

The LORD of My Life

-Christian Lifestyle Principles-

[26]

** Remember to Pray for Wisdom Before You Begin*

- 1.) What kind of devotion does God expect of those who love, serve and surrender their hearts to Him? Deuteronomy 6:5 *And thou shalt _____ the LORD thy God with _____ thine _____, and with all thy _____, and with all thy _____.* Luke 10:27 *And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy _____, and with all thy _____, and with _____ thy _____, and with all thy _____; and thy neighbor _____ thyself.* **NOTE: If we are truly converted Christians, our attitudes, our actions, yes, even our daily lifestyle will show that Jesus is living in our hearts. Every area of our life will be surrendered to Him. Even in the areas of entertainment, recreation and our dress as well as what we put into our bodies will be controlled by the Spirit of God dwelling in us. Notice the above text in Luke. All of our heart means that our whole being will be immersed in God's ways physically, spiritually and mentally. Who has our heart? Is self crucified? In the following study we will look at some of these principles.**
- 2.) The Apostle John talks about the dangers of "the love of the world." What three categories of sinful and unlawful behavior does John mention that makes up "the love of the world?" 1John 2:15 *Love _____ the world, neither the things that are in the _____.* *If any man love the world, the love of the _____ is not in him.* 16 *For all that is in the world, the _____ of the _____, and the lust of the _____, and the _____ of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* **NOTE: Sin according to the Bible can basically be broken down into about three categories – "lust of the flesh," "the lust of the eyes" and "the pride of life." The "lust of the flesh" basically pertains to sins that appeal to our fleshly, physical nature such as unlawful sexual desires and anything that can needlessly provoke these desires as well as the broad spectrum of appetite including all the unhealthy addictions like drugs, alcohol, tobacco, unclean & unhealthy, and hurtful foods and indulgences. "Lust of the eyes" has to do with unlawful desires of covetousness, greed and obsession of materialism to the detriment of others, yourself and your relationship to God thereby eclipsing your complete trust in Him to provide your every need. "The Pride of life" could pertain to a love of power wanting to be foremost and dominant, selfish ambition, and basically any style of living that is in opposition to humility and humbleness of mind.**
- 3.) Where else do we see these three categories of sin brought forth even in the very first temptation of Eve? Genesis 3:6 *And when the woman saw that the tree was _____ for _____, and that it was _____ to the _____, and a tree to be _____ to make one _____, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.* **NOTE: In the above we see these same basic categories, - "good for food," and "pleasant to the eyes," and "a tree to be desired to make one wise."**

In this same order from above is “the lust of the flesh,” “the lust of the eyes,” and “the pride of life” also depicted in 1John 2.” Our first parents failed in the beginning in the beautiful garden. Isn’t it interesting that Jesus was tempted on these very similar points in His three great temptations in the wilderness (see Matt. 4:1-10) and by leaning heavily on His heavenly Father, He conquered in our behalf and with His stripes and punishment we are healed! When we begin to love the world as 1 John 2 says, we become an enemy of God.

4.) What basic principles does the Apostle Paul bring out that can guide us when it comes to what we watch, read and listen to? *Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are of good _____; if there be any _____, and if there be any _____, _____ on these things. NOTE: Anything we use to entertain ourselves with, if not coming under the principles above is not safe as Christians. This would limit much of what we watch or what we read. In real life in this world it is inevitable that we have to deal with bad situations or hear news that often isn’t good. We can’t put our heads in the sand. We have to keep up with events. But, when we dwell on, linger upon evil and even entertain ourselves with bad things, we damage our souls and by beholding we become changed. We need to behold the beautiful character of Jesus and the lovely things in His Word, -then we can become like unto it. Our eternal destiny can be determined by the lifestyle we now choose to have.*

5.) Why is it important that we guard our thoughts as Christians? *Proverbs 23:7a For as he _____ in his heart, _____ is he: Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the _____ man his _____: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly _____. Who can help us gain victory over our thoughts? 2Corinthians 10:4 (For the _____ of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty _____ God to the pulling down of _____ holds;) 5 Casting down _____, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into _____ every _____ to the obedience of Christ; NOTE: Our first scripture basically says that our thoughts ultimately develop who we are. If we expose ourselves continually to the things of this world, our thoughts will develop that tenor and, in turn, our character will become like unto it. Claim the promise above from 2 Cor. 10:5 for victory over the wrong thoughts of your mind.*

