

SKY Correspondence Course

Lesson 11

Christian Conduct in the World

Lesson Text: 1 Peter 1:13–21

We do not live in this world by ourselves. Each of us is just one segment of humanity, and is surrounded by persons of other religions, backgrounds, nationalities, and creeds. In fact, all humans must face the reality that they live in a world consisting of other humans who are to a greater or lesser degree different from themselves. As Christians, we must fully recognize this reality and strive to live in harmony and peace with all men everywhere. As a Christian, our aim should be wholehearted to live a holy life and glorify God.

The apostle Paul gave basic guidelines for a Christian. He said that the true believer must live in the world—function within the society in which he finds himself—but must not become a part of the practices, actions, or attitudes that are contrary to God’s way of life. John wrote that while Christians must be “in” the world, they are not to be “of” the world. Jesus did not pray that God should take His disciples “out” of the world, but God should “protect” them from evil (John 17:15). Peter, as we will read, encouraged all of us to tread a holy walk in an evil world. James tells us to keep ourselves from being polluted by the world (James 1:26).

God’s Glory

Read 1 Peter 1:13—“Gird up the loins of your mind” means to be alert, separate from sin—simply to have a disciplined mind. A physical

example of girding up your loins can be taken from the Israelites. The Israelites were to partake of the Passover supper in haste, and to be ready in a moment’s notice (Exodus 12:11). Their example would be how we are to have our minds sharp and focused, waiting on the return of Jesus Christ. Not only should our minds be focused, but sober as well. Sober means to be serious, steady, and watchful (1 Peter 4:7). Keep yourself centered, not controlled by circumstances around you. We must be sober because we know who is on the prowl to destroy us (1 Peter 5:8).

God’s Holiness

*Read 1 Peter 1:14-15—*As Christians, we strive to be obedient to God. We should continually pattern our lives according to God’s holy way. When we were ignorant of how to be obedient to God, we indulged in a sinful lifestyle. Giving up our sinful desires is one way of walking in a holy upright way. God’s nature is holy, when we work to be a Christian, we strive to take on the holy nature of God. Just as we reflect a similar nature as that of our parents, we can put on God’s holy nature by living by the standards of Christ. Any holiness we may have in character and conduct is received from God’s Holy Spirit.

When you aspire to be a holy person, walking in the ways of God, the world will view you as being strange or different. This strange and different lifestyle does not mean you are weird. It does mean your lifestyle has

a quality about it that is different from the world. Be thankful of that fact.

Read 1 Peter 1:16—As Christians, it is our responsibility to take the Word of God, “as it is written,” seriously. The Word of God will defeat our adversary Satan (Matthew 4:1–11); the Word of God is a sword in battle (Ephesians 6:17); the Word of God is a light in a dark and deceitful world (Psalm 119:105; 2 Peter 1:19); the Word of God gives us food for strength (Matthew 4:4); and the Word of God washes and sanctifies (Ephesians 5:25–27). In this verse, Peter quoted Leviticus 11:44,45.

The Christians of this time did not have the books we call the New Testament. But just as we can today, they learned about the nature and character of God from the books we call the Old Testament. Today, the Creator is revealed in *both* the Old and New Testament. What a blessing to have the inspired Word of God within our hands.

As a committed believer of God and Jesus Christ, you should delight in His Word, the Bible. We should meditate upon the Word and strive to obey it. When we do, God will direct and bless our lives. “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:1-3, NIV).

All Scripture can be used to educate or inspire. “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16, NIV).

The Price of Salvation

Read 1 Peter 1:17-19—As obedient children of God, who strive to live by His standard, our faith motivates our entire pattern of living. We know and understand the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and the price He paid for our salvation. When we call God “Father,” we accept His judgment and reflect His nature. Our time here on earth is so very short. It is such a waste of our

lives to think we can be neither hot nor cold in our relationship with God. To fear God means you do not want to disappoint Him. A Christian has a deep respect and awe for the majesty and greatness of God. We are to give Him the very best we have, not just what is left over of our time, energy, and resources. We are to have a sober reverence for God (2 Corinthians 7:1).

Read 1 Peter 1:20-21—Jesus Christ has existed with the Father from eternity. He and the Father together devised a plan to reproduce themselves and to expand their Family by means of the human creation. The death of Christ was designed “from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8), and it is by this plan of salvation that we are able to live and grow in faith.

We Have Hope

We have faith that God and Jesus Christ exist. We have the faith that He will perform all of His promises, including that of granting us salvation (Romans 4). We have the faith that the death of Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins, atoning and reconciling us to God. We have faith that the resurrection of the living Jesus Christ will enable us to attain eternal life. It is the gift of God to mankind. It is this faith that gives us hope. This is *saving* faith.

A verse worthy to remember:
“Be holy because I am holy”
James 1:16

Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from
Webster's New World Dictionary

- **Fear**—reverential awe toward God.
- **Foreordained**—to appoint beforehand; predestine; predetermine.
- **Precious**—of great price, or value; costly; beloved.
- **Redeemed**—to buy back; to obtain the release or restoration of from captivity; deliver from sin.
- **Sober**—habitually temperate; free from excess.

SKY

Lesson 11

Correspondence Course

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

Questions and Answers

1. What does it mean to be a "Christian"?

2. True/False—A Christian doesn't try to please God through obedience. _____

3. If you say you are a Christian, how does it affect the way you lead your life?

4. "Gird up the loins of your mind" means

- A. Be alert
- B. Wear a hat
- C. Don't show your hair

5. How do you discipline your mind?

6. Who watches for you to fall short and miss the mark? Give the scripture that supports your answer:

8. True/False— The "fear of God" is a healthy fear. _____

9. True/False—Jesus Christ has existed with the Father from eternity. _____

7. Complete the following statement and list the five descriptions found in this lesson.
(support your answers with scripture.) "The Word of God _____

_____."

10. Who devised the plan of salvation from the beginning?
A. John and Jesus
B. God and Jesus Christ
C. Satan and God

11. The faith that gives you hope is called:
A. Joyful faith
B. Saving faith
C. New Testament faith

12. A Christian's lifestyle appears strange to:
A. Other Christians
B. Your pets
C. The world

13. Give your definition of "to fear God."

14. True/False—God's plan of salvation is found only in the New Testament. _____

15. True/False—The death of Christ was foreordained from the beginning. _____

16. True/False—To be "sober" means to never smile or have fun. _____

17. Give your definition for the use of word *sober* in regards to a Christian.

18. True/False—The Old Testament is interesting but doesn't apply to us today. _____

19. True/False—To separate oneself from the world means to live in seclusion from people. _____

20. True/False—The standard of Christ is our guide. _____

Answers

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1. A Christian follows and obeys the Word of God. He/she tries to live as Jesus did and teach others by example.
2. F
3. You do things differently than others. You don't let the evil things that others do influence you.
4. A
5. I sharpen my mind by learning about God and Jesus. I do this by praying and going to church. Our minds are to be sober and focused on the return of Christ.
6. Satan. I Peter 5:8
7. T
8. T
9.
 1. The Word of God will defeat our adversary Satan (Matthew 4:1-11).
 2. The Word of God is a sword in battle (Ephesians 6:17).
 3. The Word of God is a light in a dark and deceitful world (Psalm 119:105, 2 Peter 1:19).
 4. The Word of God gives us food for strength (Matthew 4:4).
 5. The Word of God washes and sanctifies (Ephesians 5:25-27).
10. B
11. B
12. C
13. Fearing God is having respect and awe for His awesome power and love.
14. F
15. T
16. F
17. A sober Christian stays focused on God and is not influenced by others.
18. F
19. F
20. T