

THE RIGHTEOUS PURSUES HOLINESS

Chapter 2 Lesson 1

Chapter's Subject: Created Anew in Righteousness and True Holiness

Main Point: Cheap Grace?

**Today's Study: 1. Highlights from Chapter 1 and A Brief Introduction to Chapter 2
2. Cheap Grace? Part A**

I. Highlights from Chapter 1 and a Brief Introduction to Chapter 2

A. Brief Review of Chapter 1

1. "The righteous are those who believe in Christ. They are called righteous because they are clothed in Christ's righteousness; they are created anew in righteousness and true holiness and have given themselves to obedience in pursuit of holy living".
 - (a) Think of these things as you reflect on the above statements: (1) **Clothed**, (2) **Created**, (3) **Committed**.
 - (b) These are the three main chapters for our study (*there will be two additional chapters with Supplementary Materials*)
 - (1) **Clothed in Christ's Righteousness** -Chapter 1
 - (2) **Created Anew in Righteousness and True Holiness** -Chapter 2
 - (3) **Committed to a Life of Obedience in Pursuit of Holy Living** -Chapter 3
2. Definition of holiness (*Highlighting two definitions*)
 - (a) "The primary meaning of holiness is separation".
 - (b) "Holiness is freedom from the dominion of sin".
3. **To be "Clothed in Christ's Righteousness" is to be declared righteous in Christ.**
4. We discussed the first chapter noting three main points (1) Rebellious Nature (2) Repentance (3) Recreation/Righteousness.
 - (a) **Rebellious Nature**
 - (1) Reference here is being made to the depraved nature of man, with which he was born (Rom. 5:12), which makes him a sinner (Rom. 3:23).
 - (2) Sin is rebellion against the known will of God (Ezek. 2; Isa. 59:12-13; etc.)
 - (3) The sin factor must be dealt with; the unregenerate man must experience a change because sin ruins, it separates man from God and disqualifies anyone from entering the kingdom of God (Gen. 3:24; Isa. 59:2; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5; etc.).
 - (b) **Repentance**
 - (1) God commands repentance (Acts 17:30)

- (2) Repentance is generally defined as “making a u-turn away from sin back to God and His righteousness”.
- (3) The act of repentance involves two things:
- Sorrow for sin (2 Cor. 7:9-11)
 - Stop sinning (John 5:1-16, NB v. 14; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12; etc.).
- (c) **Recreation/Righteousness**
- (1) Remember these facts:
- By nature man is born a sinner (Rom. 5:12; Psa. 51:5)
 - The sinful nature must be changed (John 3:1-8, etc.).
 - Man can experience such needed change through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ who makes us a new creation (Matt. 1:21; 1 Tim. 1:15; Heb. 7:25; 2 Cor. 5:17; etc.).
- (2) We have limited time but keep in mind this quote:
“Salvation recreates the moral image of God in people and opens the door to God’s work of sanctification and growth in holiness”.
5. In chapter 1 we also looked at the significance of “robe”.
- (a) As noted, robe signifies honor.
- (b) One example used was in the case of Joseph (Gen. 37)
- (1) Joseph was an honorable and upright young man.
- (2) His father loved him above his brothers and honored him with a special robe (Gen. 37:4)
- (c) We also discussed the redeemed (those who have been made pure and free from the defilements of the world) will be given white robes by the Redeemer (Rev. 7:9).
6. As we saw in chapter 1, Joseph may have lost his physical robe (Gen. 37:1-33) but he remained clothed in the righteousness of God! (Gen. 37-41, etc.)
- (a) Although Joseph was stripped of his robe and sold into slavery, he was **renowned, remarkable and righteous** under any situation, even in the worst prison.
- (1) Despite the muddy, murky, miserable situation of his dungeon, he was well established!!
- (2) Despite the darkness of the dungeon, he was a beacon of hope, a ray of light of the righteousness of God’s glory!!
- (3) Despite the stale, smelly environment of the dungeon, there was a sweet savory aroma effusing, pouring out of him, daily!!
- (4) Despite the fact that his prison environment was characterized, charged with, composed of disappointments, despair, doom, and hopelessness; Joseph was a source of encouragement and a blessing to all. He was definitely a man of hope and divine inspiration!!
- (5) Despite the chains of bondage (physical bondage), Joseph was a free man and had favor with the authority and was a source of inspiration to all other prisoners and most likely the prison guards!!
- (6) Etc.

