

I Love My Addiction

A Program with a Purpose – Exposing Your Value to God

1 Corinthians 16:15

Lesson Sixteen Heavenly Eyesight

Exchange a Temporal Mindset with Eternal Thinking

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Each lesson has taught a principle that will lead you to a life of liberty and freedom from destructive addictions. This lesson is designed to keep you on right path for the rest of your life on this earth. The Apostle Paul was instructing the church at Corinth to help them understand the value of each of the members lives. In last part of chapter three, we see him rehearsing their Jewish heritage:

But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:14-18)

1. The blindness from your eternal value will keep you in the same constant want of self-satisfaction, *But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.*
 - a. The vail is a large thick curtain that divides one area from another.
 - b. Failure to realize your eternal value will cause to continue to follow the shepherd of self instead of changing Masters to the Good Shepherd, Jesus, the Living Word of God.

- c. Spiritual blindness usually leads you back to your old destructive addictions.
2. When you consciously turn to God's eternal ways and leave the temporal ways in the past, the spiritual blindness will fade away into the light, ***Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.***
3. The beauty of this truth is the source of the freedom experienced when our minds run every situation that comes into our lives through the filter of eternity, ***Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.***
4. It is vitally important to a total recovery to realize that you can no longer be who you once were. There must be a change of heart and a change of masters, ***are changed into the same image from glory to glory***

The Apostle Paul continues this dissertation with the very reason this addiction program was developed:

Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:1-6)

1. Because you have been given your very own ministry, ***Therefore seeing we have this ministry***, you have the backing of the Good Shepherd to keep you from fainting in the way, ***as we have received mercy, we faint not***
2. Over and over we see the need to repent, turn from the temporary things of the earth and turn to the eternal value of each situation, ***But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness,***

3. You must always be careful to keep the eternal value of each situation in mind or you can fall prey to using your recovery to gain temporary rewards, ***nor handling the word of God deceitfully***
4. Recovery with a purpose, ***but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God***
 - a. Purpose number one, God gains an obedient child through the truth of the Bible, ***but by manifestation of the truth***
 - b. Number two, your testimony will open the blinded eyes of many people in need, ***commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God***
5. It is not an option, it is a command, ***For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness***. This dark world needs to see the light of God in you—you are valuable!
6. We are to let our light so shine that others will want to know what in the world happened to you, ***to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ***.

Your life is not designed to be all about you! There is nothing wrong with having nice things as long as the nice things do not have you! Keep your mind on using your life to reach others for Christ and the things that used to dominate your mind will fade away in worship and service to the LORD. Paul gave us a very clear formula to follow that will help keep our eyes on things that matter in Heaven, ***Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*** (Hebrews 13:5).

When your mind is geared towards heavenly things, your feet will follow, Jesus Himself gave us instruction in this matter:

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)

1. The newness of anything temporal is quick to wear off. Then, when our hearts are geared toward these temporary treasures, someone will steal them or back over them, ***where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:***

2. Treasures in Heaven will remain for all eternity. When you dedicate your life to the LORD and use your testimony to be a witness to others, He will give you great rewards in Heaven, rewards that can never be taken away or be destroyed, ***where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:***
3. When you dedicate your life to the Great Shepherd, you will put your treasure into the work! When you put your treasure into the work, your heart will be where your treasures are, ***For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.***

Jesus gives us further instruction concerning the difference between our daily needs to exist and a desire for temporary treasure:

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:31-33).

The simple truth is, Jesus will take care of His own far beyond your wildest imaginations! He will even bless you with some of the things you like to do as well! When you change masters from self to the Saviour, He knows that He can trust you to be a witness at work, at church and at play!

There are two men in the Bible I would like to draw your attention to. These men were minding their own business when someone with a Bible showed up on the scene. Their lives were so drastically changed that the results of their eternal thinking change the lives of many people. The first man we will see is an example of how your family will be affected by your switching masters from self to the Saviour.

The story begins with King David trying to do a good deed by bringing the Ark of the Covenant, the golden chest that contained the two stones with the Ten Commandments, back to the temple where they belonged. The Ark of the Covenant represents the Bible, God's Living Word. His intentions were pure, but the way he sought to carry it back did not line up with the Word of God. God is a disciplined God; He has an order of service He demands from His children. When we choose to do it our way, punishment is inevitable. Sometimes our punishment affects the lives of others:

So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor of Egypt even unto the entering of Hemath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjathjearim. And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjathjearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it. And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drave the cart. And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets. And when they came unto the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God. (1 Chronicles 13:5-10)

1. David had good intentions, but did not do it God's way. You must allow the pastor of your local church instruct you in the Biblical ways of service, ***And they carried the ark of God in a new cart***
2. When the cart hit a pot hole, Uzza was just doing what he thought would help! He reached out and kept the Ark from falling. Seems harmless, but God had commanded that nobody was to touch the Holy Ark except the priests, ***because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.***
 - a. It is very important to know what you are teaching to the lost and addicted. False teaching with good intentions is very dangerous.
 - b. David, the leader was at fault, but Uzza the servant suffered the consequence.

