

We Must Live Soberly, Righteously and Godly in this Present World

Titus 2:11-12, For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Those of us who have obeyed the gospel of Christ are children of the Heavenly Father. In order for us to remain faithful: ***WE MUST LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY AND GODLY IN THIS PRESENT WORLD.*** All three of these essentials are brought out in Titus 2:12. They place emphasis on the right kind of action toward our self, our fellowman, and toward our Heavenly Father.

I. WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY:

Living soberly is serious business to the Christian. The word “soberly” is found in the New Testament in only two passages; ***Titus 2:11-12*** and ***Romans 12:3, “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*** From these two passages we learn that we are to live soberly and think soberly.

Soberly comes from the Greek word translated to “*be of sound mind*”; to be in one's right mind; to exercise self-control. To live soberly describes a man who follows sound reasoning, and who is not under the control of passion. The idea is that he should have his desires and passions well regulated. He doesn't let his appetites control him. In these two passages, the Greek word translated soberly is an adverb.

Other places the word “sober” is used as a verb. Peter would write, ***1 Peter 4:7, “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”*** Again, the idea is seen in “*right thinking, in the right mind.*” We see the word used this way in Mark 5 and Luke 8 where Jesus cast a legion of demons out of a man and later the man was in his “*right mind.*” He was “*sober-minded.*” Luke's account reads, ***Luke 8:35, “Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.”*** Earlier, this man was mentally ill because of being possessed with demons; the people in the nearby community attempted to keep him chained, but Christ restored his right mind.

Some rely more on their feelings instead of thinking soberly. Let us understand that feelings can mislead us. Your feelings might be wrong. Hear the words of Solomon on this: ***Proverbs 28:26, “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.”*** Being “*sober-minded*” helps us to war against temptation. Temptations come to all of us and when they come, we cannot rightly blame God. ***James 1:13-16, “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.”*** We should strive to be sober minded in order to avoid that which would tempt us and cause us to sin. It is our responsibility to control our passions.

II. WE SHOULD LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY

God's inspired Word is the standard of righteousness. Righteousness means to live right in the sight of God. This entails keeping His commandments. ***Psalms 119:172, “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”*** From learning God's word, we are taught how to live which includes doing things that are right. Again, ***Titus 2:11-12, ... we should live soberly, righteously, and godly,***

in this present world. As Christians, we are not isolated or insulated from the world. As one man put it, “*We are in the world but not of the world.*” While in the world we are to live righteously – not always easy to do.

Then there is the term “*living unto righteousness.*” The Son of God died upon the cross to enable us to obey the gospel and be free from our sins. Because of that we will be able to live “*unto righteousness.*” Living “*unto righteousness*” means to live in obedience to his will in view of the future; looking forward to a better place. Listen as Peter describes this type of life. ***1 Peter 2:21-23, “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously: Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”***

III. WE SHOULD LIVE GODLY:

To live godly is to give God His due. It means to be devout unto the Godhead. It is showing reverence for Deity and devotion to divine worship. There are several Greek words in the New Testament which pertain to “godly” although they are not always translated “godly,” terms such as “devout” or “virtuous.”

Whereas the term “soberly” is translated in only two NT passages; “godly” is translated eleven times in the New Testament. Those eleven passages of Scripture place emphasis upon living a devout, virtuous life. One of those eleven places is ***2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*** I mention this passage because it reminds us that living godly will come with consequences. Christianity and godly living will cost you something. Yet in spite of the cost, it will enhance our effort to live soberly, righteously, and godly by adding the divine nature into our lives – we will become more Christ-like.

The Apostle Peter spoke of having access to knowledge by the inspired Word thus being partakers of the divine nature. ***2 Peter 1:3-4, “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.”***

As Christian may we need to live soberly, righteously, and godly so Heaven will be our eternal home. Perhaps there are some that have not been living soberly, righteously and godly and have a need to respond to the Lord’s invitation. If that describes you, then we encourage you to make things right this evening.

Invitation