- (b) Beloved, these things seen in Joseph's life would not have been possible if he was not clothed in the righteousness of God!! As Christians, in our pilgrimage, we need to be "Clothed in the Righteousness of Christ."
- (1) Let's keep in mind that to be clothed in Christ's righteousness is to be declared righteous **in Christ**.
- (2) Man needs and can experience deliverance from the bondage of sin ... the dominant tyrant ... the foulest monster that ever enters the universe.
- Salvation is deliverance and that we saw in regards to Christ from His birth was announced (Matt. 1:21); also when He was a baby (Luke 2:8-17; by Simeon (Luke 2:21-35, NB v. 30 which is a prophecy in Isa. 52:10); etc.
 - Freedom can genuinely be experienced in Jesus Christ!!
 - **No more chain, no more chain, no more chain, I am free!!**
 - Free, because who Christ makes free is free indeed (John 8:32, 36; Rom. 8:2; Gal. 5:1)
 - Righteous because of Jesus Christ
 - We have no righteousness of our own making (Isa. 64:6)
 - Jesus Christ is the **ONLY** way to God (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).
 - "I am what I am by the grace of God (1 Cor. 15:10)!! Bless His holy name!!

B. Pursue Holiness!!

1. We commenced defining and commenting on the word "pursue" in chapter 1. Today, we will continue, although still briefly.
2. Definition for "**pursue**":
 - (a) To find out or employ measures to obtain or accomplish.
 - (b) To engage in.
 - (c) To follow in order to overtake, capture, or kill; chase.
 - (d) To proceed along, follow, or continue with (a specific course, action, plan, etc.)
 - (e) To continue to annoy or distress, hound.
 - (f) To strive to gain or accomplish.
 - (g) To follow up or proceed with.
 - (h) Etc.
3. Review the definitions listed above, you may want to focus on one or two **that helps in your pursuit of a holy life**. The emphasis on holiness will continue and it must be realized that holiness of life will not come just because of your church membership, etc; it will not just fall out of heaven onto your lap as you leisurely wait for the experience, **it demands diligence and effort!!**
4. As discussed before, holiness is also defined as (a) The experience of holiness and (b) the practice of one's life.

- (a) **The experience of holiness is possible.** We can all experience deliverance from habitually practicing sin; to love God with our all and love one another fervently (1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 John 3 and 4; Mark 12:29-1; etc.)
- (1) We saw before that holiness is possible because:
- It is the will of the Father (1 Thess. 4:3; Jude 1)
 - It is the work of Christ (Heb. 13:12; 1 Cor. 1:2)
 - It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit (2 Thess. 2:13; Rom. 15:16)
- (2) If necessary review chapter 1 lesson 1
- (b) **The practice of one's life.** Holiness is not just a doctrine to be taught, a topic for discussion, etc. but a life to be lived. We must DAILY live out our experience of deliverance (*see again 1 John 3:1-10; will be discussed later in the study and mentioned repeatedly because of its importance*). Holiness is not just a onetime experience but a standard of living to be maintained by ALL of God's people (Lev. 11:44, 45; 1 Peter 1:15-16)
5. Let me repeat for emphasis, no one is going to obtain the experience of holiness by being passive, insensitive, insincere, etc.
- (a) **God has done His part, we have ours to do; there are responsibilities!**
- (1) We must at all times resist the devil, be sober, etc. (1 John 5:8, 9; Matt. 26:41; etc.)
- (2) We must not yield our bodies as instruments of unrighteousness, whether in thoughts, words or deeds. We are to abstain from the very appearance of evil. Etc. (Rom. 6:13; 1 Thess. 5:22; Rom. 12:9; etc.).
- (3) The list goes on.
- (b) Remember these two important pointers used in defining "pursue"
- (1) This has been referred to several times but very important: **Pursuing holiness requires diligence and effort.**
- (2) We must DAILY desire and strive, doing all that is necessary to **live a Christlike life.**
- (c) Oh! That we would **consistently, genuinely,** pursue holiness of life.
- (1) **IMPRESSIVE/EYE CATCHING/CROWD PLEASING!!**
- There are many great sermons but we need more messages from God ... "Thus saith he Lord!"
 - Great altar services but so few are genuinely changed (The altar: Is a place where we meet God and a place of sacrifice. Seekers need to present themselves as living sacrifices; etc. Lives must be changed at the altar for the altar services to be effective. It is not there as a show piece; etc.).
 - We have seen many tears and display of emotion but not many broken and contrite heart/spirit.
 - Many beautiful buildings, well structured programs, most current technology in use, great scholars and charismatic speakers, etc. **but God is still outside many church doors knocking, trying to get in!!**

