

"Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God" (2 Pet. 3:11-12a).

HOW ARE WE TO LIVE?

1. **IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF THE WORLD.** *"And I am no more in the world, and these are in the world, and I come to thee. ... they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them from the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil one" (Jn. 17:11, 14-15).* What was true of the apostles, for whom Jesus was praying, must be true of us.
2. **IN THE FLESH, BUT NOT AFTER THE FLESH.** *"So then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh: for if ye live after the flesh, ye must die; but if by the Spirit ye put to death the deeds of the body, ye shall live" (Rom. 8:12-13).* We must not emphasize our flesh over our spirit or give in to sinful desires of the flesh.
3. **FOR SELF, BUT NOT SELFISHLY.** *"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Phil. 2:4).* Notice the *"also."* No one can be a Christian **for** you (you must be a Christian for yourself), but part of being a Christian is concern for and service to others. So, not for self only, but also for others.
4. **FOR OTHERS, BUT NOT IN THE PLACE OF OTHERS.** You cannot be a Christian in the place of others, but you cannot be a Christian without helping others. So you must be a Christian for their benefit, but you cannot be a Christian in their place. *"For each man shall bear his own burden (burden of duty, responsibility, accountability - **BC**)" (Gal. 6:5). "Bear ye one another's burdens (oppressive burdens, adversity, etc. - **BC**), and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2).*
5. **AS THOUGH WE ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD EVERY MINUTE, BECAUSE WE ARE.** *"And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Heb. 4:13). "Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?" (Ps. 139:7).* In beautiful poetic language the psalmist went on to depict his going to all manner of places in and out of the universe, but always with the result, **"Behold, thou art there."** Adam and Eve could not hide from God, and Jonah could not flee from God; nor can we.
6. **AS THOUGH THE EYES OF THE WORLD WERE UPON US, BECAUSE THEY ARE.** *"For ye are our epistle, written in our hearts, known and read of all men" (2 Cor. 3:2).* Jesus said to His disciples, *"Ye are the salt of the earth,"* and, *"Ye are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-16).* There are many people whose eyes are upon us. Our duty is to set a good example for them -- **always.**
7. **AS THOUGH THIS WERE THE LAST DAY OF OUR LIVES; IT MAY WELL BE.** *"As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more" (Ps. 103:15-16).*

May these thoughts help us to live our lives as we should live them.