



How Then Shall We Live? "The Path to True Spirituality"

Pastor Rick Shelton
Sunday, March 8, 2009

- This is the last message, "How Then Shall We Live?"
- There is confusion in our world about Christianity, and the Bible. Many people who call themselves Christian do not have a belief system consistent with the Bible, resulting in a lack of power in their lives.
- Once we are born again, we have a daily cross to carry! Live by dying daily.
- We are "born again" by believing in what Jesus did on the cross, dying for our sins, placing our confidence in Him, and believing we will live with Him in Heaven.
- To "die daily" means to say 'no' to lust and desires of self, to the lust of things, and to the control of the world and its domination over our lives . . . not living for money, power, honor, approval, BUT for the sake of our love for God. That's the Christian life.
- **John 12:24 (NKJV)** (Jesus said) "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat (seed) falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."
- Only when a seed dies does it begin to bear fruit. In dying, we really live! As we become 'dead' to our flesh, it no longer controls us.
- **Romans 7:15 (Amplified)** Paul said, "For I do not understand my own actions [I am baffled, bewildered]. "I do not practice or accomplish what I wish, but I do the very thing that I loathe [which my moral instinct condemns]."
- Haven't you felt this way? You want to do what's right, but end up doing what you loathe!
- **Romans 7:16 (Amplified)** Now if I do [habitually] what is contrary to my desire, [that means that] I acknowledge and agree that the Law is good (morally excellent) and that I take sides with it.
- Pastor Rick said he hasn't always walked victoriously, and still struggles. If you don't feel you struggle, you aren't being honest with yourself. We all struggle.
- In Romans 7, Paul states he is baffled by his actions. He was being honest with himself and us, not saying he had murdered someone, or had sex with a woman, or had stolen. He was struggling with the warring of his flesh, motives, attitudes, and pride. He realized pride was a sin.
- Pastor Rick said one of the things he prays all the time is for the Lord to please keep him humble before Him, from pride and self-centeredness, because he can feel pride pull on his heart, and he loathes it.
- Paul brings "The Law" into how we live. Today, some say they live by the 10 Commandments. Others cast them aside like they are irrelevant, because we have Christ living in us, we don't need them anymore.
- The Law is good, but if we try to live by them we end up frustrated and confused; but if we discard them and make them irrelevant, we will have no power in us because we will not be living in agreement with God's design for our lives.
- **Exodus 20: (Amplified)** 3) you shall have no other gods before or besides Me. You shall not make yourself any graven image [to worship it]; 7) You shall not use or repeat the name of the Lord your God in vain; 8) [Earnestly] remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy; 9) Six days you shall labor and do all your work; 12) Regard (treat with honor, due obedience, and courtesy) your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land the Lord your God gives you. 13) You shall not commit murder. 14) You shall not

commit adultery. 15) You shall not steal. 16) You shall not witness falsely against your neighbor. 17) You shall not covet your neighbor's house

- (All Ten Commandments are not listed.) Why do we have "The Ten Commandments," and what part do they play in us walking in victory?
- Because of the fall of Adam and Eve, man lost connection with God, his spirit went dead and his flesh took control. Man lived from the "outside in", instead of from the "inside out." He is the 'center' of his life, not God.
- If God had left man alone in that condition, without The Ten Commandments, man would have destroyed himself. When man removes God out of center, and puts himself in center (humanistic) his identify and society around him begins to crumble. . . this is where our society is today! We believe in God, but we want Him to subject Himself to what we believe.
- The Ten Commandment weren't meant to make us 'right' with God by us NOT committing adultery, murder, stealing, or honoring our parents. They do NOT make us right with God.
- Then what was the Law of God intended for? A mirror!
- **James 1:23 (NKJV)** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.
- Pastor used this example: The mirror tells me how bad I need to shave. The mirror wasn't intended to shave me. It was intended to show me how bad I am in need of a razor and drive me to the razor. The Ten Commandments show me who I am without God. They're a mirror to drive us to Jesus, to believe in Him. He can give us the 'shave' we need, and put the beauty of God back inside us. Have you tried to shave without a mirror? Women, can you put on makeup without a mirror? Law was given to fallen man to show him how bad he was in need (of a shave) of a Savior.
- The words "Thou shall not" gives us an image of God being mean. (If I disobey The Law, God is mad at me. Feel like a worm.)
- God gave The Law because he loved fallen man, and wanted him back. (Example: God designed man to not live in sexual promiscuity, but to be holy and pure, and not in sexual sins. He says, "Please don't go 'there' on the internet, to pornography." He is pained and saying, "My child, that's not what you're made for.") Gradually 'sin' tears down the integrity of your soul, character, you lose identity, lose purpose and direction because we are not designed to live that way.
- The Ten Commandments are like a parent saying "please don't do this, or that." Parents say those things NOT to restrict Johnnie, or make him miserable, but to protect him, so he won't lose the life he is designed to live. When mother says, "Johnnie, don't play in street," she's not thinking about the street, but the car that could come down the street and hurt him. But we ignore mother and don't take it seriously. We play out in street, again, again, and again, getting a false sense of security, because no car comes down the street. But God knows where the cars are, and when it will come down the street and cost us our life.
- "Thou shall not covet." This is the one commandment that gets us in trouble because we may not murder, steal, or lie, but we may "WANT TO." God says don't even 'want to' do it! We may 'feel' or 'think' we want to kill somebody. What is this 'want to' in us that makes us feel that way? God put "Thou shall not covet" in the Commandments because if we lived our lives even 80% "good", we would tell ourselves we are "OK."
- You see a good-looking woman. You turn your head and not stare. You walk away with pride, saying, "I didn't look at that girl!" BUT, you still "wanted to" look at her.
- Rick Warren was asked about homosexuality. "What if you were born with those tendencies?" Rick said he was born to want to sleep with every woman in town, but he doesn't do it because it's not pleasing to God!
- The 'want to' problem is put in there for one reason and that is to show us we needed Jesus to die on the cross, and we have no hope without the shed blood of Jesus. Paul elaborates on this in the book of Romans, last part of the seventh chapter, and the beginning of the eighth chapter.
- Fall in love with Jesus! The more you fall in love with Him the more you don't want to do things you use to do.