- Today we seem to glory in who has the largest congregation, and yes, church growth is imperative, but so many congregations are overflowing with thousands of members and yet they are very shallow.

(2) Here is a big problem in regards to this current church age and as seen in the account of the Church in Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22), not many want to hear “Thus saith the Lord”, because they do not see the need for such. For example if an anointed servant of God should obey God as in Isa. 58:1 “Cry out, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sin ...”

- Most likely such anointed messenger would be criticized, dehumanized, ostracized, etc.
- It is evidently obvious that among many clergy and laity they have an “itching ear” (Read all of 2 Timothy 4, note carefully verse 3)
- Beloved, the Word of God is emphatically clear about the need to faithfully defend the faith handed down to us, for example see Jude 3. Note:
 - “exhort you ...” (KJV) or “urge you” (L.A.S.B)
 - “earnestly contend for” ... (KJV) or “contend”
 - The Church (Universal) need to stand up and defend the faith of our fathers, especially in these days of compromise, corruption, etc.
- **No matter what men say or do, “Holiness of life is still God’s standard of living for His people!!”**

6. **Pursue holiness, beloved!! This will involve a “spiritual striving”,** (remember there is a need for diligence and effort). See the following references:

(a) Luke 1:24

(b) 1 Cor. 9:25

(c) Phil. 1:27

(d) Col. 1:29

(e) Heb. 12:4

(f) **Psa. 42:1-2 (Amplified Bible)**

“As the hart pants and longs for the water brooks, so I pant and long for you, O God. My inner self thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God [John 7:37; 1 Thess. 1:9, 10.]”

(g) **Matt. 5:6 (Amplified Bible)**

“Blessed and fortunate and happy and spiritually prosperous (in the state in which the born-again child of God enjoys His favor and salvation) are

those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God), for they shall be completely satisfied [Isa.55:1, 2.]”

C. The Righteous Pursues Holiness Chapter 2

1. As noted before, the subject for Chapter 2 will be: “Created Anew in Righteousness and True Holiness”.
2. We will discuss this topic using three main points:
 - (a) Cheap Grace?
 - (b) Called Out
 - (c) Character of the Child of God
3. Each main point will be broken down in sub-pointers, supporting pointes, etc.
4. Chapter 2 will contain a wealth of information but this new approach in comparison with the first publication will be much easier to follow. I have not changed the main format of the study only the way it is presented.
5. I will make available the detailed outline for both the original and this presentation and, if needs be, you can consult these outlines for sequence.
6. My prayer is that you will go though these chapters and lessons prayerfully and with an open mind to the leading of the Holy Spirit. **MAY GOD BE GLORIFIED!!**

D. Song by Micah Stampley ... “Holiness”

This song became popular some years ago. It was heard quite frequently, it was on the radio, sang frequently in some churches, special occasions; many were moved by this compelling song but somehow it just seem to have disappeared. Obviously, this happens in a general sense, in that the excitement for so many things gradually fades and sometimes disappears. It is obvious that too many today are concerned about entertainment rather than genuine worship; it is a bit interesting to hear some folks say we are going to have church and see what they mean. In this particular situation it means a display of emotion, etc. even if the presence of God is not evident. We are a God praising, shouting, dancing, etc. church but genuine worship is compulsory (yet that’s for another study). There is nothing wrong with Praise Music but there are some that say very little and encourages entertainment. We have thrown out hymns and songs that teach the Word of God and regarded by many as being obsolete.

