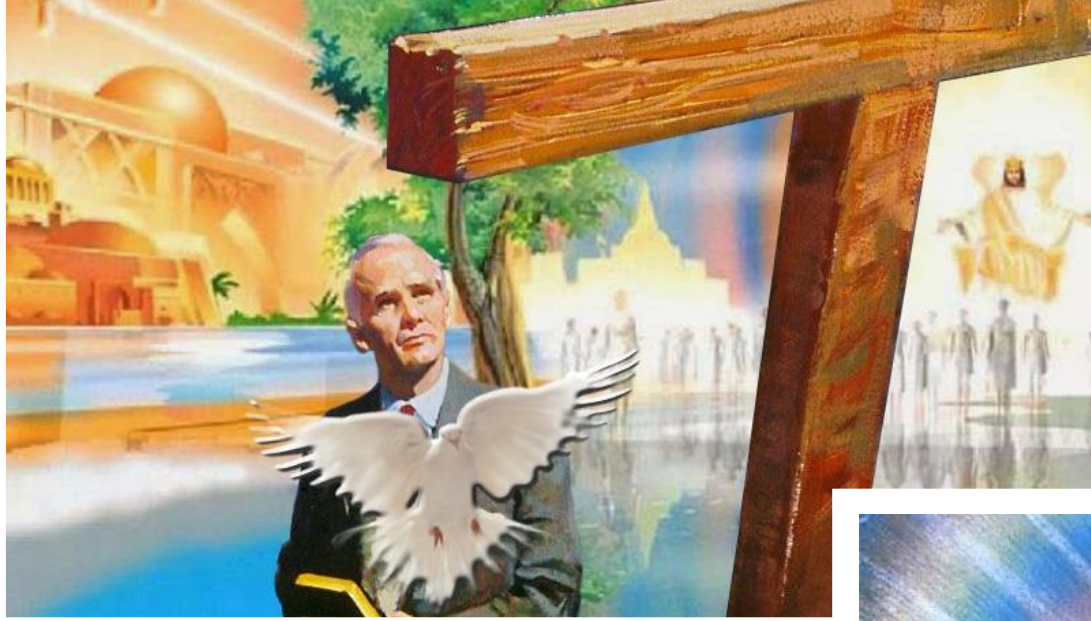




THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Lesson 12 for December 17, 2022



**"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" 1 Thessalonians 5:23**





The biblical worldview speaks of a constant fight between good and evil, between Christ and Satan. This fight is getting worse as the final events of this world approach. Revelation 13 and Revelation 14 show the moves that Satan and the followers of Jesus are going to do, respectively.

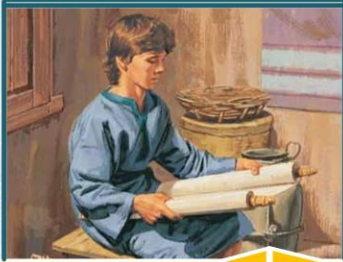
Our sanctification is important to be ready for this fight (1Ts. 5:23).

- **The role model**
- **Taking care of the body**
- **Taking care of the mind**
- **Taking care of the spirit**
- **Continuous care**

THE ROLE MODEL

“Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.” (Luke 2:52 NLT)

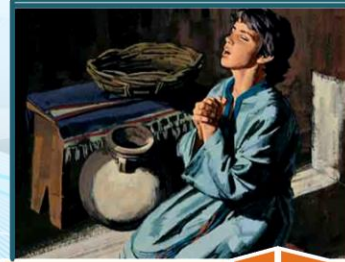
Before beginning His ministry, Jesus grew in four aspects:



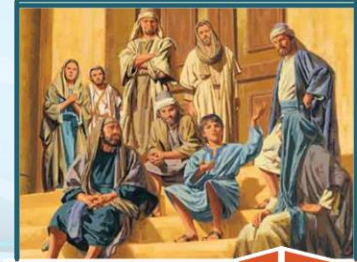
Mentally
("in wisdom")



Physically
("in stature")



Spiritually
("in favor with God")



Socially ("in favor
with all the people")



We are also called to grow in all the aspects of our being [what Paul called “spirit, soul, and body” (1Ts. 5:23)].

