wither in the heat? Until you are fully convicted of God's word, then courage will fail you in the heat of the moment, and compromise and convenience will reign supreme. Study the word of God (2 Peter 3:18). Meditate upon it constantly (Psalm 119:97). Lay it up in your heart (Psalm 119:11). Then, when Satan begins hurling his fiery darts, you can stand firmly upon your convictions, building character with each test of faith that you pass. Take courage in spite of the fire!

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THE WILES OF THE DEVIL

Chance Hicks

The Bible reveals in great detail the identity and the tactics of the Christian's enemy. The devil is described as our "adversary" and as "a roaring lion...seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). He is described as "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4), "a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44), "a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44), "the tempter" (Matthew 4:3), "the wicked one" (Matthew 13:19), and "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). The Christian must be prepared to face and "to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11). Concerning the tactics which Satan uses in his attempts to keep mankind from following God, Paul wrote, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11). He uses subtlety and deception (Genesis 3:1-8; 2 Corinthians 4:4). In his deception, he is "transformed into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). He approaches man with temptation that appeals to man's desires and often comes when man is at a weak point in his life (Matthew 4:1-11). John informed his readers of the avenues Satan would use to place temptation before them,

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world (1 John 2:15-16).

What are some of the wiles of the devil Christians face today?

While We are Educated, the Wily Devil is Deceiving Minds

School has recently begun again. It is another year of sitting in the classroom listening to instruction from the teacher learning about science, math, language, reading, history, etc. It is a great thing to

learn information, to gain knowledge, and to develop skills that will benefit our lives. However, Satan has entered into the realm of education and is succeeding in deceiving the minds of people both young and old. Beginning in the classrooms of the youngest children in school and reaching all the way to the highest institutions of learning, Satan is filling the minds of mankind with error! Satan has filled our science books with false information concerning the origin of the earth, the age of the earth, and the origin of man. The truth is God created the world in six days, "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day" (Exodus 20:11). Life has no meaning; and no purpose when one believes that life simply came into existence from non-life. Human lives have no value when one believes that humans are simply the product of the evolutionary line. When one views the condition and path of our country, the effects of these errors, which Satan has placed in our education system is clearly seen. Adolf Hitler is credited with stating, "Let me control the textbooks, and I will control the state." Satan is working diligently to control the textbooks and classrooms of our country and is succeeding in deceiving minds and controlling our country!

While We are Entertained, the Wily Devil is Destroying Morality

After a long day at work, we sit on the couch and turn on the television for a period of relaxation and entertainment. While there are some good programs on television, the majority of the shows, in one way or another, are filled with Satan's handiwork. Through continued exposure to those things, which are abomination in the sight of God, our hearts and minds can begin to come accustomed to them. If we are not

careful, those things, over time, do not bother us anymore. In fact, if we are honest with ourselves, we begin to laugh along with the world at these abominations. The devil is destroying morality through a box in our homes! We must guard what enters into our minds (Proverbs 4:23; Philippians 4:8)!

While We are Edified, the Wily Devil is Dividing Mankind

As New Testament Christians, we assemble on the first day of the week to worship God in spirit and in truth (Acts 20:7; John 4:24). These assemblies to worship God also edify and encourage the Christians in attendance (Hebrews 10:24-25). While Christians are gathered to worship God, to edify others, and to receive edification, Satan is working unendingly to divide mankind. At the same time Christians assemble to worship God, multitudes of people gather in buildings and engage in what they are convinced is worship to God. The Bible gives specific instructions for what God requires in worship – singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), praying (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Acts 2:42), giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), teaching/preaching (Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 4:2), Lord's Supper (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7), but the devil has deceived many individuals and caused division. The Bible plainly teaches that there is one church and not many (Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18), but the devil has convinced the multitudes that one church is just as good as another. The devil even works to cause division within the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 1:10-17).

May we prepare ourselves to stand against the wiles of the devil!