The doctrine of holiness is not people bashing, condemning, etc. as so many try to label this needful way of living; remember, if we take away the doctrine of holiness we take away the light and leave the people in total darkness. **There are extreme views to everything but we are not advocating for extreme teachings in regards to holiness but what is biblically sound.** Sad to note that in the Church (Universal) we have gone from one extreme to another especially in the

standard of holiness and we do need a heaven sent, Holy Ghost, heart changing, hell shaking, God centered revival!

I will quote the first verse of this song, "Holiness" and the chorus. The complete lyrics are included in lesson 3 of this chapter, which contains "Additional Information".

Holiness by Micah Stampley

Verse 1

Holiness, Holiness is what I long for
 Holiness is what I need
 Holiness, Holiness is what
 You want for me, for me

Chorus

Holiness, Holiness is what I long for
 Holiness is what I need
 Holiness, Holiness is what you want for me.

II. Cheap Grace?

As noted before the first Main Point for chapter 1 is "Cheap Grace?" Today we will study the first Sub-Point: Allurements of the World.

Introductory Notes

1. We all know that the grace of God is not cheap!
 - (a) We know the ultimate price paid for our redemption, for example see Isaiah 53, and NB vv. 5-6.
 - (b) God gave us His very best!! (John 3:16; etc.)
2. **Absolutely not!! God's grace is not cheap!** However, the derogatory life styles of so many have conveyed a wrong message as to the value of God's redemptive work in our lives. Living lives that are inconsistent with the Word of God and the continued compromise of the standards of the Church (Universal), passes on the wrong message to the world and gives the idea that the grace of God is cheap, which is completely contrary to the standards God requires.
3. You will observe that my topic "Cheap Grace?" has a question sign.
 - (a) In this situation it is not a play on words but intentionally used to convey the message God has laid on my heart.
 - (b) In other words I am asking: Do you know that the inconsistency, especially as prevalent in today's Church (Universal), is conveying to the world that the grace of God is cheap?
4. **There is also an unbalanced approach in the way so many emphasize the love of God and this approach has helped to contribute to the decline in godliness, righteous and true holiness.** Observe carefully that some folks in the Church have

been praying about the same sins for so many years and observe also that the consciousness of sin seems to become a reality only when they are in church; for many habitually live in sin because God will forgive them, after all He is a loving God! **I know we want our churches to grow (and that is necessary and very important) but let's emphasize quality saints and not solely quantity of saints, let us not quickly deploy seekers especially to certain responsibilities but let's nurture and develop them in the things of God.**

(a) As indicated above, we (The Church ...Universal) have gone from one extreme to another.

(1) There was a time when we present God as an angry raging God who is there only to punish individuals.

(2) Today we present God as one who approves of any lifestyle despite how inconsistent it may be with His Word.

(b) **So much emphasis has been placed on the love attribute of God that other attributes are neglected, for example "the justice of God".**

(1) To be "just" (Zeph. 3:5; John 5:3; 1John 1:9; Rom. 2:2) means that God upholds the moral order of the universe, and is righteous and without sin in the manner in which He treats humankind (Neh. 9:3; Dan. 9:14). **Details not possible but observe a few points ...**

- God's determination to punish sinners with death (Rom. 5:12) process from His justice (Rom. 6:23 compare with Gen. 2:16-17).
- He is angry at sin because of His love for righteousness (Rom. 3:5-6; etc.)
- Etc.

(2) **GOD'S JUSTICE IS NOT OPPOSED TO HIS LOVE!!** On the contrary, it was to satisfy His justice that He sent Jesus Christ into the world as His gift of love (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10) and as His sacrifice for sin on our behalf (Isa. 5:5-6; Rom. 4:25; 1 Pete 3:18), in order to reconcile us to Himself (2 Cor. 5:18-21).