6.) Is there a scripture that basically says –that by beholding we become changed? *2Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face _____ as in a glass the _____ of the Lord, are _____ into the same _____ from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. What else does the Bible say about being careful what we see, behold or watch? Psalm 101:3 I will _____ no wicked thing before mine _____: I _____ the*

work of them that turn aside; it shall not _____ to me. **NOTE: There are few if any thing even worthy to watch on TV at least in the way of movies or dramatized productions. Practically anything that is "acted out" is not good because it is a pretense on the part of actors [which is unreal & false] even if it is morally clean otherwise. Even in the best of movies there is almost always some type of wrongdoing or sin. Someone has to "act" that part out. Would Jesus ever do this?? And the Bible is clear that He is our example! Natural life films like documentaries, travelogues, nature or science and history programs would be more of the acceptable types of programs or videos to watch, and even these should be carefully evaluated from the Philippians 4:8 standard. If we're serious about getting ready for heaven, then we need to be serious about what we feed into our minds which help to shape our characters. These principles also apply to the type of books we read, especially fiction, mysteries, novels, audio books, the internet, etc.**

7.) What sobering reality does the Apostle Paul remind us about in regards to taking pleasure in beholding or watching others do evil deeds? **Romans 1:29** Being filled with all _____, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, _____, debate, _____, malignity; whisperers, **30** Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, _____ of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** Without understanding, covenant breakers, without _____ affection, implacable, unmerciful: **32** Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which _____ such things are worthy of death, not _____ do the same, but have _____ in _____ that _____ them. **NOTE: Amazing!! Even if we don't actually commit those above deeds, but vicariously in our hearts join in with them by taking pleasure watching these deeds being performed [like on TV or a video or internet] we are actually guilty of these ourselves. And isn't this what Jesus taught when He said that even a man lusting after a woman in his heart is actually guilty of the sin of adultery. It's the same principle.**

8.) In the area of the "Pride of Life" how should the end-time Christian view the matter of jewelry, dress and adornment? **1Timothy 2:9** In like manner also, that women _____ themselves in _____ apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or _____, or _____, or costly array; **1Peter 3:3** Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of _____ of gold, or of putting on of apparel; **4** But let it be the _____ man of the heart, in that which is not _____, even the ornament of a _____ and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. **NOTE: God desires the inward qualities of humbleness, kindness, love for others. Jewelry and outward adornment merely reveal the pride of life and the focus on self. A heart that is truly filled with the love of Jesus will sense no need to put on artificial outward adornment.**

9.) Before the Children of Israel were to enter the Promised Land, God commanded them to strip off their ornaments from themselves. God's modern-day Israel [His commandment-keeping Christians] are also getting ready to enter the Promised Land of Heaven. What

does Exodus 33:3-6 have to say? 3 Unto a _____ flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a _____ people: lest I _____ thee in the way. **4** And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and _____ man did put on him his _____. **5** For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a _____ people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put _____ thy _____ from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee. **6** And the children of Israel _____ themselves of their _____ by the mount Horeb. **Further, how does the Apostle Paul relate the example of ancient Israel to God's true followers at the end of time? 1Corinthians 10:5** But with many of them God was not well _____: for they were _____ in the wilderness. **6** Now these things were our _____, to the intent _____ should not _____ after evil things, as they _____ lusted. **11** Now all these things happened unto them for _____: and they are written for _____ admonition, upon whom the _____ of the _____ are come. **NOTE: We as modern-day Christians are living according to prophecy in the anti-typical Day of Atonement where Jesus our Great High Priest is making atonement and working out a final cleansing of His children before He comes and brings them to His Heavenly Canaan where there will be no taint of pride, selfishness or sin. We also should strip ourselves of anything that could feed our selfish nature during this critical time period.**

10.) What would Israel of old typically do whenever they would forsake the LORD and fall into idolatry? Hosea 2:13 And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned _____ to them, and she _____ herself with her _____ and her _____, and she went after her lovers, and _____ me, saith the LORD. **NOTE: Again the outward adornment could be a symptom of a sin-sick heart that is focused merely on self. Some might argue that for themselves, that one little simple piece of jewelry does not pose any problem in regards to self or pride. That could be so, but what about the issue of it being a stumbling-block for someone else who is weaker. Paul's counsel is very plain and strong about the issue of being a stumbling-block for weaker fellow Christians!**

11.) In the apocalyptic book of Revelation there are pictured two women (representing two different churches) –one that is pure and the other an impure harlot. What stands out in stark contrast in the comparison of these two women? Revelation 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman _____ with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: **17:3** So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a _____ sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of _____, having seven heads and ten horns. **4** And the woman was _____ in purple and scarlet colour, and _____ with _____ and precious _____ and _____, having a golden cup in her hand full of _____ and filthiness of her fornication: **NOTE: The pure woman which is symbolic of God's pure church is merely arrayed with the sun which represents the righteousness of Christ whereas the harlot woman is fully decked with outward adornment. Gold and gemstones**

in and of themselves are NOT evil because God created them to be beautiful and to beautify the earth. After all, the New Jerusalem will be magnificently adorned with all manner of gold, precious stones and pearls. The real issue here is the sinful nature of human beings in this world of sin. Until Jesus comes and removes our sinful, fleshly nature, it is simply not safe for Christians to wear jewelry and extravagant clothing.

