

Bible Study Resource

A Sojourner's Guide

1 Peter 2:11-12

"...they may see your good deeds and glorify God when He appears." 1 Peter 2:12b, NET

As sojourners, Peter reminds us that there is more than one reason to pursue personal holiness. We are to be holy because God is holy (1 Peter 1:15), but there is another important reason: Someone is watching you. Someone is listening to you. Someone's eternity hangs in the balance, and your actions may hold the key. Will that person see God in you and believe, allowing them to glorify Jesus when He returns?

Abstain

1 Peter 2:11, Galatians 5:16-17, 2 Timothy 2:22, 1 Corinthians 10:13

The Bible teaches that there is a spiritual battle out there, but it is a war in here - a war of the flesh. Your instructions for this internal war are very clear. You don't engage, you abstain. You are to be holy according to the example of your holy God. And in this effort you have some important instructions. What strategies do you find in the above passages for waging this war? What fleshly desires do you struggle with most in your war? How is God encouraging and challenging you as you face this war?

A Matter of the Mind and the Heart

Daniel 1:1-8

In Daniel we find a powerful example of this fleshly war and a passionate advocate for personal holiness. As a young teen, Daniel observes the decadence of the King's court and makes a personal decision - a decision that could very well place him on dangerous ground in a foreign land. Consider Daniel 1:8 as it is transcribed in at least three different translations of the Bible (consider using KJV, NASB, ESV, NIV, or NLT). What clarity does this comparison provide? How is a decision of the heart different from a decision of the mind? How do you go about making decisions that regard the flesh?

A Perfect Example (Flee and Pursue)

1 Peter 2:12, 2 Timothy 2:22, Psalm 1:1-3

In our culture today, words are often divisive and offensive; but notice that your instruction isn't to win them with your words. Your instruction is to win them with your behavior. Fleeing fleshly desire is a distinctive behavior. So is pursuing righteousness. When your family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances observe you, what do they see? Are your behaviors consistent with your beliefs? Do they see love, joy, and hope; or do they see an all too familiar worldly attitude? Do you give them reason to want Jesus?