David was now confused and scared, ***And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me*** (1 Chronicles 13:12)? So, until he could figure out exactly what to do, he took the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Word of God, to the house of Obbedom, ***So David brought not the ark home to himself to the city of David, but carried it aside into the house of Obbedom the Gittite*** (1 Chronicles 13:13).

It is the last verse of this chapter that I want you to notice. The Ten Commandments of God are in the Ark of the Covenant. It has been taken into the home of Obbedom. There is no doubt this man was very nervous at first. The King must have told him all that happened to Uzza and he had to leave the Ark at his home until he could figure out what to do with it. Listen to what takes place because the Bible is now in Obbedom's home, ***And the ark of God remained with the***

family of Obededom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obededom, and all that he had (1 Chronicles 13:14). Blessing on top of blessings!

1. His crops were produced exceedingly
2. His livestock was multiplying
3. His chickens were laying double yokers
4. His teenagers were obedient
5. His wife was submissive
6. He was blessed!

That is exactly what will happen in the heart of any person who chooses to exchange the temporary things of this world for eternal things. This does not mean that everything will automatically change in your home, but God will give you liberty and peace in your heart and the wisdom to make the changes, ***If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him*** (James 1:5).

Three months had come and gone and the King figured out what happened. The priests were to carry the ark the way it was designed to be carried, ***Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever*** (1 Chronicles 15:2). Can you imagine Obededom as the King and his parade came to take the Ark out of his home. He must have been very discouraged to know it would soon leave his home.

What happened to Obededom is a picture of a man who traded all for his new Master?

1. He became a doorkeeper for the Ark, ***and Obededom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark*** (1 Chronicles 15:24).
2. Obededom ministered before the Ark with a harp and other musical instruments,

And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel: Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, Jeiel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and

Mattithiah, and Eliab, and Benaiah, and Obededom: and Jeiel with psalteries and with harps; but Asaph made a sound with cymbals; (1 Chronicles 16:4, 5)

3. He also became a porter for the Ark, ***And Obededom with their brethren, threescore and eight; Obededom also the son of Jeduthun and Hosah to be porters:*** (1 Chronicles 16:38).

Obededom changed his way of thinking from making a living on the farm to full-time service of the Ark of the Covenant. He followed the Bible with his whole heart. The beauty of this commitment is found in Chapter 26, ***All these of the sons of Obededom: they and their sons and their brethren, able men for strength for the service, were threescore and two of Obededom*** (1 Chronicles 26:8). God blessed the family of Obededom with sixty-two strong children that also loved the LORD and was willing to serve! I do not know about you, but that was worth the farm!

The second man we see whose God's Word changed drastically was King Josiah. This King is in the lineage of King David. He became king when he was eight years old, ***Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem*** (2 Kings 22:1). He had a desire to do right, but had no instruction on the difference between God's way and what he believed to be the right way (eternal or temporal).

The House of God had been neglected by the previous kings. Ten years into his reign, he decided to repair the House of God. He assigned the high priest of the day the task of overseeing this project.

And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of the LORD, saying, Go up to Hilkiyah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which is brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the door have gathered of the people: And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD: and let them give it to the doers of the work which is in the house of the LORD, to repair the breaches of the house, (2 Kings 22:3-5)

While supervising the construction project, Hilkiyah, the high priest, found something that would literally change the entire city of Jerusalem and leave us with the Biblical account of the power of the Word of God in a man's life. ***And Hilkiyah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.*** (2 Kings 22:8).

To find the Word of God is one thing, but to read it unleashes the power of God to change your life and give you a full recovery from the old addictive ways, ***For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*** (Hebrews 4:12).

1. You must realize that the Bible is not a book of suggestions that man put together; it is the actual words of the Living God penned down by man as God dictated them, ***All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*** (2 Timothy 3:16).
2. ***The word of God is quick***; quick is the old word meaning, alive. This means that as you read God's Word, it will speak to you heart causing you to make decisions as well as rejoicing in the promises of sure rewards.
3. It is ***powerful***, God's Word has given wives their husbands back, children their fathers back and mothers their child back. It has the power to sober a drunkard, give a person of bad stature their lives back! God's Word has the power to change the eternal destination of a sinner on the fast track to Hell to be Heaven bound!
4. The Word of God is the key to change your destructive addictions into an addiction to the ministry!

The Book of the Law had been found in the house of God, read by the scribe, Shaphan and delivered to the king. After King Josiah read the book, he immediately became convicted and concerned about his life and the life of his subjects, ***And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes*** (2 Kings 22:11). The renting of his clothes is a sign of the day for mourning. The king knew he and his people were in deep trouble with God.