12.) Question # 8 in 1 Timothy 2:9 talks about the need for Christian women (applies to men as well) dress in modest apparel. What are some of these principles of modesty that the follower of Jesus should practice? Men should guard their eyes and their thoughts and feelings. But what should Christian women keep in mind as to how they should dress so as not to tempt their Christian brothers? Job 31:1 I made a covenant with mine _____; why then should I _____ upon a maid. Matthew 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever _____ on a woman to _____ after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. NOTE: Men folk of course have a responsibility toward maintaining reserve and purity. But what about the ladies who wear (or lack thereof) clothing that is provocative or revealing thereby being a stumbling block to men to cause them to fall into sin? Notice the moral principles in these verses. Romans 14:21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother _____, or is _____, or is made weak. 1Corinthians 8:13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I _____ my brother to offend. 9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a _____ to them that are _____.

13.) In an age where homosexuality and transgenderism are becoming bolder and more commonplace, what important principle does the Bible teach that involves dress and how there should be a sacred distinction between the sexes? Deuteronomy 22:5 The woman shall not _____ that which _____ unto a man, neither shall a man _____ a woman's garment: for all that do so are _____ unto the LORD thy God. NOTE: In recent decades there has been more of a blurring amongst the dress of men and women. Could this at least be a part of what we're seeing as an explosion on the issues of transgenderism and same sex attraction? There is virtually always a cause behind the vices that break out in our everchanging culture. When God pronounces certain practices as an abomination, He means exactly what He says. May we take heed!

14.) In regards to the problem of the "pride of life" -what about the issue of competitive sports and games? Are there principles in the Word of God that gives council about this? Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through _____ or _____; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem _____ better than _____. Galatians 5:26 Let us not be desirous of _____ glory, provoking one another, envying one another. Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly _____; in honour _____ one another; Mark 9:34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had _____ among themselves, who should be the _____. 35 And he sat down, and called the twelve,

and saith unto them, If any man desire to be _____, the same shall be last of all, and _____ of all. **1Corinthians 13:4** Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity _____ not; charity _____ [boasts] not itself, is not puffed _____, **5** Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her _____, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **NOTE: There might not be any harm in a simple exercise and fellowship of playing ball without the element of competition, but most of the sports of the world manifests a heavy spirit of rivalry and consists of much time, expense and means which ultimately doesn't accomplish much of anything. Most of the sports and games of the world contain the element of intense competition and rivalry –striving to beat down the other fellow in order to win and be first. Some might argue that in most games or sports, they endeavor to practice good sportsmanship and that it's only a temporary mindset to motivate the team to do its best. But even if that's so, it can still have a subconscious effect to feed the lower selfish nature in man when he should by God's grace seek to subdue the natural, selfish and carnal nature which is ever striving for the supremacy! In light of the Day of Atonement and cleansing of the Sanctuary should we really be engaged in these sports?**

15.) Music is always a potential controversial topic, because it is one of those areas that provides much enjoyment in the lives of people –Christians and non-Christians alike. Are there any Biblical principles that can guide us in this area? 1Samuel 16:15 And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an _____ spirit from God troubleth thee. **16** Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to _____ out a man, who is a cunning player on an _____: and it shall come to pass, when the _____ spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall _____ with his hand, and thou shalt be _____. **23** And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was _____, and was well, and the evil spirit _____ from him. **Daniel 3:7** Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of _____, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and _____ the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. **NOTE: Music is powerful! It can actually repel demonic spirits or it can be used to seduce people into idolatry and false worship. Be certain that Satan, who is the head of all evil spirits is using music in these last days to lead people away from God and into forbidden paths! Scientific research has shown that there is an unnatural syncopated beat (an unnatural rhythm) that is not only harmful but arouses unholy passions and is often accompanied with sexual promiscuity, partying, vice, and dance. Rock n' Roll as well as Jazz should not have any place in the Christian lifestyle. It attracts rebellious youth and anyone who leans away from God. Unfortunately, this "worldly beat" has been creeping into many "Christian" church worship services under many types of contemporary "Christian Rock." It's becoming increasingly difficult to find good music without it. The enemy of all righteousness is preparing to take much of the so-called Christian world with him where they will finally be desensitized to accept the Mark of the Beast. (See forced image worship in Dan. 3)**

