Christian Life March 25

A Wholesome Life

 Peter outlines a pattern for wholesome living to the Christians in Asia; this can certainly serve as an outline for modern day Christians as well:

* KEEP ALERT and set your hope completely on the blessing which will be given when Jesus Christ is revealed.
* BE OBEDIENT to God, and do not allow your lives to be shaped by those desires you had when you were still ignorant.
* Instead, BE HOLY in all that you do, just as God who called you to be holy.
* You call him Father, when you PRAY to God, who judges all people by the same standard, according to what each one has done; so then, spend the rest of your lives here on earth in REVERENCE for him.
* LOVE ONE ANOTHER earnestly with all your heart 1 Peter 1:13b, 14, 15, 17 and 22b.

 If we pick out the main points: Keep alert, be obedient, be holy, pray, be reverent and love one another, we will have a life pleasing to God. With a life pleasing to God we will be in line for eternal life – For through the living and eternal Word of God you have been born again as the children of a parent who is immortal, not mortal. 1 Peter 1:23. Let’s heed Peter’s words to wholesome living TODAY!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Through him you believe in God, who raised him from death and gave him glory; and so your faith and hope are fixed on God. 1 Peter 1:21.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to follow the words you inspired Peter to write.

Christian Life March 26

Marriage

 We’ve all went to a wedding sometime, besides our own and the experience has served as a renewal of our vows and revitalization of our own commitment.

 Marriage today is not taken seriously enough in some respects and in other too seriously; some say when they get married, if it doesn’t work we can always get a divorce and to others who think marriage is like a jail sentence or they don’t want to make a commitment.

 Here again we must depend on the Lord for our choice of marriage partner as well as guidance through our day to day marriage problems.

 We must then in taking our vows realize that God is joining us to our spouse – What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder. Mark 10:9.KJV. Marriage was instituted by God, it was God’s plan at creation, so who are we to try and change God’s plan by renewable marriage licenses, living together, communal living or making of mockery of what God instituted as marriage as a union between a man and a woman to allow “marriage” between people of the same sex.

VERSE FOR TODAY: For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh: Mark10:7, 8a. KJV.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always realize that marriage is a lifetime commitment, not a prison but a sharing, caring, loving relationship of your divine plan, O Lord.

Christian Life March 27

The Family

 Areas that we should commit ourselves:

* So then, submit to God. James 4:7a.
* Wives submit to your husbands, for that is what you should do as Christians. Husbands love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents always, for that is what pleases God.
* Parents do not irritate your children, or they will become discouraged. Colossians 3:18-21.

First we submit ourselves to God, then the laws of our country and then to live with each other in our own family group, here is where the fruits we have received from the Holy Spirit come into play “love, patience, self-control, goodness and kindness.”

 We as parents have a large responsibility to our children – Parents, do not treat your children in such a way to make them angry. Instead, bring them up with Christian discipline and instruction. Ephesians 6:4. Take the Spiritual life of your child seriously – Jesus said, “Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14. Bring your children to church, read the Bible, pray with and for them and when the time is right they will know Jesus and choose to follow Him.

VERSE FOR TODAY: And I pray that Christ will make his home in your hearts through faith. I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love. Ephesians 3:17.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to bring my children to your house and bring them up in your ways.

Christian Life March 28

Bringing up a Child

 Maybe this title should be “Bringing up the Parents” because Paul says – “Parents, do not irritate your children, or they will become discouraged. Colossians 3:21. But also – Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents always, for that is what pleases God. Colossians 3:20. To live with harmony in the home there needs to be give and take, the key is to give more than we take.

 Parents are not to irritate their children but this does not mean that disciplining should be ignored either for – If you don’t punish your son, you don’t love him. If you do love him, you will correct him. Proverbs 13:24. Disciplining should be done out of love not out anger then it is a useful action, but if you are a parent you know, unfortunately, that it is not the case, most discipline is done in anger. Most of us born before the nineteen eighties were disciplined with spankings and the Bible teaches this kind of discipline but modern ideas are against spankings, how you discipline is up to you but don’t neglect correcting children as they are growing up.

 Experience is a good teacher, so this proverb says – Pay attention to what your father and mother tell you, my son. Their teaching will improve your character as a handsome turban or necklace improves your appearance. Proverbs 1:8, 9.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Children just naturally do silly, careless things, but a good spanking will teach them how to behave. Proverbs 22:15.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to be an obedient child and an intelligent disciplining parent.

