

Finishing Well

Lesson #19

Impact of God's Word: Satisfied in All Circumstances May 10, 2023

Important Items Linked with the Watergate: Significance of 1st Day of the Month
The Nethinim Ezra
God's Word

Jer. 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.

Consider: It is very easy to be led down a wrong path.

D. L. Moody: The Overcoming Life "The Bible was not given to increase your knowledge, but to Change Your Life. I have an idea that we are down here in training, that God is just polishing us for some higher service." [of His Kingdom> there will be no end]

- My desire is to show up at the Judgment Seat and be found fit for service.
- I need to trust God to guide my path while I am a pilgrim on this earth.

Ps. 119:105 Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

I Pet. 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

I Peter 1:13 serves as a hinge [purpose of hinges is to help open doors] to connect:

- I Pet. 1:1-12 assurance of future glory through new birth in Christ with
- I Pet. 1:14-5:11 expectation of righteous behavior in spite of unfair circumstances

Blessed > Makairos = fully satisfied independent of circumstances

Ps. 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who WALKS NOT in the counsel of the ungodly, NOR STANDS in the path of sinners, NOR SITS in the seat of the scornful;

Key: As God's people, we are to be in the world but not of the world.

- We must be separated from the world.
- Separation is not isolation but contact without contamination.

Beware Of Friendship With The World. It can lead to:

1. Being Spotted By The World

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this:

to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to Keep Oneself Unspotted From The World.

2. Loving The World

I John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

3. Results In Conforming To The World

Example: Gen. 13:10-12 And Lot lifted his eyes and SAW all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere, like the Garden Of The LORD, Like The Land Of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. ¹¹ Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east.

1. Lot looked toward Sodom, pitched his tent toward Sodom and soon moved into Sodom.

Ray Steadman: Every time he moved his tent, he moved it constantly nearer Sodom.

- Lot was saved. II Peter 2:7-8 and delivered righteous Lot, *who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked...*

Lot lost ALL when the Lord destroyed the cities of the plain. [Gen. 18-19; I Cor. 3:11-23]

Consider: Abraham, the outsider, had a greater ministry to the world than did Lot, the friend of the world.

"If you want a deeper relationship with Jesus, feast on Him until you lose your appetite for anything this world offers."

Israel was to be a unique people among the nations and not contaminated by them.

Ex. 19:3b-6 Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:

⁴ Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.

These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

I Pet. 2:9 But ye [the church] are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Rom. 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

TRUTH: We move into sin and disobedience gradually.

Matt. 26:31 Then Jesus said to them,

"All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:

'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock Will Be Scattered.' [Zech. 13:7]

1. When Jesus was arrested, Peter didn't follow Christ's counsel and FLEE from the garden.

2. Peter followed and entered the high priest's courtyard.

Mark 14:54 Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest;

- It was here HE STOOD WITH THE ENEMY.

John 18:17-18 Then the slave-girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also *one* of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."

¹⁸ Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself.

3. Peter ultimately SAT with them.

Luke 22:55 After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter Was Sitting Among Them.

Result: He denied Christ 3 times.

TRUTH: We move into sin and disobedience gradually.

Prov. 4:14-15 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.

¹⁵ Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.

Consider: If you follow the wrong counsel, then you will stand with the wrong companions and finally sit with the wrong crowd.

Ps. 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who WALKS NOT in the counsel of the ungodly, NOR STANDS in the path of sinners, NOR SITS in the seat of the scornful;

- Blessed > Makairos = fully satisfied independent of circumstances
- "Blessed are you" does not mean "untroubled are you" or "healthy are you" or "admired are you" or "prosperous are you."
- You are deeply secure, profoundly content, happy in God - even if you are weeping over the pain of a struck body, a perplexed mind, or a heartbreaking relationship. How?

A. Be delighted with, saturated with & meditate on The Word.

Ps 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

➤ Meditate = to mutter; talk to yourself about it

➤ Delight > the object of one's delight solicits favor by its own intrinsic qualities.