The work of Redemption involves restoring God’s image in humans. Our growth must be oriented towards that, getting ready for the Second Coming when the work will be finally completed.

TAKING CARE OF THE BODY

"For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:20)



Greek philosophy and gnostic movements influenced the beliefs of Christian Church regarding the separation of soul and body in the first centuries. They concluded that the body should be disregarded, so all the efforts were put into spiritual growth alone.

However, the Bible includes advice on caring for our bodies.



Paul introduced the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Co. 3:16-17). John wanted us to live a healthy life (3Jn. 2).

Restoring God's image includes taking care of our bodies.



TAKING CARE OF THE MIND

"But we have the mind of Christ." (1 Corinthians 2:16)

Our mind must be transformed to reflect God's image. Our goal must be to think like Christ does. How can we get there?



First, only the Holy Spirit can do that. He transforms our minds and our feelings (Jer. 31:33; Ez. 36:27).

Second, we need to cooperate. We must feed our minds with the right things (Ro. 12:2; Phlp. 4:8).

Then our characters will shine with purity and love, and our lives will be ruled by humbleness and truth (Ps. 24:3-5; Col. 3:1-2).



TAKING CARE OF THE SPIRIT

**"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."
(Galatians 5:25)**

Our relationship with God is defined by our spiritual nature.
We must let the Holy Spirit work in us. What does He do in us?

- He pours out God's love in us (Ro. 5:5)
- He leads us to Jesus (Jn. 15:26)
- He convicts us of sin (Jn. 16:8)
- He gives us power to preach the Gospel (Acts 1:8)
- He guides us into all truth (Jn. 16:13)



If He guides us into all truth, we cannot use Him according to our own desires like Simon the Sorcerer did in Acts 8:18-19. He will always be coordinated with the truth revealed in the Bible. If not, we're not actually listening to the Holy Spirit.



CONTINUOUS CARE

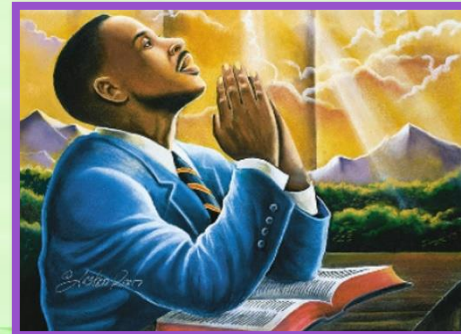
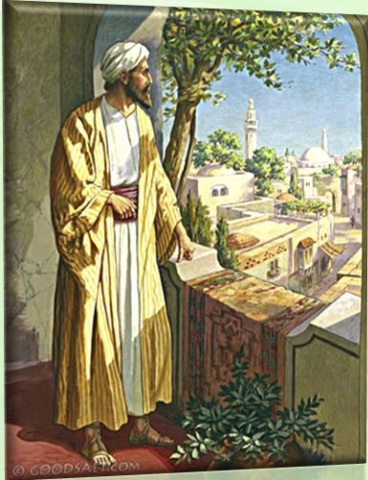
"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming." (Matthew 24:42)

There are many references to watching and preparing for the Second Coming in the New Testament. This is a process of continuous purification towards perfection (Mt. 24:13, 42; 1Co. 1:7-8; Phlp. 1:6; Heb. 6:11-12; James 1:4; Rev. 2:6).

We must always be ready to defend ourselves against Satan's attempts to distract us from our hope.

Unless one is continually growing in grace, and pressing on ahead in faith, the tendency would be to fall away, to become hardened, skeptical, cynical, even disbelieving.

Don't let a day pass by without praying, studying the Bible, and being in communion with Jesus.



“It is positively necessary for those who believe the truth, to be making continual advancement, growing up into the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. There is no time for backsliding and indifference. Each one must have a living experience in the things of God. Have root in yourselves. Become grounded in the faith, so that having done all you may stand, with unwavering confidence in God.”

E. G. W. (Sons and Daughters of God, November 21)