

SERMON: VICTORIOUS LIVING DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES

Titus 2:12b

That we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.

Introduction

Everyone knows we are living in challenging times. This is especially true for Christians. Everything is changing. In fact, change is even changing. Change is moving at a rapid pace that we have never seen before. This present age is a true paradox. To slightly modify a quote of Charles Dickens, "We may be living in the best of times and in the worst of times." We have seen women rise to the highest positions in corporate America, but we have also heard of an epidemic of inappropriate behavior perpetrated against women. We have seen people of color making monumental strides in all areas of life, but we have seen the backlash fueled by racism. We have seen our mothers and fathers live longer than previous generations, but we have also seen the horrors of chronic debilitating illness. We have more ways to communicate than ever before, yet there are more misunderstandings than ever before. We saw more people vote in the last national election than ever before, but we also saw the rise of voter suppression, the accusations of voter fraud, and an insurrection at our nation's capital while the Electoral College was in session.

The age-old question, "How then shall we live?" that was made popular again by Frances Schaefer, still begs for a relevant answer. This question presents itself in many forms such as, "How shall Christians interact with secular society?" This issue is not new. Paul is addressing it with his pastoral mentee, young Titus. Let's explore how we can not only survive in this crazy, paradoxical world we live in, but also how we can thrive in it. Let's exegete this Scripture and see how we can be victorious despite the wiles of the evil one and the pressures of our rapidly changing society.

Exposition

1. Make Sensible Decisions.

(Soberly Means Sensible or Rational.)

2. Live Righteously.

(Righteously Simply Means Clean Living.)

(Start with the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.)

(Don't Fit Into The World's Mold.)

3. Live with Reverence and Respect.

(Godly Mean Pious, Devout, With Spiritual Class.)

(Execute 1st Corinthians Chapter Thirteen.)

4. Be a Giver - Not a Grabber.

(At The End Of Each Day Ask: What Have I Given Today?)

(Execute the Tenth Beatitude-Acts 20:35)

5. Communicate Clearly, Courteously, and Compassionately.

(Communicate In An Unambiguous Way- Matthew 5:37; 1st Corinthians 14:8.)

(Tell the truth in Love-Ephesians 4:15.)

(Add Digital Body Language to Restore the Missing 93% Of Content.)

6. Treat A Lingering Situation As A Condition- Not As A Problem.

(We Solve Problems- We Manage Conditions.)

(This Approach Will Save You A Lot Of Headaches.)

(Job Was Willing To Wait and Manage the Condition Until His Change Would Finally Come- Job 14:14.)

7. Allow Your Faith To Keep You Positive And Thankful.

(I Can Do All Things Through Christ-Philippians 4:13.)

(In Every Situation Give Thanks-1st Thessalonians 5:18.)

Closing Thoughts

Paul warns us not to let the world pressure us to fit into its mold, but we should be translated by the daily renewing of our minds. This can be done when we ask God to order our steps in His word. When we allow God to direct us, victory is assured. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

Related Scriptures

Psalm 119:133; Romans 12:1-2

End Note:

It is common knowledge that in interpersonal communications only a small portion of the total message sent forth and received is from the actual words themselves. Scholars disagree on the exact percentages, but all are really close. The actual words only account for 7% of the total meaning of the message. Tone of voice accounts for 38% of the total meaning and body language accounts for 55% of the total meaning. This means that in our digital world with texting and email as the primary means of communicating, 73% of the meaning of the message could be easily lost. These primary means of communication are here to stay, so we have to embrace them in a positive way and add digital tone of voice and digital body language to our communications. Thank God for technology. Let's use it to His glory; this is another lecture or sermon for another day.

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