Important Point: The verbs in Ps. 1:1 [walks, stands, sits] are in the perfect tense and indicate a settled way of life. The verb, meditate in verse 2, is in the imperfect tense and speaks of constant practice. He keeps meditating. It Is A Source Of Spiritual Energy.

Ps. 119:9-11 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

¹⁰ With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

¹¹ Your word I have hid in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Ps. 119:92 Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction.

Warren Wiersbe: You must also rejoice in God's Word, delight in it and meditate on it.

Meditation is to your inner person what digestion is to your body. We allow the Spirit of God within us to "digest" the Word of God for us. When you truly delight in the Word, you will have a desire to meditate on it and make it a part of your life.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

- Constant component of your conversation

Joshua is to lead Israel into the "promised land" filled with adversaries and pagan idolatry. Temptation and Warfare will occur. Does God tell him: Make sure the soldiers have their weapons; are they in good shape? No. God tells Joshua: The "Sword of the Word of God" is to be his focus and it will provide all that he needs to assure success.

Wiersbe: If we speak to the Lord about the Word, the Word will speak to us about the Lord.
That is abiding in the Word. [I John 2:14, 24]

Note: As God's people, we should prefer The Word of God to:

- Food Ps. 119:103; Job 23:12; Jer. 15:17; Matt. 4:4; I Peter 2:2
- Sleep Ps. 119:55, 62, 147-148, 164
- Wealth Ps. 119:14, 72, 127, 162

Consider: The way you treat your Bible [His Word to us] is the way you treat Jesus Christ.

John Bunyan, 17th century English preacher and author, was also consumed with the study of God's Word. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, who read Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress every year, once remarked, "He had studied our Authorized Version ... till his whole being was saturated with Scripture; and through his writings ... he ... [makes] us feel and say 'Why, this man is living Bible! Prick him anywhere; and you will find that his blood is Bibline, the very essence of the Bible flows from him. He cannot speak without quoting a text, for his soul is full of the Word of God.'

B. The Person Who Is A Blessing

Ps. 1:3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither and whatever he does shall prosper.

- Prosper: Idea of a successful venture as contrasted with failure
- God is the source of the success.

Gird Up My Mind To Guard My Hope

I Pet. 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; Get your mind ready! Your Blessed Hope is returning soon!

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

I Pet. 1:13a Therefore, prepare [gird up] your mind for action.

A. Diligent Mind:

- Gird up the loins of your mind; roll up the sleeves of your mind;

1. Mindset: Prepare to engage in a battle or race

In Israel a person wore as the basic garment a long shirt of linen or wool [tunic] that reached to the knees or ankles. Over this a mantle [like a poncho] might be worn, but the mantle was laid aside for work. The shirt was usually worn long, but for active service, such work or war, it was tucked up into a belt at the waist to leave the legs free.

- The runner would get in trouble if he ever allowed his garments to fall down and become entangled in his legs.
- If he allowed those loose ends to keep dangling, he would surely lose the race.

2. Readiness For Action: Peter's allusion pictures a mind prepared for active work.

The expression first occurs just prior to the exodus of Israel from the land of Egypt:

- 9 plagues have already come upon the Egyptians.
- The 10th and final plague will be the smiting of every firstborn in Egypt.
- The Israelites were to prepare for this final plague and the resulting exodus by eating the first Passover meal. This meal must be eaten in a very unusual way to emphasize that God's people were about to leave the land of their bondage.

Ex. 12:11 "Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the LORD's Passover"

- The garments were to be tucked into their girdle or belt so their feet would be exposed. All of this was to remind and assure the people of God that they were soon to depart.
- They were to be mentally and physically ready to move out. Going to their inheritance

Spiritual App: I am to gird up my mind, be sober & guard my hope. Prepare mentally.

I have an inheritance waiting for me.