(3) Let us face the facts, God is love and He is also a God of justice:

*Another quick example is seen in **Rom. 5:8, 9***

- Here we clearly see the love of God demonstrated.
- Jesus Christ is our provision of peace with God.
- Peace with God was made real only because Christ died for the sinner.
- Etc.
- **However, many either have not read nor understand verse 9**
 - Salvation from wrath is not merely a hope, but a reality.
 - "The word **wrath** refers to the judgment of God. Those who are not justified through Christ will receive His judgment in return for transgression and disobedience".
 - Details are not possible at this time but bear in mind that the word **wrath** is not there by chance or mistake. The "good

news” of salvation is still available for the whosoever will, while the gate is still ajar (Isa. 55: 1, 6-13; Matt. 11:28).

- (c) This is a delicate subject but a needed one to be dealt with, especially as we look towards the coming of the Bridegroom; may those who we have within our local churches be ready and not found to be as the “Foolish Virgins” (Matt. 25:1-13) **GOD’S STANDARD OF LIVING FOR HIS PEOPLE IS STILL HOLINESS!!**

A. Allurements of the World

Background reference: 1 John 2:15-17

The allurements of the world lead to sin and sin leads to death ... spiritual and physical death ... separation from God now and for eternity.

1. Introductory Notes

(a) “Allure”

(1) Definitions

- The power of being powerfully and mysteriously attractive or fascinating.
- To tempt (attract) with something desirable; entice.
- The act or process of alluring.
- The power to entice or attract through personal charm.
- The act of enticing a person to do something wrong.

(2) Synonyms: (allure)

Attract, lure, entice, tempt, appeal to captivate, etc.

NOTE: Satan will tempt you in your weak areas or areas of greatest needs and he will use that which is most alluring.

(b) Carrot on the stick.

(1) The Boy in a Cart Drawn by a Donkey

The boy had a carrot on a long pole that he held before the donkey and dangles it holding the donkey’s attention who desired the carrot. The carrot was so placed that the donkey would not be able to get to it.

(2) Boardman Robinson Anti-war Cartoon

He had pictured death on an undernourished (skinny) donkey enticing it towards a precipice with a carrot labeled “Victory.”

(3) The question is: “What is Satan dangling before your eyes, enticing you towards the precipice?”

(c) Satan is an expert; he is well experienced in the work of deception.

(1) He instigates men to sin.

- **John 13:2**

“And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him”.

- See also: Acts 5:3; 2 Cor. 12:7; Eph. 2:2; 1 Thess. 2:18.

(2) Do not be fooled by Satan’s enticements, remember he is crafty, intending only to destroy. Here are some highlighted examples, check the references if you cannot identify each.

- You will be like God (Gen. 3:1-5)
- Make use of the opportunity, even if others get hurt (Gen. 27:16)
- Acquiring alliance (friendship, intimacy, business opportunity, etc.) through deception (Josh. 9:4)
- To conspire against others (Matt. 26:4)
- Determined to find a way to destroy, to get rid of (Mark 1:1)
- To cause others to say that which you will be able to use against them (Luke 20:23)

2. What is Satan dangling before your eyes?

- (a) As seen in the situation with Adam and Eve it may be power, position, etc. (Gen. 3)
- (b) As with Gehazi (2 Kings 5, NB vv. 20-27) his fundamental struggle was covetousness, lying, deception, etc. which manifested in the lust for materialism.
- (c) As with King Saul it was to get rid of his seemingly rival to the throne as well as other very personal benefits (1 Sam. 18, NB vv. 6-16; etc.) and yet his fundamental struggle was envy, jealousy, disobedience, etc.
- (d) As with King David his fundamental struggle was covetousness, lust, (adultery), etc. when he committed such atrocities, there was also the instant gratification and the deception of concealing at any price even murder (2 Samuel 11)
- (e) In general for Israel (as we have seen in the Old Testament) it was to adapt to the ways of the evil practices of the heathen nations. Oh yes, you can get lost in the crowd until you lose your identity!!
- (f) This listing could go on and on. Satan will allure; it is our responsibility to resist him, we must be steadfast, always abiding in the perfect will of God maintaining holiness of life as we continue to submit to God.

3. Do not be enticed! Be determined to live above being captivated by Satan 1 John 2:15-17 (ASV)

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”.

