

CHRISTIAN DUTIES and our Attitudes towards them...

Sermon Notes for February 19th

Once a person becomes a Christian they must learn to start serving God and seeking out ways to glorify him. Jesus sums up the life of a Christian very well in the story he tells his disciples in.

Luke 17: "And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? ⁸ "But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? ⁹ "Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. ¹⁰ "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.' "

Every Christian has a duty that they can do for the lord and this morning we are going to examine 5 duties that Christians can do based on what Paul wrote in.

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all *that you do* be done with love.

I. Watch

When you read through the NT you will find several places where Christians are to watch so that we will remain faithful.

1. For instance Elders are to watch out for our souls.

Hebrew 13:17, Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

2. Christians should always be watching on how we conduct our lives so that they we will be ready for the second coming of Christ, the Parousia... pahr-oo-**see-uh**, (puh-roo-zee-uh).

Mark 13:35-37, "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming -- in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning -- ³⁶ "lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷ "And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

1 Thessalonians 5:4-10, ⁴ But, you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night, nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

3. Watch for opportunities to teach others about Christ.

John 4:35 "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"

4. Watch for false teachers.

1 John 4:1, Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Romans 16:17-18, Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

5. Watch our temper and our speech.

James 1:19-20, So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰ for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

II. Stand fast in the faith

Ephesians 6:11, Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

This is how we stand fast in the faith we put on the whole armor of God and Paul goes on to describe how that is to be done.

Ephesians 6:13, Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints –

If we want to stand in the faith we must immerse ourselves in God's Word and we must make prayer a part of our life everyday. The armor of God will not do us any good if we don't ever put it on and certainly we'll not be good at defending ourselves against the devil if we don't practice using God's word everyday. Let us never forget the source of our strength to stand in the faith.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Romans 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all

creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let us always to strive to take a stand for the Lord.

“Take A Stand, Lend A Hand!” Olweus principal...

This requires being Brave & Strong our next two duties.

III. Be Brave

The idea behind this word from the Greek is to grow up and be like men. Every Christian, weather they are male or female should strive to mature as Christians. Too many Christians today are content to be living on the milk of the word. Too often we don't want to grow or learn more we seem to be content with the most basic principles of the word. However, notice what Paul says to the Ephesians:

Ephesians 4:14-15, we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ --

If we are not growing then that means we live in serious danger of falling to every wind of doctrine, to any, and every, idea that simply sounds good. We simply may not know any better... Peter warns us about this as well.

2 Peter 1:3-9, His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 **For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure**, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But

whoever **does not have them is nearsighted and blind**, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

1 Corinthians 13:11, When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Finally Paul says 1 Corinthians 14:20, Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.

Every Christian should strive to be more mature in the Gods words.

IV. Be Strong

God has always wanted his people to be strong

Joshua 1:6-9, "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.⁷ "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.⁸ "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, **but you shall meditate in it day and night**, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.⁹ "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

Courage and being strong go hand and hand. It takes courage to follow Gods will. Joshua was instructed not to turn away from God's commands, to the right or to the left. Today it is imperative that we do not turn to the right or the left from God's commands. Notice how this is accomplished. ***"but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it."***

The Pensieve... *from Harry Potter...*

Every Christian needs to be strong in the Lord. We need strong

Elders in the church that are willing to stand against false teaching within the church and that are more afraid of God than man. We need strong deacons who are willing to serve boldly in the capacity that has been given to them. We need strong preachers, preachers who are willing to preach the whole council of God. Too many preachers today stay away from those topics that we fear may step on some ones toes and all they will preach are lessons that have very little scripture in them. Finally, we all, the rest of the members of Christ's Body should be strong for Lord by being committed to him, looking for ways that we can glorify God almighty. If you are going to be strong in the Lord it begins with Bible study and prayer.

Hebrews 5:11-14, 11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, ***who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.***

V. Do all things with Love

Love is one of the major themes of the Bible. It is because of Love that God gave us his only begotten son and it is because of this love, we love God enough to try and obey His will.

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Without love in our heart for God and love in our heart for his people we are nothing. It doesn't matter how many good deeds we do if we don't do it out of love than it's a big fat waste of time. We are examples of Gods love and we should try real hard to show others

the beautiful love that can only be found with a close relationship with God.

John 14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

1John 5:3, For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

This is how Christians can really show that they have the love of God, by being obedient to God's will, it really is the only way that we can demonstrate our love for Him. A person can say that have love all day long but until they show it by how they conduct their lives, their words don't mean much.

1 John 3:18, My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

John is basically saying, actions speak louder than words.

We must be careful that we don't become lovers of ourselves or lovers of sinful pleasure, notice Paul's warning to Timothy.

Timothy 3:1, But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

People who have misdirected love will find themselves separated from God and separated from God's people because as Christians we are to turn away from those who have this misdirected love.

Perhaps one of the hardest tasks a Christian must learn to do is to love our enemies.

Matthew 5:44-46, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ "that you may be sons of

your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

It's easy loving our friends and family, even non-Christians do that, but if we want to be pleasing to God we must also love our enemies. Remember what God did for us when we were His enemies.

Romans 5:10, □ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Once again lets read the 5 duties that Paul mentioned in our text today:

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all *that you do* be done with love.

Invitation: ...

Luke 17:11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" 14 When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

17 Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Let me introduce you to a man that died for you and me, Jesus Christ...