

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 25

Chapter 10: The End of the World. Doubtful Things. Living in the World.

8 December 2017

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

VS 11 The Old Testament Scriptures are not to be neglected by the New Testament believer. This verse clearly teaches that “they are written for OUR admonition.” They are for US.

The New Testament carefully informs us which parts of the Old Testament have been replaced by the New Covenant provided by Jesus Christ through His sacrifice. It requires spiritual discernment (ability to recognize the difference) to rightly divide the word of truth (1 Cor. 2:14, 2 Tim. 2:15) so that the believer today can know which Old Testament practices to discard and which ones still apply (2 Cor. 3:11).

Regardless of whether the Old Testament practices and doctrines still apply, it is still possible to make spiritual application of those passages to our situations in life today and learn some things about God and His will for us.

The teaching that we only need the New Testament today is a false teaching of hyper-dispensationalism.

VS 12 This verse focuses on the believer. We are to learn from the accounts of God’s judgment in the Old Testament and recognize that we are just as capable of sinning as the Old Testament sinner who was punished. Knowing that God punishes sin will help us to keep a check on our own sin.

VS 13 In this verse, God is prominent. God can keep me from falling into sin and being punished when I learn about my sin from the Scriptures, understand that I might sin, and bring it to Him so I can escape the temptation.

THE END OF THE WORLD

VS 11 This is one of *three* places where the term “**end of the world**” occurs. It is important to understand that “The world” is not referring to the planet earth. It is also not referring to “the age” (a particular time in history), as most of the new bibles have translated it.

“**The world**” is the *system* of evil that exists upon the earth (1 Sam. 2:8, Job 37:12, Isa. 23:17, Jer. 25:26, Rev. 3:10, Rev. 13:8). “**Love not the world**” (1 John 2:15) refers to this evil system, not to God’s creation (Isa. 45:18). God established it in wisdom, but sinful man corrupted it (Jer. 10:12, 2 Peter 1:4).

1. **Matthew 24:3, 14, 27-34.** “The end of the world” in this passage refers to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ at the end of the Tribulation/beginning of the Millennium. This will be the end of the world as it exists during the Great Tribulation.
2. **1 Corinthians 10:11.** “The ends of the world” here refers to the time of the rapture of the church and the end of the Church Age, which has lasted 2,000 years.
3. **Hebrews 9:20-26.** In verse 26, “the end of the world” refers to the end of the Old Testament dispensation that ended when Jesus Christ offered Himself on Calvary’s cross.
4. **Daniel 2:44, Luke 1:31-33.** There is no “end of the world” at the close of the Millennium because God’s kingdom “**shall stand forever**” and “**of his kingdom there shall be no end.**”

DOUBTFUL THINGS

VS 23 “All things are lawful...all things edify not.”

VS 33 “...not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many.”

These two verses provide the Christian with a test that can help determine whether an action or a practice is right or wrong. There are habits and activities for which the Bible does not specifically forbid nor specifically approve of. How do we know whether we should or should not do those things?

1. Will it assist in bringing the unsaved to Jesus Christ?
2. Will it build up the saved and make them a better Christian?

The theme of Corinthians: Don't live for yourself! Don't think only of yourself! Consider others first.

LIVING IN THE WORLD

VS 27 If an unbeliever “bid you to a feast” where sinful practices may take place, and it is beneficial or necessary for you to go, you have liberty to go, but mind your conscience while attending.

It is impossible to completely isolate yourself from the sinful people, places, and ways of the world. As much as possible, you must keep yourself separate from the world (Romans 12:2, 1 John 2:15, 1 Tim. 6:5, 2 Cor. 6:14-18) and still be able to “live peaceably with all men (Rom. 12:18).

Some people think isolation is the answer (monks, nuns, Amish, some Mennonites). If you do that, you can't reach out to the lost people in the world (Matt. 28:19, Acts 1:8, Prov. 8:1-3). God's prophets and apostles were exposed to the wickedness of the cities where they preached.

You've got to live in this world without partaking of the evil that it offers (John 17:15).

VS 28 If sin is flaunted in your face and men make a deliberate attempt to get you to compromise your Christianity, you are entitled to refuse.

VS 29 Don't selfishly say, “*I'm going to do what I want to do because it's not a sin.*” Consider the other man's conscience. How are your actions affecting his chances of turning from sin and trusting Jesus Christ? How are your actions affecting a weaker brother?

VS 31 We're told to “**do all to the glory of God.**” Most Christians do “some” things to the glory of God, but they continue to do “many” things to suit themselves, having no consideration for God or other people.

1. Glorify God. This is first priority.
 2. Glorify God without offending others, if possible.
 3. If it's a choice between offending God or offending the neighbor, offend the neighbor.
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