The idea of Readiness For Action is seen in virtually every other instance of the expression.

I Kings 18:46 Elijah girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel.

II Kings 4:29 Gehazi was told by Elisha to gird up his loins, take Elisha's staff and hurry to the Shunammite's son who had died.

Jer. 1:17 Jeremiah was commanded to gird up his loins and to prophesy:

"Now, gird up your loins, and arise, and speak to them all which I commanded you.

Do not be dismayed before them, lest I dismay you before them."

3. Girding the loins seems to include the dimension of Courage or Resolve.

The task he was called to do was not a pleasant one and could bring persecution.

Job 38:3 God challenges Job to gird up his loins. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Job 40:7 Now gird up your loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me."

4. This appears to be related to his Mental Outlook and not to his physical clothing.

Eph. 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,

It is fitting that the belt of truth is the first piece of the full armor of God. Jesus is the Way, the Truth & the Life. It is through Jesus Christ that we can come to God.

Truth is of the utmost importance in a Christian's life. Without truth, the rest of the armor would be of no use to us because we would not have the Spirit of Truth. [gotquestions.org]

- Stand firm= aorist imperative = a command to do this without delay

In spiritual warfare, we cannot do this unless we rely on the enabling power of the indwelling Holy Spirit

BE SOBER: steadfastness, self-control, clarity of mind, and moral decisiveness. The sober Christian sets priorities and is not intoxicated by the allurements and snares of the world.

➤ Internet, sporting events, movies, the passing pleasures of sin

Heb. 11:25-26 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Clear, focused mind on the task that is set before me; not numb with intoxicating influences

Luke 12:35, 40 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

⁴⁰Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Consider: Girding up the loins of the mind corrects a too casual attitude toward the Lord's coming which will prevent us from being caught unaware and unprepared at His coming.

Our attitude determines our action. A Christian who is looking for the return of Jesus Christ has a greater motivation for present obedience than a Christian who ignores the Lord's return.

Contrast the lives of Abraham and Lot. [Gen. 12-13; Heb. 11:8-16]

1. Abraham's eyes of faith were on the heavenly city; no interest in the world's real estate.
2. But Lot, who had tasted the pleasures of the world in Egypt, gradually moved toward Sodom.
3. Abraham brought blessing to his home; Lot brought judgment.

➤ Their outlook determined their outcome!

Key: Don't let your mind drink in things that numb the mind & heart to the value of God's grace.

Stay sober for the sake of a full and passionate hope in God's grace.

I Pet. 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end

for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

C. Fix Your Hope Completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Keep my mind set on the coming of Jesus Christ. An action done with your mind and your heart.

Note: This living hope sets its mind on future rewards and is characterized by a life of present holiness. Peter is calling us to a living hope that shapes how we live.

Grace is on the way. Hope in it. Hope in it fully! Hope fully in God's grace.

Heb. 6:11-12 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:¹² That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

God's Command and Delight: Hope in God

Ps. 147:10-11 He delights not in the strength of the horse: He takes not pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.

God's command and delight is not first what you can perform for Him with your strength.

It is first that you hope in what He can perform for you with His strength.

The first human counterpart to divine grace is hope. Grace is coming to you; hope in it.

Let your whole soul be engaged in hope. Don't be partially hoping and partially doubting.

Let grace get all the glory! Show the world that grace is all-satisfying. It will meet every need.

Grace first, hope second is confirmed by the word "therefore" at the beginning of verse 13. "Therefore . . . fix your hope completely." "Therefore . . . hope fully." This word makes Peter's first command dependent on All The Grace he has exulted in for the 12 verses.

I Peter 1:13 serves as a hinge [purpose of hinges is to help open doors] to connect:

- I Pet. 1:1-12 assurance of future glory through new birth in Christ with
- I Pet. 1:14-5:11 expectation of righteous behavior in spite of unfair circumstances

Truth: Strengthened by His Spirit, you can in all things give thanks and rejoice always.

