

PureMen

PureMen Bible Study – Session 2 – 11/17/09

Video – The Skit Guys – “What Are You Thankful For?”
Something To Thank the Lord For?

Recite Memory Verse (Gal 5:16) & Offer Reward for those successfully reciting it.

Re-address the “shocking nature” of Chapter One.

Review Study Questions from Chapter One

FINDING HOPE IN GOD – Have You Lost Hope? Is There Any Hope For Me?

Significant portions of this outline were derived from the book, *Living Purely in an Impure World*, by Jim Binney. This is an excellent resource and I highly recommend it!

<http://www.leadministries.net> (\$16.95)



Many people who have been caught up in habitual sin have become so accustomed to “giving-in” to the temptation that all they really know is discouragement and defeat by their sin. Perhaps their secret sin has been discovered and their world is crashing down all around them. They ask “*Is There Any Hope for Me?*” Perhaps you have that very question this evening and that is why you are here. Let me confidently assure you – the Bible makes it crystal clear – THERE IS HOPE!

1 Corinthians 10:13

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”

I. “Common to Man”

- a. First, God wants you to know that whatever you are experiencing is **COMMON** to man.
- b. This means that whatever present trial you may be going through and enduring, has been endured and victoriously conquered by fellow-Christians before you.
- c. Because of the severity of the trial, many are conned into believing that you are somehow unique – that nobody could possibly understand your present sufferings – that no one else could have ever suffered like this before.
- d. But rest assured, brother, there are thousands just like you who have gone through the same deep valley, and have not yet bowed their knee to Baal. You may feel all alone with not a soul in sight to help, but if you look down, you will see the footsteps of countless others who have traveled the same road you are on.
- e. Most importantly, our Lord Jesus Christ also suffered the same temptation.
 - i. **Hebrews 4:15b** He “*was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*” This means that He was tempted in all the same categories of sin that you and I are.
 - ii. **1 John 2:16** tells us “*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*”
 1. “The “*lust of the flesh*” is the desire to enjoy and encompasses the sins of **hedonism** (or the pursuit of pleasure) and the sensual sins relating to eating, sex, and sleep. When Satan tempted Jesus to turn the stone into bread, he was tempting Him in this area.”
 2. “The “*lust of the eyes*” is the desire to possess and covers the sin of **materialism**. A person involved in this sin finds his worth in the accumulation of things – cars, clothes, houses – anything which gives him standing and status. When the devil took Jesus to a high mountain and showed him the kingdoms of the worlds and offered them to Him if He would worship him. Jesus was tempted with the lust of the eyes.”
 3. “The “*pride of life*” is the desire to achieve and finds its basis in popularism. To be liked, lauded, applauded, admired, revered, and respected means everything to this person. His sense of personal significance is bound up in titles, degrees, awards, trophies, and other forms of recognition and supremacy. The devil took the Lord to the pinnacle of the temple and urged him to cast Himself down. After all, the angels would catch Him before any harm

could be done. He could enjoy fame without the pain of the cross. Again, Jesus was tempted here and did not give in.”

- iii. Because Jesus has “***been there, done that***” and faced the temptation before of you or I were even born – and because He has conquered death and sin, and because you have “*Christ in you, the hope of glory*” [Col 1:27] you “*are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*” [Rom 8:37]
- iv. **Heb. 2:17, 18** “*Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*”
 - 1. This means us brothers! Christ is able to succour [***literally, run to us to help***] us in our temptations NOW!