- (a) **We are warned against worldliness!! (1 John 2:15-17)**

At this time I will briefly comment; this will be followed up below; see also Lesson 3 of this chapter (Additional Information) for a direct quote from Life in the Spirit Study Bible)

2:15: World here means human life in opposition to God (*kosmos*) that system Satan promotes and exists in neglect of God ... they do not need God (at least so they believe). **Things in the world** are the values in verse 16 that motivate persons who live contrary to God's law: NOTE ... **"If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him"**. Very simple to understand, if we live accordingly to these worldly values (2:16), we do not love God!!

2:16: *Also discussed throughout this study (vv. 15-17)*

The lust of the flesh: These are the desires of our sin-tainted human nature.

The lust of the eyes: Greed for more and more things; there is a continued carnal craving.

The pride of life: Vain and empty boasting in our status and achievements.

2:17: The world is passing away (*We will have a brief discussion later in the study in regards to "Perishing Reality", etc.*

This sinful world order with all its attractions will someday be no more; it ends for each person at death. **Only the person who does the will of God has eternal life.**

(b) Satan's Deceptive Role

- (1) That's who he is: deceiver, liar, tempter, enemy of the saints, robber (thief) (Gen. 3:4-5; Job 1:9-11; 2:7; Zech. 3:1; Eph. 6:12)
- (2) He never stops, he never sleeps, never takes time off, his objective is to destroy!! (1 Pete 5:8).
 - **Roaring:** Present continuous tense, meaning Satan is always on the prowl seeking to devour.
 - If one thing doesn't work, he will try another and another
 - Believers need to be always vigilant, no time to take anything for granted, he will strike anytime!!
- (3) He may even come as an angel of light (2 Co. 11:14). We refer to this as "Satanic Transformation" and it happens in so many areas of life!! (See also Matt. 4:6; 2 Cor. 2:11)
- (4) **He will dress up sin to make it look like something that you MUST have!! (Gen. 3:1-5)**
 - But think of an apple, looking red (or golden, etc) and juicy but it is loaded with lethal poison.
 - Satan will make sin looks attractive, but beloved, sin brings forth death (James 1, NB vv. 12-15; Mark 4:19; 1 Cor. 10:6; etc.)

4. DRESSED UP BUT SIN IS STILL SIN!!

The following statements are only a few of the many deceptive, alluring statements and practices of this sinful world which so many find great pleasure because they prefer darkness rather than light (John 3:19; Matt. 6:23; John 1:5; 2 Thess. 2:11-12)

- (a) Political correctness has been glamorized, advocated for, etc. beyond logical reasoning but it still leads to moral depravity.
- (b) Gays, lesbians, same sex marriages, etc are terms used to dress up the abominable lifestyle of sodomy.
- (c) Cohabitation may sound exciting, which is the practice of so many and a trend on the rise in our modern world, but such lifestyle is open perversion of sexual immorality.
- (d) Extra marital affairs may be common and taken lightly but such is still adultery.
- (e) Sexual intimacy out of marriage or before marriage, no matter who is doing it or approves of it doesn't change the facts it is still fornication.
- (f) White lie is still lying and all lying lips are an abomination unto the Lord.
- (g) White sheets do not soil white sheets, is a deception from the pit of hell that will defile, demoralize, destroy, etc. any believer (saint) of God.
- (h) What they do not know won't hurt them but behold your sins will find you out and he that soweth to the flesh will of the flesh reap corruption.
- (i) Nobody will know ... that is a lie because the guilty party or parties already know, even more God being omniscient knows everything (Psa. 94:7-9; etc.). Definitely all that is done in darkness will eventually come to light. God Himself will judge everyman according to what he has done whether it was done in privacy or public.
- (j) Drink all the beer down here because in heaven you won't have any . . . but everyone ought to know that no drunkards will be in heaven.
- (k) Eat drink and be merry (basically referring to sinful reveling) because tomorrow you will die . . . yes but after death comes the judgment.
- (l) I do not have to go to church, I can worship at home ... yes we ought to worship at home, etc. but the Word of God says not to forget the assembling of ourselves together.
- (m) There are many pathways to God, so all religion is good ... but the Bible says that JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD.
- (n) Forgive but do not forget ... some carry that bitterness etc. for so many years despite the external sweetness they display; but failing to forgive eats away spiritually and physically. It destroys anyone worst than cancer!! We must remember that it is not so much what you eat (although healthy eating is necessary) as what eats you!! We should remember if we do not forgive we will not be forgiven!!
- (o) Etc.

