

North Christian Church -

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www.nccdighton.org

7/3/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 100

Godly Encouragement

It may vary greatly, depending on the need of the moment. For example, Tuesday's message was delivered with tears, while Thursday's with great strain. Both were necessary for YOUR sanctification.

Institutionalized Arrogance

Just about every aspect of American life represents institutionalized arrogance, which is to say that social, cultural, and economic objectives are ungodly, organized to meet the desires of the flesh.

Luke 12:48

but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

Wikipedia

The "Leader of the Free World" is a colloquialism, first used during the Cold War, to describe either the United States or, more commonly, the President of the United States of America.

Blog: "Character and Integrity"

If you want to know whom you should trust in this world, those with character and integrity, then look no further than their heart for the Gospel.

Act Like Ambassadors

While we are commanded by God to subject ourselves to our earthly masters, the government, the local laws (God placed us as ambassadors for Christ), we mustn't exchange our true allegiance to God for something so fleeting as a country.

I Love Americans, But...

America is obsessed with money, with "success", with "being" successful, with compiling, elevating, comparing, and superiority. These are fleshly objectives that are projected both outwardly to the world, and inwardly to its citizens.

The American Believer

Most of you would respond to the embarrassment of others in the church knowing how ridiculously selfish you are with your earnings, maybe even increase your giving to the church. But that will never happen because it's not the church's job to expose you.

The American Believer

Likewise, most of you DO already respond to the embarrassment of others in the world knowing how poorly you compare to them, so you increase your giving to the world (you purchase worldly things, to sanctify self, by self, for self).

Gal 6:7

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

The American Mockery

The "Christian American Way" is to assume that God blesses us with wealth and such, for us, as opposed to for others; that His grace is meant to be collected for self; that we have the right to be upset with God when these blessings dry up (possibly because of our own dysfunctional use of them as we fail the test).

Jas 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Reading Parables In Context

Parables in the Bible always have a "setup" to them that shores up the context, often in the most practical sense. Parables must be read in that context.

Luke 12:13-14

Notice how the person in the crowd has completely misappropriated Jesus' purpose in his life. This is the way of the average Christian American - they perceive Jesus Christ as just another utility, one that is taken advantage of on an "as-needed" basis, but not wholly or dependently.

Context of 1 Timothy

Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, a long-time known godly pastor who Paul had taken "under his wing". Timothy was born in Lystra (Galatia), but Paul sent him to multiple churches to spread the Gospel. Timothy was in Ephesus when Paul wrote this letter.

1Ti 6:2

Paul encouraged Timothy to teach the church authority-orientation (to sow goodness), specifically so that it would bear fruit (reap) to the benefit of the brethren. (ala Gal 6:7)

"those of our Lord Jesus Christ"

Paul, the majority writer of the NT, made this statement around 63AD, a few years before his death, and about 7 years after he wrote the Book of Romans. He still clung to the words of Jesus, regardless of who he was teaching, whether Jew or Gentile.

"who suppose godliness is a means of gain"

Some believed that knowing and/or even acting piously was of some value, but that's never the case unless such "fruit" is motivated by true faith.

"contentment"

from autarkeia - means self-sufficiency, unflappability; in context in 1Ti 6:6, implies this person isn't focused on the "gains" of being faithful, rather that they are actually "being" faithful.

"to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous"

Americans, in general, are taught to pursue wealth for a better life for self. The Bible teaches us to pursue the ability to live and share with others. The vehicle may be the same (making money), but the motivation and the beneficiaries differ completely.

Context of American Life

The true test for most American believers is whether or not they will take their worldly riches (the vast majority are very wealthy compared to the rest of the world) and use those resources to the benefit of spreading the Gospel. Peace evades those who refuse.

"False Knowledge" In America

- God blesses us just for us (as opposed to "for others")
- America is a beacon of light to the world
- Passive evangelism is Biblical (where we wait for others to come to us, sometimes begging, for help)
- We aren't like the Corinthians (when we truly are)
- Idolatry is excusable because it's part of our culture (1Jn 5:21)

Knowing Is Not Living

God teaches us outside of the Bible, through application, through living. The truths in the Word of God become real to us when we live them.

Jn 8:32

and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."