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Modesty, Morality, and Man Dale Hubbert

Are there standards for mankind that are so superior in their nature that they need no change or amending? Is it possible that a message written many centuries ago could offer the best possible advice and instruction in regard to our personal conduct and association with others in our current culture? Is it there a code of morality and ethics that would serve all people equally well?

I believe the answer to all the above questions is “yes”. The bible is capable and equal to the task of instructing us regarding morals and modesty. What are we talking about? What is morality? What is modesty? How do these things impact and affect us?

Consider the following from the Wikipedia encyclopedia. “Morality (from the [Latin](#) *moralitas* “manner, character, proper behavior”) has three principal meanings. In its first, descriptive usage, morality means a [code of conduct](#) or belief concerning matters of what is moral or immoral (these words are commonly misplaced with right or wrong which are words of logic not morality). Morals are arbitrarily created and subjectively defined by [society](#), [philosophy](#), [religion](#), and/or individual [conscience](#). An example of the descriptive usage could be “common conceptions of morality have changed significantly over time.” The arbitrariness of morality stems from the observation that actions that may be deemed moral in one culture in time may not be classified as such in others or in a different time. The subjectiveness of morality is shown by the observation that actions or beliefs which by themselves do not cause any harm may be by some considered immoral, e.g. marrying someone of same gender, being an atheist, etc. Descriptive morality does not explain why anything should be considered

immoral, only that it may be classified so. While for the most part immoral acts are classified as such because they cause harm, this is not by any means an all encompassing criterion. Many acts or beliefs are often then classified as such because of prejudice, ignorance or even hatred.”

The above definition reflects the problems associated with morality in our society. For many it is arbitrary and subjective. The word of God presents a pattern for morality that is neither. Divine revelation points to proper behavior and character grounded in a set of standards that does not change with every wind of cultural or personal preference.

The Wikipedia encyclopedia makes the following comments on modesty. “Standards of modesty (also called demureness or reticence) are aspects of the [culture](#) of a [country](#) or people, at a given point in time, and is a measure against which an [individual](#) in [society](#) may be judged. Though the term can be applied to both men and women, and boys and girls, it is most commonly applied to women and girls.” Strong’s Greek Dictionary imparts “modest” to come from the Greek word *kosmios*, which means, orderly, i.e. decourous – of good behavior, modest.”

It seems that modesty and morality are closely joined together. Most people are concerned with what is commonly accepted or rejected in the realm of morals. It should be of more concern what is right and what is wrong according to divine guidelines (Proverbs 12:15). It should be of greater priority whether or not God is pleased by our behavior and character (Genesis 4:7).

Upon what platform and foundation can we without prejudice find the proper direction in these matters? Some questions lend assistance to our search. Who am I seeking to please (John 8:29)? Does

God care how I dress (1 Timothy 2:9), what I say (Colossians 4:6), and how I act (Philippians 1:27)? Will my actions have a negative impact upon others (Matthew 5:27-28)?

Divine instruction does not address every specific situation or circumstance involving morality and modesty. It does however clearly set forth principles that will provide pertinent guidelines for every need. In most cases it is not morals and modesty that changes; it is the people that change. Modesty reflects moderation. That means without extreme on either side. There can be too much or too little. Too loose or too tight. Too formal or too casual.

There are a number of passages that clearly and gently seek to keep us on the right path. We must desire holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:7). Our body belongs to God (1 Corinthians 6:13). We are to do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). The lack of discretion can bring shame (Proverbs 11:22). We are to seek to keep our hearts pure (Matthew 5:8).

Our morals and modesty surely help or hinder others (Romans 14:7). We should strive to conduct our lives in such a way as to support the weak (Romans 15:1-2). Our morals and moderation should build up fellow spiritual soldiers (2 Timothy 2:4). The golden rule should enlighten our view upon morals and modesty (Matthew 7:12). True modesty will profess godliness (1 Timothy 2:10).

The standards of modesty and morality in the culture may change as often and as radically as the seasons. They will be founded upon the sinking sands of popularity, personal preference, and self gratification. The standards mandated by the Holy Spirit in scripture are secured upon the solid rock of truth and principles that will enable us to humbly live a righteous life that will please the Almighty (1 Thessalonians 4:1).