16.) The Word of God has loads to say about good music. What does it say how the follower of Christ should use it? **Colossians 3:16** *Let the word of _____ dwell in you _____ in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in _____ and _____ and spiritual _____, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.* **Ephesians 5:19** *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, _____ and making _____ in your heart to the Lord;* **Nehemiah 12:27** *And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with _____, both with thanksgivings, and with _____, with _____, _____, and with _____.* **NOTE: God is the inventor of majestic, harmonious music. Lucifer who became the devil was a masterful musician in heaven before he was kicked out. Music, when not perverted, contains magnificent harmony, melody and symmetrical structure. It is like beautiful art in the realm of SOUND. With it we give thanks and praise to the Creator of all things. It should be obvious that Satan knows how to pervert it to destroy souls since he was an expert musician in heaven [see Eze.28:13b]. Music depending on what type it is can create almost any kind of mood. It should create a peaceful mood in its effect. Can you imagine movie makers using soft melodious music to put with a horror movie? You get the point. Music should also never glorify the human performer, but should glorify God only. Singing should be done in such a way as to not be shrill or so distorted that the words are not understood. It should also be done with the heart and with worshipful attitude. Notice 1Corinthians 14:15** *What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will _____ with the _____, and I will _____ with the _____ also.* **Psalm 144:9** *I will sing a _____ song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an _____ of ten strings will I sing _____ unto thee.*

17.) What about the issue of dancing? Is it an acceptable activity for Christians to engage in? **Exodus 32:19** *And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the _____: and Moses' _____ waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and _____ them beneath the mount.* **Matthew 14:6** *But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias _____ before them, and pleased Herod.* **NOTE: Often the dancing that's found out in the world these days is associated with unlawful association of the opposite sex and arouses the lustful propensities that the Christian should be guarded against. It can also be associated with secular parties of worldly pleasure and alcohol and even illicit drugs. The whole overall activity of dancing leans towards the ways of the world and the serious Christian should avoid it.**

18.) With seemingly so many restrictions placed on true followers of Jesus, doesn't God want Christians to have an enjoyable, happy abundant life? **Psalm 16:11** *Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is _____ of _____; at thy right hand there are _____ for evermore.* **Psalm 36:8** *They shall be _____ satisfied with the _____ of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy _____.* **John 10:10** *The thief cometh not, but for to _____, and to _____, and to _____: I*

am come that they might have _____, and that they might have it more _____.

NOTE: Throughout this lesson we have seen principles of the things of this world that only bring misery and unhappiness to God's people. Like the last verse above, these forbidden pleasures ultimately steal, destroy and eventually kill. But there is an abundance of pleasures and joys that await the Christian. God has created an abundance of His natural wonders that He has provided for us to enjoy in outdoor recreation. This world is profuse with abundant subjects to explore through gardening, cultivating flowers, hiking, camping, wilderness exploring, bird watching, cave exploring, canoeing, scuba diving, digging for gems and gold, and the list could go on and on. Activities involving ministering to the homeless, the sick or aged along with many unfortunate ones around us affords a treasure-house of projects that keep our minds and bodies occupied and a satisfaction of being a wonderful blessing to someone in need which will thrill our hearts with the purest pleasure. The LORD of our life wants us to find our source of pleasure which comes from Him in what He has made and in blessing our fellow humanity and away from merely serving self. May we choose to begin that more abundant life in Him!!

Brief Quiz

CIRCLE ONE

1. **True/False** – The “Lust of the Flesh,” “the Pride of Life,” and the “Lust of the Eyes” are what constitute the love of this world.
- 2.) **True/False** – Since we aren't actually participating in all the bad behavior, it is okay to watch morally corrupt movies that have evil in them.
- 3.) **True/False** – Wearing jewelry and make-up is good for the Christian to wear because it will help him/her with their self-esteem.
- 4.) **True/False** – God wants us to live an abundant, happy and enjoyable life.
- 5.) **True/False** – Following all these Christian standards is only legalism and will make the Christian life a miserable experience.
- 6.) **True/False** – Frivolous and secular music like Jazz and Rock n' Roll are not good music for born-again Christians to listen to.
- 7.) **True/False** – Whatever activities we engage in should be in harmony with the beautiful principles of God's Word.
- 8.) **True/False** – Brutal, highly competitive sports like boxing, football, & other rough sports are good for Christians to engage in because it makes them tougher.

My Response

This Bible Study enables me to see that God wants to protect us from the pride, selfishness and greed of this world so that we can become more like the selfless, loving character of Jesus. It is my desire to truly make my Savior the LORD of my life and to enjoy every good, wholesome, and pure gift that He has given us.

Signed _____

