

# July 2019 Newsletter



Sundays At 6:30 AM on



## LIVING FOR CHRIST

By Chan Vanny

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When I was a self-absorbed sinner, I never cared about the future—about when I would die or what would happen after I died. All I cared about was living a simple life like my friends. We didn't care about others or what they thought about us. We prioritized our own plans, worked to get to the top, and earned all we could. We did not spend wisely.

We had no hope because we didn't even know what to hope for. We were merely living like the world, satisfying the desires of our mind and heart.

Without Christ, everyone lives in the same way, living only to please the physical life. What about you? Have you thought even a minute about your spiritual life? Do you know God will judge each of us based on what we do in this life? *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad"* (2 Corinthians 5:10).



To avoid the painful consequences of wrong choices after this life, choose to walk in the right way that will lead our soul to a wonderful place called Heaven—through Jesus who says, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (John 14:6).

Your money, your car, your big house, and everything you have only benefit your physical life. A time is coming when

you will forfeit all your earthly possessions as Jesus teaches in the parable of the rich man who thought he would live a long time. He says, *"Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry"* But God says, *"Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?"* *"So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God"* (Luke 12:16-21).

In contrast to the rich man's way of thinking, we are to focus on God and not material possessions: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"* (Matthew 6:33). God will provide our need when we put Him first in our life. That does not mean we will never have trouble while we live in this body. But when we live with faith in God, we know God is always there to help. With faith, we place our hope and trust in Jesus who will lead us to Heaven after this life.

God loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to rescue us from sin (John 3:16). We also receive the privilege of being called God's children. *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name"* (John 1:12). What a special blessing that God loves us! Will you trust Him as well as Jesus who calls us, *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light"* (Matthew 11:28-30)?

### 7/7 Sermon #1203

Turning Father's Hearts

### 7/14 Sermon #1204

Obstacles to Bible Reading (part 1)

### 7/21 Sermon #1205

Obstacles to Bible Reading (part 2)

### 7/28 Sermon #1206

Unashamed

Facing life's problems alone is difficult without hope. Allow God to lead your life and lighten your load. God has promised never to forget His children: *"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it"* (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24). May God bless you!

## DOUBLE-MINDED

By Marcus Mathis  
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Since we live in a world that judges us by our outward appearance, we try to appear a certain way on the outside. But it's what's on the inside that really matters. Our emphasis should be on becoming the person God wants us to be, something that will not happen if we are double-minded. A person is double-minded if he or she pretends to be one person on the outside and is a completely different person on the inside.

The word of God is clear about the kind of character God wants His children to have: they are to be sincere rather than hypocritical. James uses the word double-minded in two places in his epistle. In the first chapter, he explains that a person must be stable in his faith if he expects God to hear his prayers; otherwise, *"he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways"* (James 1:8). As such, he can't expect to receive anything from God. Then, as James continues his instruction about having an acceptable relationship with God, he says, *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded"* (James 4:8). Albert Barnes makes this point about this verse: "That is, do not rest satisfied with a mere external reformation; with putting away your outward transgressions. There must be a deeper work than that; a work which shall reach to the heart, and which shall purify the affections."

Nowhere in the word of God will we find it acceptable to be double-minded; but for some reason, many believe it's okay. How do we think this behavior would unfold in other

areas of our lives? For instance, if we were married but behaved as if we were single, it would be only a matter of time before the marriage would be in trouble. The fact is we can't be fully committed to a given situation or task if our mind is not devoted solely to the task. If we are double-minded, our associates will figure it out; and we will not be able to maintain healthy relationships; more importantly, we will not be able to sustain our spiritual life because God is all-knowing.

How do we fix the problem of being double-minded? First, we are realistic in examining ourselves. Secondly, if we don't see what we want God to see, we need to fix what's in our hearts. We need to be brave enough to drop the act we put on and understand that God is the One Who sees us for who we really are, not the person we pretend to be. The scriptures made this point long ago: *"But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart'"* (1 Samuel 16:7).

If the heart is wrong, nothing can be right. How do we purify our heart? *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12). The word of God is what we can use to purify our hearts. Peter teaches this same point in his first epistle: *"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart"* (1 Peter 1:22).

It may seem like a difficult process to drop the act and be honest with ourselves, especially if we have been pretending to be someone we are not for a long time; however, God did not create us to be actors. This life is not a movie: it is real life. An assurance and help as we try to become the kind of person we want to be is to know that God is with us—we are not alone. The psalmist had this realization; so, he asked God, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me"* (Psalm 51:10). This should be our prayer as well because depending on God and being honest with ourselves and with Him will lead us to heaven.



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