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CAN WE OBEY MATTHEW 19:9?

Tim Hayes

“Can we obey Matthew 19:9?” This question may be asked in other forms: Is man able to obey Matthew 19:9; Is man capable of obeying Matthew 19:9? This question brings more questions to light: Is Matthew 19:9 part of the scriptures of God; Is man capable of being obedient to the scriptures of God; Has God given man commands in His scriptures which are impossible for man to obey?

Jesus stated, *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day* (John 12:48).

After Christ had warned all to hear, receive and obey His words He made the following statement, *If ye love me, keep my commandments* (John 14:15). Jesus not only commanded all to obey His words but also all who love Christ will keep His commandments.

All who love God will keep His commandments because it is realized that the commandments of God are given for man's benefit. *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous* (I John 5:3).

Matthew 19:9 is an answer, given by Jesus Christ, to a question asked by the Pharisees. Matthew recorded that the Pharisees approached Jesus with the intent of “tempting” Him or attempting to entrap Jesus by their question. *The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause* (Matthew 19:3)? Some continue to utilize this question and this text with the same intent as did the Pharisees. But Jesus Christ answered the question for the Pharisees and for all mankind.

In response to the question, asked by the Pharisees, Jesus began

His answer at the very beginning of marriage, with God's law of marriage. In the description of creation Moses, inspired of God, also gave an overview of God's law of marriage:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth (Genesis 1:27-28).

In the beginning, God created one man and one woman, modeling for us His desire for marriage, one man and one woman. In the qualifying statement, “*be fruitful and multiply*” God commanded that the man and woman were to reproduce which is only possible in the human being with a male and a female, thus further describing God's law of marriage.

Genesis 2 is not a second creation but is rather a parenthetical statement of the creation presented in Genesis 1. God knew that it was not good for man to be alone, but He wanted Adam to realize this fact (Genesis 2:18). Therefore, God brought all animals unto Adam to be named and Adam saw that there was not a help meet for him (Genesis 2:19-20).

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and

shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh (Genesis 2:21-24).

In this more detailed view of the creation of man and woman, Moses also recorded God's law of marriage. God created one man and God created one woman showing that His law of marriage is one man and one woman for life. This law of marriage was in effect from the creation; before Adam and Eve sinned; before Adam and Eve were put out of the Garden of Eden; before the 2,500 hundred years of the Patriarch law; before the 1,500 years of the law of Moses and before the ongoing 2,000 years of the law of Christ. In answer to the Pharisees, Jesus went back to the very beginning, because all mankind is amenable to the same law of marriage of God.

God has given the same law of marriage to all mankind and all can keep this law of marriage or God has given an impossible task and must be held in contempt. The contempt is not on God but on man who chooses not to obey the law of God. When God's law is transgressed it is sin and when God's law of marriage is broken, sin is involved (I John 3:4).

Matthew 19:9 is the answer given to the question when God's law of marriage is broken. *And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery* (Matthew 19:9). When God's law of marriage is broken, He has given one scriptural reason for divorce and remarriage and that is fornication.

The commands of God can and must be obeyed.

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GODLINESS

Bobby Liddell

Christians are to live lives of godliness, even in a world that has gone so wrong. Godliness is godlikeness, or holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16), and is one of the “Christian Graces” that Christians are to add in abundant supply (2 Peter 1:4-11). From God’s Word, we can know what God requires of us that we might be godly people. Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:2-4).

Note the importance of the word “knowledge,” the key word of 2 Peter, indicating a full, correct knowledge necessary for godliness. There is nothing lacking, of that which we need, in order to know how to live godly lives (v. 3). Thus, God has given us all the information that we must have, through His revealed will (2 Peter 1:20-21), to be godly men and women. That being the case, there is no need for human (manmade) creeds or doctrines (cf. Matthew 15:9), nor do they provide any benefit.

