

DENYING JESUS without being fully aware

Colossians 3:1-11

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

Character of the New Man

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

DO NOT LIE TO ONE ANOTHER – it's a commanded way of a changed heart.

SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE, NOT ON EARTH.

Many are proclaiming they are hidden in Jesus and a new creation while embracing their old habits without thought.

Other's people flesh are irritating our flesh and drawing out from within us that which still needs purged. Either we keep it and stand on it (flesh) or let go of it so it is removed forever at this point.

DENYING JESUS... by our actions and words – seeking to save our own lives & reputations

First denial: A girl at the door to the courtyard (John 18:17). Second denial: A servant girl, by the fire in the courtyard (Matthew 26:69). Third denial: A man by the fire in the courtyard (Luke 22:58).

John 18: – before religious leaders

¹⁵ And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so *did* another¹⁵ disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. ¹⁶ But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also *one* of this Man's disciples, are you?"

He said, "I am not."

¹⁸ Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.

Luke 22: - before the legal authorities

⁵⁴ Having arrested Him, they led *Him* and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶ And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him."

⁵⁷ But he denied ⁵⁷Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."

⁵⁸ And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them."

But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

⁵⁹ Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this *fellow* also was with Him, for he is a Galilean."

⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!"

Immediately, while he was still speaking, ⁶⁰the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster ⁶¹crowes, you will deny Me three times." ⁶² So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Mathew 26: - before multitudes of religious people

⁶⁹ Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee."

⁷⁰ But he denied it before *them* all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."

⁷¹ And when he had gone out to the gateway, another *girl* saw him and said to those *who were* there, "This *fellow* also was with Jesus of Nazareth."

⁷² But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"

⁷³ And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are *one* of them, for your speech betrays you."

⁷⁴ Then he began to [Ⓛ]curse and [Ⓛ]swear, *saying*, "I do not know the Man!"

Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

People are going to extremes these days to save their own lives... protecting themselves and their beliefs and doctrines, no longer enduring sound doctrine becoming doubleminded and not sober.

In so doing, just like Peter, they are denying Jesus is Lord in their lives, being prompted to take control over their own lives and force that control on others...

The Word warns us to NOT seek to save our own lives and to trust and rely on Jesus as the Perfect Author and Finisher of our faith and the faith of others. We can only compliment another's belief or walk – we do not define it and we certainly should not be demanding it be a certain way. The goal is for all to conform to Jesus, not us.

The people are forever learning as spoken of in –

2 Timothy 3:

They are the kind who worm their way into households and captivate vulnerable women who are weighed down with sins and led astray by various passions, [7who are always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. 8](#)

If we get overly passionate about saving our lives, the next step is we get too forcefully over-passionate about saving other's lives – forgetting that only Jesus can convict and orchestrate a heart change, not us.

Did you know this is another way in which we can deny Jesus before men? To place ourselves to be as god's ruling over others – equal to Him by laying plumbines of demands in which others must follow to enter into the Kingdom. The Bible calls this "laying heavy burdens on people" just like the Pharisees did in the times of old spoken of in the Word.

Luke 17:33

Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

We are going to study Luke 17 & 18 soon as a reminder of just who is Lord and who is not in our personal lives – hopefully for all of us, His name is Jesus.

What or who you love – you worship... that should be sobering thought for us all – because we will try to please the most that who we love the most – which is another way we can end up like Peter, denying Jesus.

Here's the snare... the blind leading the blind... both fall into a ditch when you admire someone to the degree you believe everything they say, even if it is contrary to the Word of the Lord – which by the way is the only pure and real truth. You stop enduring sound doctrine through the worship and admiration of men or worst case scenario – you worship yourself and think you contain all the answers to all of life's problems, having the only authentic beliefs out there.

Enduring sound doctrine –

Most won't, but will you?

2 Timothy 4:

I charge *you* ¹therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead ²at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.* ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

It is here.... Not coming, we are in it

People are turning away from the Word daily and gravitating to the demands and doctrines of fables of men.

Enduring sound doctrine is easy for those who read the Word and embrace it as the only truth. The opinions, stories, thoughts, etc... of men must all be measured by the Word, not the other way around.

So if you are not reading the Word, then how can you know if you are being misled – that is mistake number one. All Scripture is given to keep us from being deceived and keep us from deceiving others, always learning, never having the knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 3:

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God¹⁸ may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We as messengers of the Lord are used for the equipping of the Saints... but if we are not equipped with Scripture, we fall short in the assignments laid before us.

Enduring Sound Doctrine –

- First, you must read it – all of it, not just the parts that confirm what you already believe, but read the full Word of God and take it very seriously in totality.

- Second, you must apply what you read into your own life. Not just the parts you like or that which you've already overcome or believe to be true... but all of it.
- Third, you must be willing to lose your own ideas, solutions, beliefs and such and carry within you the truth, even if it does not represent how you desire things to be.
- Fourth, you no longer hear what someone is saying and try to make it fit inside the Word of truth – you can listen to others, but you obey only the Word of God. You do not surrender to men, your surrendering is only to the truth because you love truth. You may entertain what another is saying, but you receive into yourself to apply and live by – God's word.
- Fifth, we conform to the word daily by surrendering our lives in obedience to what He commands. We do not conform to one another, we conform to Jesus the only way, truth and life. Once conformed to Him, He will form and establish His body accordingly.
- We must be attuned to the Holy Spirit's guidance, to discern what is and is not based in truth so that we do not believe a lie and are deceived. Just because someone is coming in the Name of the Lord, saying He is Savior – doesn't mean they are enduring sound doctrine by a life laid down in surrender to obey what He has commanded and established in His word.
- Those who endure sound doctrine read it to apply it into their own lives... not to wield as a sword against others. Otherwise, they become like Peter who cut the ear off the soldier arresting Jesus – trying to derail the plan of salvation for the World the Father set in motion. We can do the same to others and without ears, how can they hear?