

Things That Help Us To Live Better

Lukewarm indifference is not obedience

Rv.3¹⁵ I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.
¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

It would not be hard to go to heaven if we could abandon the Bible and follow...

- Majority, Mt.7:13-14
- Conscience, Ac.23:1
- Opinions, 1 Co.1:21
- Tradition, Col.2:8

We need all the help we can get

I. Realize Value of the Soul

How do we treat valuable things?

House ... car ... body ...

Soul?

- When we realize value of soul, we act in our own best interest. Mt.10:28
- More valuable than world
 - Mt.16:24-26
 - True discipleship denies self

I. Realize Value of the Soul

II. Power of Encouraging Words

Never underestimate power of words

Gn.1

- Incredible harm comes from careless words

Ja.3

- There is power in words for good
 - Hb.10:24 . . . 1 Th.5:11
 - Jesus – Mt.8:....5... Mk.12:41-44

‘If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else’ – Booker T. Washington

- Are we as concerned for helping others as for helping ourselves? Rv.3:19

I. Realize Value of the Soul

II. Power of Encouraging Words

III. Remember: we are an
example to others

A Christian is Christianity on display

- Gal.2:11-14, hypocrisy affects others
- 1 Co.6:9, warns of sins
 - Same sins still deceive millions
 - We have no right to do anything that leads someone astray
 - Many remember their 'rights,' forget their soul
- Mt.18:6, what is preferable to sin??
- A good example blesses others. 1 Tim.4:12

I. Realize Value of the Soul

II. Power of Encouraging Words

III. We are an Example to Others

IV. Live Each Day as if
it Were Your Last

Death: the great common denominator

- We differ in many ways. Death levels us.
- 1 Sm.26:10 – a three way die –
 - Lord smites him. Lv.10. Ac.5
 - Natural death. Ps.90:10
 - Accidental death (wreck; battle...).
- Cemeteries tell truth

What if this were our last day on earth?

- We would not talk about what we will do tomorrow.
- If anything needs to be done . . . Ja.4:13-17
 - No concern about TV ... job ... money ... what others think...
 - Would not neglect family ... Bible ... prayer...
 - Are we prepared?

I. Realize Value of the Soul

II. Power of Encouraging Words

III. We are an Example to Others

IV. Live Each day as if it's the last

V. Conscious of the Judgment ...
and Eternity

Indisputable facts

- We are on earth to serve God: Ec.12:13-14
- An adequate reward / punishment is not awarded here, Ps.73
- All will die, Hb.9:27
- Day of Judgment is coming, Hb.9:27
- We will be judged by our deeds, Jn.12:48
- There will be an eternal separation, Mt.25
- Righteous...rewarded, wicked...condemned, Mt.25
- Only time we can prepare is now, 1 Th.5

Wrong views

- Many believe everyone goes to heaven – the non-religious simply get short-changed.
 - If true, God is liar. Tit.1:2
- Paul examined his life from three perspectives (2 Tim.4:6-8)
 - Retrospection: I have fought ... finished ... kept... Ph.3:12
 - Introspection: am now ready to be offered... Ph.3:13-14
 - Prospection: there is laid up for me a crown... Ph.3:14

Motto

- “All you can take with you is that which you’ve given away.”
- Mt.6:20, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal

Where is our treasure?