Introduction

Good evening, I’ve been looking forward to this evening for sometime. I believe dad 1st mentioned the idea of this meeting to me some time last fall and since then it has been in the back of my mind.

As we look back at the topics that have been discussed this week, each lesson was designed to address a particular challenge that Christians face. Some of these challenges are age specific and some hit everyone. Tonight’s lesson fits into that last category.

Tonight we are looking at “The Challenge of Being Pure in an Immoral Society”

Or put another way how do we as Christians, as people of faith, live our lives in a way that keeps us from becoming polluted by the sin that exists in this world? How do we live in the middle of a society that perpetually follows the path of least resistance, how do we not only keep from going with them but rather move in the opposite direction?

How do we, while in the middle of a thunderstorm of sin, keep from getting wet?

That’s the challenge that we face.

So, lets start with the short answer.

The Short Answer--

We focus on God

Okay now let’s take a look at the long answer.

The Long Answer

1. Maintain perspective
   1. The world has always been immoral
      1. The Flood
      2. During Solomon’s Time
      3. The 1st Century
   2. There is no reason to despair
      1. God is in control
      2. We can control ourselves
         1. No temptation has overtaken you…
         2. There is a way of escape
2. The key to not being swept away by sin is to move in the opposite direction
   1. Focus on the Goal of Being Holy (1 Peter 1)
      1. Context
         1. Peter was writing to Christians who were going to face and were facing persecution
         2. He says “we” (Christians) have been “born again to a living hope” (1 Peter 1:3)
      2. God is Holy & we are to Be Holy (1 Peter 1:13-19)
      3. What does it mean to be Holy?
         1. xxxx
   2. How do we become Holy (2 Peter 1)?
      1. Exercise our Faith
      2. Add the Characteristic found in 2 Peter 1
      3. Connect with God & His people
3. What are the things that keep us from being Holy (Pure)?
   1. Sin
      1. Active (Commission)
      2. Passive (Omission)
   2. Young People
      1. The desire to fit in
         1. You do not want to stand out as different
         2. You want the approval of your peers
      2. Personal desire
         1. Drugs, sex, alcohol
   3. Young Adults/Married People/Parents
      1. Career
      2. Family
      3. Cares of this World
   4. Older Christians
      1. Cynicism
      2. Retiring (from the Lord’s work)

Conclusion

As Christians we all face the challenge of being pure in an immoral society. And many times we fail. Yet we have been guaranteed that if we focus on God and exercise our faith the we will have an entrance into heaven. That is something to be excited about.

Now we have not looked at this tonight but it is because of God’s grace and the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross that it is possible for us to have the promise. That gift of Jesus dying for our sins is why we can be in heaven one day. However, just because it is a gift/just because it is offered freely does not mean we have no part in making it to heaven. Our part is obedience. That is the requirement laid out by God. Obedience is not a work of man it is a requirement of God that must be carried out in order to receive the reward (heaven). That obedience starts with repentance and baptism. If you need to be baptized, we can help you right now. If you are a Christian who has not been obedient/who has not remained “pure” and you need help making things right, we can also start that process right now. If you don’t know what to do but you have a spiritual need then we can help. Come forward now as we stand and sing.