II. “But God is Faithful”

- a. What an amazing thought! Though everyone else may leave us, God promises “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (**Heb 13:5**). Though others may not keep their word, **God is true to His promises!** Though everything may come crashing down around you, God is faithful! Always there! Always true to you!
- b. A common feeling of many in the throws of habitual sin (esp. sexual sins) is that God doesn’t love them (“***How could he love me?!***”), that He has forgotten them or worse yet, that He has targeted them for special punishment.
 - i. Once these ideas are formed, it is easy to conclude that God is no help; that there is no comfort or love with Him. After all, He would never accept you, right? Therefore, why turn to Him? So, with that attitude, where do you turn for comfort? Unfortunately, for most it’s right back to the one thing that has been given you comfort up to this point – **your sin**. Your sin is always waiting and willing to embrace you – but sin destroys!
 - ii. BUT, the doctrine of God’s faithfulness rejects such thoughts! **He has not left you – you have left Him!** And He faithfully awaits your return.
- c. “The Lord protects us through the attacks of our enemy. Satan may be “*as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*” (**1 Pet 5:8**) but he is a lion on a leash and the length of that leash is determined by the Master!”
- d. Men, “But God is Faithful”

III. “Above That Ye Are Able”

- a. Have you ever found yourself saying “this is too much for me! I just can’t take it!” This promise of God should set that fear to rest!

- b. God knows what we can withstand, and we have His promise that He will never take us beyond that point. AMEN!
- c. Just as the disciples were almost overtaken by the storm, Jesus intervenes and says, “*Peace, be still.*” Just when you think it’s too much, God is there with His omnipotent power to control the winds lest they overcome you.
- d. Sexual temptations have been described as “overwhelming,” and “unrelenting attacks – or in a sense, someone says “It was more than I could handle.” The TRUTH is that God is too faithful to ever allow you to experience temptation “above that ye are able”. **To believe this builds hope!** To deny it destroys hope!
- e. In every situation, God controls not only the **timing** of our trials, but also their **duration and intensity**. Why? Because He is faithful to His children.

IV. “God...Will With The Temptation Also Make A Way To Escape!”

- a. In the Greek, this literally means “*the way*” to escape v. many different ways.
- b. There may be many ways which we believe to be right, but in reality God has provided **only one way** that’s the right way!
 - i. For the three Hebrew children, the right way was through the fire.
 - ii. For the Israelites, the right way was through the Red Sea.
- c. “*Expediency* calls for any way. *Convenience* calls for a painless way. *Logic* demands an immediate way. *Pride* desires an honorable way. But only our faithful God provides “**the way to escape.**” Only that way is of God’s making.”
- d. And we have some Good News! **God has already created your escape route.** He created it “with the temptation.” Even now, as you struggle with your temptations, God has an escape route ready and waiting for you! We serve a Mighty God!

V. “That Ye May Be Able To Bear It”

- a. God’s way of escape is not often “around something” but through it. **Not to avoid it but to endure it.**
- b. The reason for the escape route is to enable you to bear it.
- c. How long will we have to endure it? Perhaps indefinitely! Will God be there to help you endure it? **Absolutely!**
- d. Perhaps your prayers for deliverance have already been answered. Paul prayed three times for relief from the “*thorn of the flesh*” (2 Cor. 12). God’s answer was to give him grace. Paul wanted the pain to end. God wanted to help him through the pain. Paul wanted comfort for himself. God wanted glory for Himself.

VI. Conclusion

- a. “This verse is so full of wonderful **TRUTH and PROMISE!** Therefore, our enemy, the devil, hates it! He will do all he can to block this promise from your mind.
- b. From experience, I have learned that there are always two voices – **we need to learn to discern the voice of God!** **John 10:27** *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”*
 - i. If God wants you to know that your temptation is common to man, Satan wants you to believe that you are weird, peculiar, or strange. He wants you to feel completely alone with no God in sight.
 - ii. If God wants you to know that He is faithful, the enemy wants you to believe that God has abandoned you or betrayed you.
 - iii. If God wants you to believe that He will never allow more upon you than you can bear, the devil wants to convince you that this is too much for anyone.
 - iv. If God wants you to see the way of escape, Satan wants you either to deny its existence or to find an easier way.
 - v. Who are you to believe? To which voice will you yield? Where will you turn for hope?
 - vi. Our God is the **GOD OF ALL HOPE!** Turn to Him! Fall at His feet! He will lovingly embrace you and wash you whiter than snow!”

PRAYER!