King Josiah immediately acted to inquire with God to see just how bad things were:

Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us. (2 Kings 22:13)

1. God's Word is loaded with great and precious promises for those who choose to make Him their Master and Good Shepherd. On the other hand, His punishment for sin is just as horrific as His rewards for obedience are magnificent, ***for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us***
2. The reason for the judgment was pure disobedience to God's Word, ***because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.***

There was good news and bad news to report to the king:

Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD. Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again. (2 Kings 22:19, 20)

1. Good news:
 - a. King Josiah had been forgiven
 - b. His life would be in peace
 - c. He would die with honor
2. Bad news:
 - a. God would bring judgment to the people, ***Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you to me, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read:*** (2 Kings 22:15, 16).
 - b. ***Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched*** (2 Kings 22:17).

What took place next is exactly what must happen in your life to receive all God has laid up in store for you. The king had repented, was sorry for all the sin and asked for God's mercy. The perfect formula for a changed life.

And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. (2 Kings 23:2)

King Josiah was so convinced by the powerful Words of God that he took immediate action. He started by boldly proclaiming all the people, both the small and the great and the rich and the poor alike!

King Josiah then made a public profession and of his faith and made a covenant in the ears of all his people,

And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant. (2 Kings 23:3)

From the day of his commitment until the day of his death, King Josiah did the best he could to walk in the ways of the LORD.

1. He began to remove all of the false God's and their leaders,
2. He took away all the idols,
3. Removed all those who followed the wizards and those who had familiar spirits
4. He did away with the unnatural sexual sins in the land

Not only did he remove the sinful ways and their leaders, but he also restored the days of worship described in the Bible, ***And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant (2 Kings 23:21).***

King Josiah took immediate action to implement every word that had been written. He experienced the peace of God to the fullest extent because of this obedience. Josiah made up his mind to follow the Good Shepherd all the way to the house of God, ***And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him*** (2 Kings 23:25).

These two men are living examples of successfully changing their addictions from self and pride to serving the Saviour! The same results are waiting for you! Your addictions can and will be a thing of the past if you take immediate action!

1. Read the Bible regularly
2. Have a sorrowful heart towards God for your wickedness
3. Tell others how wonderful God is

This will cause you to become more concerned about your rewards in Heaven than filling your house on earth with treasure. Exchanging the temporary things of this world for eternal blessings by giving and telling others! How one can know the difference between the eternal and temporal is simple:

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Screen every situation that comes into your life through the eternal filter of the Word of God. Always remember that eternity is a long time to be wrong. First of all, make sure that you are on your way to Heaven by receiving the free unmerited gift of God's grace, then realize that everything you say and do can and will have a direct effect on the eternal destination of others. The eternal things are the only things that will matter in the long run. It has been said, **I have never seen a U-Haul behind a hearse!**

1. What will the blindness from your eternal value cause?
2. What will failure to realize your eternal value will cause?

3. What is vitally important to a total recovery?
4. What were you given that grants you the backing from the Good Shepherd?
5. List the two purposes for recovery.
6. What happens when your mind is geared towards heavenly things?
7. What will happen when you dedicate your life to the LORD and use your testimony to be a witness to others?
8. God will give you liberty and peace in your heart and the wisdom to make the changes. Quote the versed used to back up this theory.
9. What is the key to change your destructive addictions into an addiction to the ministry!
10. What should you screen every situation that comes into your life through?

(Answers to these questions are all located within the pages of this lesson)

Regardless of what you have been told or even what you may think, God loves you enough to make you free from your destructive addictions and restore your life to the purpose in which He created you—***Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created*** (Revelation 4:11). By changing your shepherd from self to the ***Good Shepherd***, Jesus, you will begin to bring God the pleasure you were created for. God wants to use you to tell others how to receive the same freedom you now have and introduce lost souls to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. ***Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins*** (James 5: 20).

God the Father wants His children to be successful and prosperous, ***Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long*** (Psalm 35:27, 28). As you continue to trust in your new Shepherd, Jesus, He will make you prosperous so you can cheerfully, without being ashamed, tell others about His great love—you are valuable in His eyes! ***Restore unto me the joy***

of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee (Psalm 51:12, 13).

Seek Knowledge

Apply the new-found Knowledge and Wisdom to your life

Then, teach others the secret to your success!

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:19).

Memory Verse:

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me (Psalm 37:37).

Suggested reading:

- A chapter of Proverbs each day according to the day of the month
- Five chapters of the book of Psalms each day
- 2 Kings 22, 23

Model prayer to help you remove the temporal mindset and replace it with eternal thinking:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the Word of God. Please help me to fall in love with it and following it without doubting or questioning it. I love You! In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

Be sure to pass out at least five Gospel tracts this week and invite at least one person to come to class with you next week. Use your past to build your future!