



Put the World behind you

Introduction

Good day to everyone here, today I want to preach a message on "Putting the World behind you."

Many of us here today have been Christians for many years, but still, we are not where we should be spiritually, or we could be much further in our walk with God.

Often there are issues which we keep on facing and we get no victory over these areas in our life. It seems like we are walking around a round in cycles, around an invisible mountain in our lives.

Some of us might have been around that mountain so many times that we recognise the steps.

I am serving God and then this happens which leads to that happening and then this and eventually I am sinning, or I am doing something I do not want to do like losing my temper or saying ugly things.

With a show of hands are their people like that here today. You can be so much further in your life but there is something holding you back, maybe a sin, maybe you lose your temper, you act out of character because of circumstance of for some or other reason you are not where you need to be.

Paul was addressing this issue in **1 Corinthians 3:1-9** *"Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³ You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? ⁴ For when one says, 'I follow Paul,' and another, 'I follow Apollos,' are you not mere human beings? ⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹ For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."*

We need to get the world out

It is exceedingly difficult to understand Spiritual principle when you are not all out for God. Today there are people all over the world who are not all in to serving God, even serving God 90% is not all in.

We need to get all in for Jesus, Jesus Christ died for your sin, and He has washed you whiter than snow and made you acceptable to enter the very presence of God Almighty and yet we do not because we have let the world influence our think, we allowed people, situation, and other things to take the place of God in our lives and we are infants, children, worldly because we make room for everything else but God.



And because we have not allowed God to change us and because we follow the way of worldly thinking we are not where we need to be in Christ.

We think that following so human on earth gives us favour with God, when only following the WAY, which is Jesus Christ is the only Way to God according to John 14:6.

Oh, but pastor I got to church every Sunday, I read my Bible, I give God 15 minutes a day when I have a quiet time, I read my Bible, I pray and commit my day to God, I am okay.

No, you are not, God called you and I into a relationship and a relationship means a constant walk with Him, not only 15 minutes a day and 2 hours on a Sunday.

Do you think your spouse would be happy with 300 minutes of your time a weeks? There are 1440 minute in a day so over 10,080 minutes in a week and we think 300 minutes is going to be effective, I mean it is better than nothing!

It is less than 3% of your time and you expect to grow in Christ when you spend over 2 hours a day or 840 minutes a week watching TV, how do you think Jesus Christ / God will have prominence in your life when you are spending more than 3 times the time you spend with God watching TV, how can you have the mind of Christ when your mind is filled with the world?

I know this is tough and I must tell you I was shocked when I looked at myself and took stock of how much time I spent with God compared to other things in my life, it led me to one conclusion, God I am sorry, forgive me and then change the time I spent with other things and then spend this time with God and His kingdom.

How can we grow Spiritually when there is more of the world's input in our life than God, how can the latest cell phone or latest fashion item or chasing money compare to God and His plan for you, how will we know God's will or hear His voice when it is drowned out by sports, TV, fashion, things we chase but do not need, watching YouTube, playing games, visiting with friends, eating, drinking.

We need to rebalance our lives and start to spend more time with God, with His Word, praying for other, our family, country and ourselves and doing Spiritual things like listening to sermons, reading the Bible and other Spiritual books and spending time with your family.

It is not that God want you to spend all your time with Him, you can but it would change your life to live a life where you are check in with Him regularly, praying without sensing and grow spiritually.

Imagine if you could double, your 300 minutes a week to spending 600 minutes a week with God and growing your spirit, I promise you, your life will never be the same again.

The Bible clearly says in **Proverbs 14:12** *"There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death."*

We might think in it we are right but sadly we are living lives parallel to God and never actually living for Him and because we are not living for Him, we do not know Him or His Word for our lives and because there is very little of God in our lives, we are living far from Him and a deception that we are right with Him when we are not!



Conclusion

So, let's wrap this up, **Romans 12:1-2** *"¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

We need to get on the alter, God's Alter as a living sacrifice, why a living sacrifice because we can get off the alter if we are not comfortable, but God wants us to make a sacrifice daily or our time, the things that are important to us and sacrifice ourselves for Him and the Kingdom.

It starts with you deciding to live for God, to get on the alter and sacrifice your life, die to yourself, die to your expectations, die to your plans and then through reading His Word, we CHANGE the way we think into the Way He, God thinks and when we do this we WILL be able to know what God's plan is, we will be able to test and approve His perfect will for our lives.

It is time to grow up, stop being worldly and start living for God, Jesus promised us in **Matthew 6:33** *"³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. "*

If we will put God first, He will take care of our needs.

Life is all about finding Jesus Christ, to know Him as your Lord and Saviour, coming through Him to God, **2 Corinthians 5:18** *"¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:"*

Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection reconciled you and me and the entire world to GOD through HIMSELF who the ONLY doorway is, the WAY to God, which is ONLY Jesus Christ, so first we need to come and be reconciled.

Then we need to build a relationship with God but spending time with Him in the Word of God and praying and going to church and taking our lives, our time, our gifts, our money and using it for His kingdom.

I have news for you, you do not belong to yourself, you belong to Jesus Christ who paid for you with His Life on the Cross.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *"¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies."*

And then lastly, live your life for Jesus Christ, following Him with everything you have, your time, your money, your gift, and NEVER look back, as the song, "I have decided to follow Jesus" says "...the Cross before me, the world behind me..."

Let's pray...

Let us pray, every head bowed and every eye closed, this is a Holy time between you and God and you do not need to see the people around you, I want to speak to you alone, do not get distracted by anything, this will be the most important decision you will ever make.



Today there are people who have not even given their heart to Jesus Christ, and you want to give your heart/live to Jesus, if that is you I ask that you raise your hand right now.

You want to invite Jesus Christ into your life and accept the payment He made for your sin, Please raise your hand.

If you raised your hand, we could pray for you right now and you can give your heart, your life to Jesus Christ, are the people like that here today, you want to give your heart/your life to Jesus Christ, please stand where you are.

Pray the sinners pray

Secondly, I want people who want to become that living sacrifice and accept the challenge for seeking God more than the world, this message has touched your heart and you have said I need to do that, I want you to stand and we can recommit our lives to God service in whatever fashion He chooses to use you.

Pray a prayer of commitment to His kingdom.