



Sermon Series Notes

“Lifestyle Worthy of the Kingdom of God” (Acts 28/I Thess.2:10-12, other selected Scriptures)

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Testimonies of people who have begun to honor the Lord with their income

I Cor. 16, goal of paying off lowest loan by Easter weekend; set aside a sum weekly in keeping with your income.

Randy Alcorn’s book “Heaven,” pp.81-85.

Intro: We’ve had our focus the last several weeks on the kingdom of God, spring boarded on this topic by two comments Paul the apostle made in Acts 28, vv.23 & 31. We have looked at what the kingdom of God is, where the kingdom of God is, parables about the kingdom (Matt.13), who is the greatest in the kingdom, worship worthy of kingdom, and last weekend “Characteristics of the Coming Kingdom.” I thought in looking at that particular subject, it would potentially help motivate us to better live out the subject of this week’s kingdom focus, that being “Lifestyle Worthy of the Kingdom of God.”

Worthy: Deserving attention or respect; synonyms = virtuous, righteous, moral, ethical, upright.

The worthiness we are talking about has nothing to do with worthiness unto salvation. We know the truth from the Scriptures that our righteousness is as filthy rags in God’s sight (Isa.64:6), and that we are saved solely by grace through faith. We are talking about a worthiness based on our conduct *after* we have been made worthy of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. It is conduct connected to our commitment to Christ.

Eph.4:1-3

- Humility, patience, forbearance, unity

Phil.1:27-30

- Unity, not giving in to fear, willingness to suffer

II Thess.1:3-5

- Growth, increasing love, perseverance through persecution, trial & suffering.

Col.1:9-14

- Bearing fruit in every good work
 - o My work: I Tim.17-18; II Tim.2:15
 - o I Cor.10:31; Col.3:17, 23-24; Joseph; Daniel
 - o Eph.4:16; Rom.16:3-5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 23; I Tim.6:9-10

- Matthew 10:41-42
- Growing in the knowledge of God
 - Paul, bring the cloak, and the books, esp the parchments (II Tim.4:13).
 - The book Heaven; David Guzik's message on Hebrews 6
- Being strengthened for patient endurance
 - Exercise
 - Encouragement; In 1952 Florence Chadwick stepped into the waters of the Pacific Ocean off Catalina Island, determined to swim to the shore of mainland California. She had already been the first woman to swim the English Channel both ways. The weather was foggy and chilly; she could hardly see the boats accompanying her. Still, she swam for fifteen hours. Then, physically and emotionally exhausted, she begged to be taken out the water and into a boat. Her mother, in a boat alongside, told her she was close and that she could make it. Despite the encouragement, Chadwick stopped swimming and was pulled out. Once on the boat she discovered that the shore was less than half a mile away. At a news conference the next day she said, "All I could see was the fog...I think if I could have seen the shore, I would have made it."
 - II Cor.4:18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, for what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
- Overflowing with thankfulness

There are three essentials in life that, if pursued with passion and persistence, will ultimately cultivate and birth all of the qualities & attributes the above verses convey. They are all three found in I Thess.2:10.

So then, three things to pursue:

- A Holy Life
 - Often when people think of a holy life, they think of convents or monasteries.
 - A holy life is one dedicated to the glory of God, and the advancement of His kingdom and the righteousness associated with that kingdom. And as we have seen from the verse we've read, a holy life has some very practical aspects about it.
 - Rom.12:1-2
- A Righteous Life
 - A righteous life is a life that seeks to do right as defined by the Scriptures.
 - What is right is what pleases the Lord; See Eph.5:8-10
 - Submission to God-ordained authority (Rom.13; Heb.13:17)
 - Col.3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
 - Heb.13:4; I Thess.4:1ff
 - What David had done displeased the Lord
- A Blameless Life
 - No cause for censure
 - Censure: The expression of formal disapproval
 - I John 2:28; Mark 8:38; II Tim.1:6-8; Phil.1:20

BENEFITS OF LIVING A LIFESTYLE WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM

- Confirms my citizenship in the kingdom
 - I Cor.6:9-11; Gal.5:19-21
 - James 1:14, 17, 26

- Brings personal blessing from the Lord
 - Psalm 1
 - Psalm 106:3 Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.
 - Prov.8:32...blessed are those who keep my ways.
 - I Peter 4:14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.
 - I John 3:22...and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

- Relieves concern about future judgment
 - Rom.14:11-12 "...As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.
 - Two Judgments
 - Great White Throne (Rev.20:11-15; 21:27; Matt.25:31-46)
 - Eccl.12: 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.
 - Heb.4: 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
 - Judgment Seat of Christ (II Cor.5:10)
 - Greek = "Bema," referring to the platform where a Roman magistrate or ruler sat to render decisions & sentences. But the original use of the word was taken from the Isthmian games where contestants would compete for a prize under the careful scrutiny of judges. See I Cor.9:24-27
 - Criteria For Judgment Seat of Christ
 - Building Materials (I Cor.3:12-15)
 - Gold, silver, & precious stones suggest giving it your best, it costs you something, there is sacrifice involved. It is not in any way a half-hearted effort.
 - Motives (I Cor.4:3-5)
 - See I Samuel 15:7-12, 17; Saul went from a motive to honor the Lord to a motive to honor himself. See also I Sam.15:20-23a.
 - Note: Someone may be making great sacrifices to the Lord, but their motive be all wrong (see Matt.23:5-7; 6:1-4). What if my motive in working hard at preaching & teaching was just to impress people?
 - James 4:3; James & John asking to sit at Jesus' right & left hand in the kingdom.

CONCLUSION

- Jonathan Edwards was a great Puritan preacher who lived in the 1700's. He said, "It becomes us to spend this life only as a journey toward heaven...to which we subordinate all other concerns of life." In his early twenties, Edwards composed a set of life resolutions. One read, "Resolved, to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness, in the other world, as I possibly can."
- Lord, may each of us live our lives in a way worthy of your calling upon us, and the kingdom you have so graciously made us a part of.