1Thess 33

The organized Believer can reach spiritual maturity.

We will do the LORD’S Supper at the end of the message…please be prepared.

Happy New year! Hopefully you all had a blessed holiday. I spent my weekend in Orlando and had a great time at my son’s wedding. Thank you for the well wishes.

A message like today is really appropriate to start off the New Year.

Usually because people are so focused on bringing in the new and ushering out the old – that they diligently seek new habits and change for themselves. Unfortunately, most of that is an emotional wave and they set themselves up for failure by attempting too much all at once.

The excitement of the holiday season and the new year fresh ahead - make all of us attempt to set unrealistic goals or get caught up in the emotions of the moment.

 REPEAT

Our study in 1Thessalonians chapter two has us looking at getting into a better rhythm of Bible study habits.

In that same realm it is important to note having an organized life is the key to most successfully people’s elevated social or financial status.

The natural world and the spiritual world do share some similar paths to success yet in the spiritual it is Christ dependent.

In the natural it is human dependent.

All Bels are dependent upon utilizing their union with Christ and all grace gifts given within that union.

/1Thes 2:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when **you received the word of God**which you heard from us, **you accepted it not as the word of *mere* men,** but as what it really is, the word of God, which also is at work in you who believe.

The earmarks of a SM Bel usually revolve around an organized life. \

Almost ever successful athlete, business man or financial wizard is usually very organized or regimented into certain positive habits that keep them on track every day.

This is no different for the positive Bel who gains ground in their spiritual walk.

Understanding the plan of God is one of the most important goals that positive Bels embark on in their daily journey.

The winner Bel realizes at some point in their spiritual walk that you can’t fool GOD.

That cutting corners or having apathy toward God grace plan is foolishness.

/Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even **penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit**, of both joints and marrow, and **able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart**.\

There is no hiding from GOD there is no other viewpoint that holds eternal value.

The plan of God the Father and the mind of HIS precious SON Jesus Christ lay everything and everyone bare in their sight. Once you grow up enough to fully embrace that your priorities will change.

/[Heb 4:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/4/13/s_1137013) And **there is no creature hidden from His sight**, but all things are open and laid bare **to the eyes of Him to whom we must answer**.

The reason for wanting an organized lifestyle should be from your great awe and respect for GOD.\

Turn to Hebrews chapter 3 RF.

We never live in guilt or shame because that is nothing but chain sinning. Yet we must reach a point where we recognize we are held responsible for the time, talent and treasure GOD gives us after salvation.

The excuses do not fool God.

/1Cor 2:16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But **we have the mind of Christ.**

We have that which is needed to push us forward toward spiritual growth, it’s up to us to take advantage of it.\

If BD becomes a priority you will find a rhythm and schedule of study and meditation time with the WORD and it will become a lifestyle for you.

/Heb 3:7 Therefore, **just as the Holy Spirit says, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE**, 8 DO NOT **HARDEN YOUR HEARTS** AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS ON THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,

***IF*** is the 3rd class condition – maybe it will happen or maybe not, often related to a condition clause. Meaning that which you do matters! \

The emphasis is on the BEL!

There is a strong case you will hear the voice of GOD the HS but you have to be open to it and not already too far gone into reversionism.

/Heb 3:9 WHERE **YOUR FATHERS PUT *ME* TO THE TEST**, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS. 10 “THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, ‘**THEY
ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART**, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS’;\

This is Psalm 95:8-11 quoted. The passage deals with the Meribah revolution, which was the rebellion of the Israelites against Moses and Aaron.

Meribah actually means strife, and the repercussions of the Meribah revolution and the reversionism which started it are alive in every generation.

The heart points to the soul where we do our thinking. Rebellion, apathy and arrogance all begin in the soul.

Where you develop norms & standards the place where you process information and formulate ideas.

/[Heb 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/3/11/s_1136011) AS I SWORE IN MY ANGER,
‘**THEY CERTAINLY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST**.’”

A Bel can find self-induced misery and even discipline that can end in dying discipline (sin unto death), at some point when they remain negative.\

The original Exodus generation did not find rest in the Promised land, it was the younger Exodus generation that finally entered the Promised Land.

They were given 40 years of grace logistical blessings and guidance.

 They kept bucking the authority of the WORD of God and the leaders God gave them.

By rejecting the teaching or even the teacher of BD you are rejecting GOD.

/Isa 33:5 The LORD is exalted, for **He dwells on high;** He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness. 6 And He will be **the stability (*ĕmûnâ*) of your times**, A wealth of salvation, **wisdom, and knowledge**; The fear of the LORD is his treasure.

Steadfast and strength, it is taken from a root word meaning faithfulness.\

EM-MOO-NAH, (Hebrew noun)- has strong connotations on stability or a solid foundation and protection. Security and moral fidelity also fit in that definition.

Remember as I taught you the Hebrew term - *ḥāḵmâ* (HAK-MAR) means not just a basic wisdom or worldly IQ - it is a divine skill-set, meaning this wisdom becomes incorporated into your lifestyle.

Something of integrity and value comes forth from your life.

Just as the term for knowledge in the Hebrew, also points to a skill, it is a spiritual skill of discernment.

You cannot develop a spiritual skill set if your life is a hot mess and you lack organization and personal discipline.