Col. 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

- God's energy empowers us. Spiritual growth and maturity can only come as we yield to God's power and permit Him to work in us.

Consider: We usually think of God's glorious power being revealed in great feats of daring such as the crossing of the Red Sea, David slaying Goliath or Paul raising the dead.

- The emphasis in Colossians is on Christian character:
patience, longsuffering, joyfulness and thanksgiving.
- The inner victories of our soul are just as great as the recorded public victories.
- For David to control his temper when he was being maligned by Shimei was a greater victory than his slaying of Goliath. [II Sam. 16:5-13]

Prov. 16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.

Patience: endurance when circumstances are difficult; opposite of despondency.

- Important characteristic of the maturing Christian

Key: Rom. 5:3-4 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; ⁴ And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

- Patience is endurance in action; the soldier on the battlefield. Keep on when it is tough.
- Runner on the racetrack who refuses to stop because he wants to win the race.

Dr. Edman: It is always too soon to quit.

Spurgeon: It is not talent or training that guarantees victory. It is perseverance.

By perseverance the snail reached the ark.

Truth: We need patience and longsuffering which is self-restraint and the opposite of revenge.

Note: Patience has to do primarily with circumstances.

Longsuffering has to do with people. Part of the fruit of the Spirit.

Wiersbe: It is amazing how people can patiently endure trying circumstances only to lose their tempers with a friend or loved one.

When circumstances are difficult, we should exhibit joyful patience, and when people are hard to live with, we should reveal joyful longsuffering.

There is a kind of patience that "endures but does not enjoy."

Patience and longsuffering with joyfulness go together if we are growing spiritually.

Paul prayed that the Colossian Christians might experience joyful patience and longsuffering.

Col. 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power,
unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Blessed > Makairos = fully satisfied independent of circumstances

V. 1: Since God has chosen you

V. 3: Since God has caused you to be born again to a living hope

V. 4: Since God is keeping an inheritance for you imperishable, undefiled, and unfading

V. 5: Since God is protecting you through faith so that you won't lose that inheritance

V.6-7: Since God is refining your faith by fire so that it will receive praise and glory and honor

V. 8: Since you are swimming with the strokes of love and faith and joy in Christ

V.10-13: Since prophets and angels are on tiptoe to see all that God's grace is going to do in your life, THEREFORE, HOPE FULLY IN THIS GRACE.

Note: Grace, God's transforming power that enables us to live a supernatural life,
must be experienced before the behaviors called for can be put into practice.

Peter makes it very clear that our faith and the obedience that emanates from that faith should be based not on our personal experiences but on the sound doctrine of the Word of God.

The active voice indicates that this is a voluntary choice of each person's will.

The point is that God won't force us to "fix our hope" on "future grace". His Word tells us much about what "future grace" and glory entail to motivate us but ultimately, we must make a decision to "Do it now".

Key: The best is yet to come for believers, for we are those who are to be continually looking for future glory which is a great motivation for present obedience.

During the terrible Chicago fire of 1871, D. L. Moody's house burned down. As Moody surveyed the ruins, a friend said, "I hear you lost everything" to which Moody replied "Well, you understand wrong. I have a good deal more left than I lost." His puzzled friend asked, "What do you mean? You are not a rich man." Mr. Moody then opened his Bible and read to him the promise that "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be His God." [Rev. 21:7]

Spurgeon: Peter's practical application of the great truths. "Look ahead and expect great things. Live in the future. Project your thoughts beyond the centuries that are passing away into the ages which will never die." Pull yourself together; be not mentally and spiritually in dishabille (state of being dressed in a casual or careless style; deliberately careless or casual manner) but, be girt ready for holy running.

Be ready to depart to your inheritance. Do not let your garments flow carelessly and loosely, as though you had no journey before you, but "girt up the loins of your mind."

Acts 20:32 "So now, brethren, I commend [deposit for safe keeping] you to God and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."