More than that, God has also given us the way to be godly, by showing that way, through Jesus Christ (John 14:6). No other one has lived a sinless, perfect life (1 Peter 2:22; Hebrew 4:15), nor has any other overcome death and the grave (Hebrews 2:14-15); therefore, there is no other one to whom we should go (John 6:68), nor is there any other one to whom we should listen (John 12:48). From Jesus, we learn what to

become, and what to be, in order to be godly (Acts 4:12).

Godly men and women are those who follow the way of God, obediently submitting to His will, but the ungodly are those who refuse God’s Word and reject God’s way. Peter’s inspired epistle addresses the destruction of the ungodly.

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished (2 Peter 2:4-9).

Ungodly angels were cast down to hell; the ungodly in Noah’s day drowned in the flood; and the ungodly inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah were condemned with an overthrow. Ungodly men face perdition (eternal destruction): “But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (2 Peter 3:7).

Godly men and women are those who receive God’s Word with gladness (Acts 2:41) and respond positively to God’s way (2 Peter 1:6-7). Only the godly of Noah’s day were saved upon the ark (2 Peter

2:5), and only the godly inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah escaped (2 Peter 2:6-8). Likewise, only the godly will be saved in the last day (2 Peter 3:11). Even so, most people walk the broad way of ungodliness, succumbing to the call of this world (Matthew 7:13-14).

Godliness is a way of thinking that is different from the world. Godly people know that the Lord is not slack concerning His promise of returning in righteous judgment (2 Peter 3:7-9), that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:10), and that on that day, “all these things shall be dissolved” (2 Peter 3:11).

Godliness is a way of living that is different from the world. Godly people are not led away with the error of wickedness (2 Peter 3:17), and do not fall from their own steadfastness (2 Peter 3:17), for godly people grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Godliness is the way of preparing for eternal life in that future world. Godly people prepare for that time when the elements shall melt with fervent heat (2 Peter 3:12), and godly people trust in the precious promise of a new heaven and a new earth (2 Peter 3:13); thus, godly people are diligent to be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless (2 Peter 3:14).

As God, through the inspired apostle Peter, reveals, we are to add the Christian characteristic of godliness, and we are to grow in godliness as we mature in Christ. We can do so, through the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, even in a world that is so against God and those who would live godly lives.

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Joseph An Example of Purity by Billy Hayes -----Continued from page 41

His purity was safely in tact due to his answer: “How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”(Genesis 39:9b). The safety of his virginity was secure in the fact that his faith was HIS FAITH.

It was not the faith of his family or friends. The greatest idea in me preserving my purity is to have my own faith.

Potiphar’s wife truly displayed her colors. She was not, in any way, a good example of purity. She first of all, was willing to throw away her marriage on a meaningless sexual encounter. It certainly was her intent to bow before her own god- LUST. This woman displayed the height of arrogance and stupidity. She thought this action could happen and no one

would be any wiser. Even if no other person on this earth ever knew about this action, God certainly still does know. The duty of Potiphar’s wife was unto Potiphar alone. The faithless wife of Potiphar is the greatest example of the tragic actions of mankind when we are left to our own demise. No rules, no standard, complete chaos.

The accounts of the events in the life of Joseph are awe inspiring and perfect examples of how a person lives with respect for God and for self. In America purity is a punch line. Chastity is so uncommon it falls into the category of “side show attraction”. Why is this so? We as mankind have adopted the attitude of the wife of Potiphar. We have no respect for God. If we did have that respect, then we would follow His

divine laws about sex. We also have no self-respect. If we had the proper self-respect, we then would not allow our bodies to be used, abused and degraded for any reason.

The sad facts of the case are as follows: **1.** Until I do my job (as a father), I cannot expect my children to follow the rules of God. **2.** Every person will have to rely on his/her own faith to make the proper decision. **3.** If God is not my standard, then I will never make the correct decisions. It is my prayer that God’s law of purity will be followed and all of mankind will understand the true joy of a loving marriage.

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