All Bels are called to rightly divide the Word of God —

/2Tim 2:15 **Be diligent** to present yourself approved to God **as a worker who does not need to be ashamed**, **accurately handling the word of truth**.

Pastors face the brunt of this command. Yet all Bels are called to be responsible about their own spiritual IQ.\

God appreciates and rewards those who diligently seek.

God recognizes the right thing done in the right way.

In Isaiah 28 - The prophet Isaiah was calling out the people of God because they lacked the self-discipline to pursue GOD consistently and follow HIS word.

/Isa 28:9 “**To whom would He teach knowledge**, And to **whom would He interpret the message**? Those just
weaned from milk? Those just taken from the breast? 10 “For *He says,*
‘**Order on order**, order on order,
**Line on line**, line on line, A little here,
a little there.’”

There is a system and method as to how the word of GOD is studied for deeper principles and intimacy with Christ.\

The Nation of Israel would not receive the word of God and stay focused on it.

Line upon line means you methodically take your time tear the scriptures apart.

God does not expect quantity and speed – HE prefers accuracy and endurance – pointing to quality.

 The Nation of Israel refused the consistent teaching of God’s word.

So now they would be given foreign instruction and introduced into the 5th cycle of divine discipline;

/Isa 28:11 Indeed, **He will speak to this people** Through **stammering** **lips** and a **foreign tongue**,

If we will not receive the WORD habitually, the other option will remain which is the counterfeit of Satan to enter our life. This is a prophecy about the gift of tongues as a symbol of the beginning of the 5th cycle of discipline.\

God allows you to push away from HIM but at some point you will get what you are pushing for! There are only two avenues in this world related to truth.

Two viewpoints – two avenues to receive wisdom - it is cosmic system ideology riddled with human viewpoint and Satan’s counterfeits, or the purity of BD.

That’s IT!!

There is no third avenue of receiving knowledge related to truth.

/God desires for all people to come to the saving knowledge of HIS Son Jesus Christ. Then to grow in HIS grace and knowledge afterward. Salvation is the easiest and most abundantly grace filled pathway. Spiritual growth requires a relationship with Christ – relationships require commitment, time, effort and integrity. This is only achieved when our life style is free from cosmic chaos and distractions within our control.\

This demands an organized lifestyle.

God’s grace is always at work and our flesh always needs to be removed.

Yet salvation, is reliant upon a moment of time when we finally surrender to faith alone in Christ alone for our salvation.

Spiritual growth has to have BD as the driving force and our union with Christ active and operating at a higher level to achieve real growth.

/There is a consistency and commitment to spiritual growth that can never be overlooked. It is not about perfection it is about availability and academic integrity. The question every Bel should ask is how available am I for studying and meditating on God’s word? Also, how accurate is what I study and believe in relation BD?\

/Jesus Christ taught daily, The Apostles stood in the face of great adversity and kept preaching and working on the completed canon of scripture. The early churches were ridiculed and under attacks from the Gnostics. Despite all odds, the WORD kept going forward. The level of commitment and consistency has always been high for the calling of SM.\

The good news is because Jesus Christ brought us the victory we are already considered winners above and beyond those who rely on the cosmic system.

The worst, loser Bel is a decorated winner for all of eternity compared to the Unbel.

Jesus Christ is the answer, the power and the guidance we are given in abundant measure.

TLJC ensured in eternity past that we all would have grace gifts in abundance. Yet it is up the each Bel to advance in the plan of GOD, to take responsibility for their own walk with GOD.

As we prepare to take in the Lord’s Supper let us remember all sin was dealt with upon the cross. So, sin no longer is your stumbling block.

YES – all the sins of the world fell upon the cross of Jesus Christ. It is a simple matter of recognizing your need for a savior and that the person and work of Jesus Christ is only the answer.

Because of our union with Christ, we are given access to not only HIS righteous nature but HIS mind. WE are new creatures in Christ. Yet it falls upon our own free will to respond habitually to that!

Jesus Christ is our Mediator to the divine courtroom of heaven; we are represented by the power and righteousness of TLJC.

HIS work covers all sins and failure.

Because of HIS person and work we are able to fail miserably and have a bad day with no real repercussions, as long as we properly acknowledge the justice system of GOD.

We were given at least 40 grace gifts at salvation…so I ask what is your excuse related to poor Bible study habits, what is your excuse for placing BD so far down your priority list?

Jesus came to die for a lost and dying world and many would reject and ridicule HIM… yet HE went to that cross regardless of those who hate HIM.

I ask that we bring our LORD into remembrance for all HE has done. For ALL HE continues to do and all the grace gifts that overflow to us.

This is a new year – leave the bad habits and failure in the rearview mirror of 2022.

Take all that TLJC has done and continues to offer you and open it up now in this new year and learn, study and apply!

Nothing changes if nothing changes.

Some of the most significant goals and successes are reached in the little steps, the minor life changes that remove the old bad habits and replace them with new fresh spiritual habits.

1Cor 1:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread;

[1Co 11:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/11/24/s_1073024) and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

LET US REMEMBER TLJC – let us eat the bread.

[1Co 11:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/11/25/s_1073025) In the same way HE also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it,* in remembrance of Me.”

[1Co 11:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/11/26/s_1073026) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

 LET US DRINK THE CUP.

Let us pray……….amen.