Christian Life March 29

Divorce

To curb divorce rate we should use the teachings of Jesus for the guideline. The only reason given for divorce - But now I tell you: if a man divorces his wife, for any cause other than her unfaithfulness, then he is guilty of making her commit adultery if she marries again; and the man who marries her commits adultery also. Matthew 5:32. We see here adultery is the only reason for divorce. We cause another to sin if we divorce for other reasons, for if they remarry; two people are committing adultery and were made to do so by our divorce action.

Adultery is a sin unto eternal damnation – Surely you know that the wicked will not possess God’s kingdom. Do not fool yourselves; people who are immoral or who worship idols or are adulterers or homosexual perverts. 1 Corinthians 6:9. Be sure of the motives for divorce is clear before burdening anyone with the sin of adultery.

Divorce is a serious matter, even more serious than marriage because of the problems it causes for others, not only your spouse but your children as well, pray long and hard, seek professional guidance and pastoral guidance before taking the steps to divorce.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Marriage is to be honoured by all, the husbands and the wives must be faithful to each other. God will judge those who are immoral and those who commit adultery. Hebrews 13:4.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to always be faithful first to you and then to the one I marry.

Christian Life March 30

God Our Friend

 The way to have God as our friend is – And you are my friends if you do what I command you. John 15:14. Looking back we see what God commands – My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. John 15:12.

 As a friend God is always there as a real friend should be, he’s just a prayer away!

 With God as our friend life will be simple and easy, everyone will love us, and we’ll have no more problems! Don’t believe it, Jesus goes on to say – “If the world hates you, just remember that it has hated me first…Remember what I told you: ‘No slave is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you too;” John 15:18, 20a. We know that was killed Jesus, so we too can expect persecution, maybe not unto death but these times will lead to the end times where persecution will be terrible.- Whoever is meant to be captured will surely be captured: whoever is meant to be killed by the sword will surely be killed by the sword. Revelation 13:10a, b. These end times will be rough but John goes on and says – This calls for endurance and faith on the part of God’s people. Revelation 13:10c. With faith and endurance we will be saved.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I do not call you servants any longer, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. John 15:15.

PRAYER THOUGHT: I know, O Lord I have no greater friend in all creation, help me not to forget it.

Christian Life March 31

Temptation unto Death

 If we allow temptation to bring desire for evil then that desire brings sin and sin leads to death as James states clearly – Then their evil desires conceive and give birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. James 1:15.

 We cannot drive down the road without being tempted; there are signs galore for bars, bad movies, ect. There are perverted magazines even in the grocery store, our lives are filled with temptations at every turn but we must learn not to give into these temptations.

 Temptation is strongest when we are the weakest, we must rely on the Lord for strength. – God is our shelter and strength, always ready in times of trouble. Psalm 46:1

God is always strong and always waiting to hear from us in time of temptation.

 Paul asks us an important question -“What did you gain from doing the things that you are ashamed of? The result of those things is death! For sin pays its wage – death; but God’s free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:21, 23. If you are still a slave to sin turn to Jesus for forgiveness and freedom from eternal death!

VERSE FOR TODAY: But now you have been set free from sin and are the slave of God. Your gain is a life fully dedicated to him, and the result is eternal life. Romans 6:22.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me not to backslide into sin through temptation even though I know I am saved help me to help others to gain their freedom through you.

April Fool’s Day April 1

Don’t Be Fooled

 In these days of door to door religious salesmen, cults of every belief imaginable and unimaginable don’t be fooled into believing! – Do not let anyone deceive you with foolish words; it is because of these very things that God’s anger will come upon those who do not obey him. Ephesians 5:6.

 The Bible is our guide to the Christian way of life, if confronted with confusion from a cult, check it out in the Bible, if still confused talk with a trusted minister or Bible scholar.

 Don’t ever be fooled by being told you have to do a list of things to be saved, because it is God that determines who will be saved, not we ourselves, no matter what we do we cannot save ourselves! Our only requirement is to believe in Jesus as the Son of God and put our faith and trust in Him and everything else will fall into place with the help of the Holy Spirit.

 In these days of numerous cults and religious organizations we cannot be too careful in our confrontation with the outside world! Don’t be afraid to question and research any group you come in contact with to make sure you are not fooled.

VERSE FOR TODAY: For it is by God’s grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God’s gift, so that no one can boast about it. Ephesians 2:8-9.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, guide me so that I am not fooled by false doctrine, but live by faith in the true God.