

The Blessed Life – Part 1

1) God blesses _____.

A) 2 Corinthians 6 teaches us to “come out from among them...” God blesses our obedience and uses our blessing as an _____ to others to bring them into relationship with Christ.

B) Examples from the Bible:

Cain – Abel (Abel obeyed God and Cain expected God to accept what Cain wanted to give, rather than what God required)

Abraham – simply obeyed, blessed the people of the land in which he dwelt

Israelites – example of both blessing with obedience and punishment for disobedience

Church – we have a habit of twisting God’s word to comply with what we want to do (spirit of Cain).

C) If you _____ me keep my commandments **John 14:15, 23-24**

2) There is a _____ that rages against us to rob us of the blessing of God - our flesh (desire, lust)

A) Paul's writing in Romans says the flesh wars to make us a _____ of sin.

B) ...in Galatians Paul lets us know we are not _____ to do whatever we want.

Galatians 5:16-17

C) Men’s hearts are continually set to do _____.

Ecclesiastes 8:11

Jeremiah 17:9-10

Mark 7:21-23

D) Satan's deception in the garden of Eden was to appeal to man's _____ and to convince man (Eve) to _____ in his own desire rather than what God had said.

Genesis 3:1-6

3) The first step in finding God's blessing is to recognize that which _____ us of God's blessing and commit to _____ the desires of our carnal nature.

EXAMPLE OF SHARK SERIAL KILLER: DISCOVERY CHANNEL SAYS THAT SHARK "SERIAL KILLERS" KILL ONLY FOR FOOD WHEREAS HUMAN SERIAL KILLERS KILL FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS

- I DISAGREE, THEY BOTH KILL DRIVEN BY A COMPELLING APPETITE OR URGE TO DO SO (HUNGER, PLEASURE, PERVERSION, ETC. - THERE IS SOME FORM OF GRATIFICATION) HUMANS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTROL THESE URGES AND HOLD THEM IN CHECK BASED ON A MORAL LAW (**the knowledge of good and evil. Right and wrong**). ANIMALS ARE NOT HELD TO SUCH A DISTINCTION OR ACCOUNTABILITY.

A) There is a _____ of right and wrong and it is the Word of God.

B) We must learn to _____ the Lord. (To obey God's Word we must first _____ God's Word)

Psalm 119:10-11

Proverbs 3:5-6

C) We must recognize our own flesh as our _____!

*Jesus commanded us to _____ our flesh

*Paul commands us to _____ the flesh, to _____ its deeds

D) Recognize the world is set up to engage your _____ (supreme court decision defines marriage by sexual pleasure/gratification) videos, movies, TV, video games. They are

teaching our children to “discover” their appetites/desires/lusts and allow themselves to be defined by them. (note that this is in direct opposition to what the Word of God teaches)

EXAMPLE: TO HUNT DEER AND BAG A MATURE BUCK, YOU WANT TO APPEAL TO HIS DESIRES – FOOD & SEX

Old trick for killing wolves – razor sharp knife embedded in frozen seal meat/blubber. The taste of blood sends them into a feeding frenzy and they do not realize the blood they are consuming is their own.

4) We'll talk more specifically over the next few weeks about steps we need to take to protect ourselves and our families and how to find God's blessing in specific areas of our lives.

Finances

Marriage

Children

5) Today I want us to know...

A) We are in a _____ for our souls, for our marriages, for our families.

B) God is our _____. God's Word is our _____.

C) Our flesh is our _____.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS!!!!!!