

IT'S BAD OUT THERE!

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The world in which we live is dark, very dark. The news is full of violence, immorality and many kinds of perversion. We must recognize, however, that we are not at war with physical forces of this world, but the spiritual (6:12). How can we overcome if everything is so negative? Can we succeed in overcoming Satan and his forces? Paul reveals for us a three-step plan that will lead us to success if we allow it.

I. Walk with Wisdom

- A. The Christian must continually be aware of his spiritual surroundings.
 - 1. The path we follow will often takes us through uncharted waters.
 - a. What are some “uncharted waters” we may have to travel through in our spiritual lives?
 - 2. The key to having a successful walk is to do so with wisdom.
James 3:13-18
 - a. What is wisdom?
 - b. How can we show wisdom?
- B. Part of walking in a direct way is also making good use of the time that has been granted us.
 - 1. The use of “time” in this passage
 - 2. When one considers the society of the 1st century and compares it to today’s, is there any difference? Rom. 1:18-32

II. Understand the Lord’s Will

- A. The foolish man is not able to comprehend the will of the Lord.
 - 1. What makes him foolish?
 - 2. This man is incapable of making the proper decisions because he has no desire to do so.
- B. The wise man on the other hand is one that recognizes the need for God’s direction in his life.
 - 1. He recognizes God’s way is better than his own. Jer. 10:23
 - 2. Though we often think otherwise, the will of the Lord is not cumbersome. Matt. 11:30

III. Focus on the Spiritual, Not the Physical

- A. Focusing on the spiritual will help us deal with the temptations and troubles the physical offers us.
 - 1. We have many opportunities to go after the things of the world.
 - a. What are some physical opportunities we may encounter?
 - 2. When troubles hit, some seek to remedy the situation by getting lost in the bottle. 1 Pet. 4:3
 - a. Does alcohol help or hurt the situation?
 - b. What are some other problems that may arise due to being “under the influence?”

B. One of the ways we can focus on the spiritual is by singing spiritual songs.
James 5:13

1. Singing gives us an opportunity to encourage and teach each other while worshiping God.
2. Possessing a thankful attitude will also help us to focus on the spiritual.
 - a. How can we show our thanks to God for all that has been done on our behalf?

IV. Conclusion

A. The world in which we live can be a very dark place, but we can overcome if we follow the plan.