5. **The allurements of the world appeals to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16 ... repeating for emphasis)**

(a) **Adam and Eve**

(1) Lust of the flesh ... she saw it was good for food (Gen. 3:6).

(2) Lust of the eyes ... it was pleasant to the eyes Gen. 3:6).

(3) Pride of life ... a tree desired to make one wise (Gen. 3:6).

(b) **World's Values or God's Values?**

Another quick glance at 1 John 2:15-16; as noted above for emphasis.

Some people think that worldliness is limited to external behavior – the people we associate with, the places we go, the activities we enjoy.

Worldliness is also internal because it begins in the heart and is characterized by these attitudes:

(1) **Craving for physical pleasure** – preoccupation with gratifying physical desires.

(2) **Craving for everything we see** – coveting and accumulating things, bowing to the god of materialism.

(3) **Pride in our achievements and possessions** – obsessed with one's status of importance.

When the serpent tempted Eve (Gen. 3:6), he tempted her in these three areas. Also when the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness, these three were his three areas of attack (see Matt. 4:1-11).

By contrast, God values self control, a spirit of generosity, and a commitment to humble service. It is possible to give the impression of avoiding worldly pleasure while still harboring worldly attitudes in one's heart. It is also possible like Jesus, to love sinners and spend time with them while maintaining commitment to the values of God's kingdom.
What values are most important to you? Do your actions reflect the world's values or God's values?

(c) Study also the accounts when individuals allowed enticement to lead them to the act of sinning, for example: Achan (Josh. 6 and 7, NB Josh. 7:1, 16-26); Gehazi (2 Kings 5, NB vv. 20-27); King David (2 Sam. 11); etc.

(d) Remember the progress of sin:

(1) First, attracted to the eyes

(2) Then it goes to the mind

(3) Then it enters the heart

(4) Finally it results into action

(e) Many years ago we sang the chorus, "Watch your eyes, watch your eyes what they see" etc.

(1) It has been said that the Christian's pass word is "watch".

(2) The need to be watchful is seen throughout the Bible, used in different settings but still convey the same need to be watchful.

- Christ used it, for example Matt. 24:42; 26:8, 40, 41.

Matt. 25:13

“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh”.

- Paul used it, for example 1 Cor. 16:1; Col. 4:2; 2 Tim. 4:5; Heb. 1:17

1 Thess. 5:6 (Amplified Bible)

“Accordingly then, let us not sleep, as the rest do but keep wide awake (alert, watchful, cautious, and on your guard) and let us be sober (calm, collected and circumspect)”.

- Peter also used it in:

1 Peter 4:7

“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer”.

- (3) Stay on guard beloved, Satan continues to prowl with the intention to destroy and we have far too many comrades who have fallen and are falling. You may need to read James 4 for context but I am lifting out verse 7.

James 4:7 (Amplified Bible)

“Be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him] and he will flee from you”.

6. **Do not be overcome by the allurements of the world!! . . . A few references**
- (a) “If sinners entice thee consent thou not “ (Prov. 1:10)
- (b) “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men” (Prov. 4:14)
- (c) “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God” (Rom. 6:13)
- (d) “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked fall from your own steadfastness” (2 Peter 3:17)
7. **Take charge of your life, do not be dazzled, confused, enticed, etc. by Satan’s carrot(s) that he dangles before your eyes! Stand Beloved! Stand up for Jesus!!**
- (a) Abstain from the very appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22; 1 Pete 2:11).
- (b) The believer has been called to a life of consecration (Rom. 12:1-2) (See also: 1 Cor. 7:1; Gal. 6:14; 2 Tim. 2:4; Heb. 11:24-25; 1 John 2:15).
- (c) This is warfare but the battle is the Lord’s (1 Sam. 17:47); He is mighty in battles (Psa. 24:8); and we are more than conquerors through Jesus

Christ (Rom. 8:37). No matter what the devil comes against us with, the possibility of our standing is a reality **but in Jesus Christ!** (2 Tim 1:12).

(d) When temptations come remember who you are!

1 Peter 2:9

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”.

8. Let me repeat, Satan will not give up! But when he comes with his allurements:

(a) Overcome him as Christ did, with the Word (Matt. 4:1-11; also Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13).

(b) **1 Peter 5:9 (Amplified Bible)**

“Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset-rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world”.

(c) **Illustration: “Jesus! You answer the Door!”**

A little girl gave her heart to Jesus Christ (spiritual birth; born again ...) and she gave this account.

“I heard a knock on my hearts door, and I opened and let Jesus in. After a while, I heard another knock; knowing it was the devil, I said, “Jesus will you please answer it for me!”

(d) **Illustration: Do Not Tie You Buggy by the Bar**

I will have to summarize this account ... refer to the days when horse drawn buggies were used.

The story was told of a man who became a Christian who in the past struggled with alcohol. After his commitment to Christ he did OK for a while but gradually sneaks into a bar for alcohol. He finally admits to his pastor his struggle and the old preacher said to him: “do not tie your buggy by the bar!!”

Oh, Beloved! If Christ has made you free you are free indeed! “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage”. If you are still in sin or leading a double standard Christian life or have forsaken the way of righteousness: “Seek ye the Lord while he may be found call upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon”.

2 Tim. 2:15

KJV

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”.

Amplified Bible

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing (rightly handling and skillfully teaching) the Word of Truth”.

Chapter 2 Lesson 1 Review Questions

1. Based on our lessons discussed; how was the “righteous” defined?

2. The study (The Righteous Pursues Holiness) is divided into three main chapters; list the main chapters with their subjects.

3. Complete the following:

The depraved (a) _____ of man, with which he was (b) _____ (Rom. 5:12), makes him a (c) _____.

4. Which of the following is a correct definition for “pursue”?

- (a) Leisurely wait to see what happens.
- (b) To strive to gain or accomplish.
- (c) To follow reluctantly and with uncertainty.
- (d) To put on an outward display of righteousness.

5. Complete the following:

Holiness can also be defined as: The (a) _____ of holiness and the (b) _____ of one’s (c) _____.

6. Match each phrase with their correct reference on the right (*All quotes from KJV*)

PHRASE	REFERENCE	JUMBLED LISTING
Everyman striveth for the mastery is temperate.		Jude 3

Be ye holy for I am holy		Matt. 5:6
As the hart panteth after the water brooks		1 Cor. 9:25
Exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith		Psa. 42:9
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness.		1 Peter 1:16

7. What is meant when we say that God is just, include references with your answer?

8. Answer True or False. Explain your answer.
 God's justice is not opposed to His love.

9. Briefly explain Rom. 5:8, 9 in relation to the love and justice of God.

10. Define "allure"

11. Complete the following:

Satan will (a) _____ you in your (b) _____ areas or areas of (c) _____ (d) _____ and he will use that which is most (e) _____.

12. What reasons the serpent (Satan) gave to persuade Eve to eat the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:1-5)?

13. What are the fundamental reasons (struggle) why the following persons transgressed God’s laws? (a) Gehazi (2 Kings 5) (b) King Saul (1 Sam.18) (c) King David (2 Sam. 11).

14. What are some of Satan’s names that show his work in opposition to God and the Believers, with references?

15. Briefly explain each of the following: (a) “The lust of the flesh” (b) “The lust of the eyes” (c) “The pride of life”.

16. What message is conveyed by the following: “The world is passing away “ (1 John 2:17) (Brief answer)

17. Answer True or False. Explain your answer.
Worldliness refers only to external behavior.

18. What do the allurements of the world appeal to?

19. List the stages of the progression of sin.

20. What was Christ's effective weapon used to overcome the devil when he tempted Him in the wilderness?

We will discuss the answers to as many questions as possible in our next class.