

HOME BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Studies on

MORAL ISSUES

#4 - Decisions About Addictions

- 1 -- Alcohol & Drugs
- 2 -- Gambling
- 3 -- Profanity & Cursing
- 4 -- Television Programs (Movies)
- 5 -- Pornography
- 6 -- Who will get your Children

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Lesson One

"Alcohol and Drugs"

In Leviticus 10:1-7, we read about a tragedy—two of the sons of the High Priest (Aaron) were slain by God with fire from heaven. God also warned Aaron: (1) You can't go out and take your sons and bury them; (2) You cannot bewail your sons; and (3) If you do, you will also die! Why did God do such a deed? The answer is clearly stated: **"I will be sanctified in them that come nigh Me, and before all the people I will be glorified."** To take lightly as one comes into the presence of God is a grave mistake. They had not done as they were instructed—they offered strange fire before the Lord. Why was the fire so important? It was not the fire so much as it was lack of respect for God! God told King Saul: **"Obedience is better than sacrifice!"** (1 Sam. 15:22). We believe that there was another possible factor that helped to cause this problem for Aaron's two sons. Read Leviticus 10:8-11 and look carefully at God's warning about going into the place of worship intoxicated. It would seem that alcohol was a problem for them just like it is for us today.

Alcohol and Drugs play a huge role in causing problems for people, then and now! Chemical use is at the root of most of the behavioral problems that are causing so many of our social problems. If their use cannot be stemmed, the picture is gloomy for the continuance of a great nation.

In this lesson we will look briefly at some Scriptures and Facts that can help us in our decision making concerning these addictive things.

1. The Bible Condemns Drunkenness!

The Apostle gives a list of sins in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and drunkenness is one of them. Those who are caught up in these sins cannot inherit the Kingdom of Heaven! The statement is easy to understand—the guilty will be punished (Gal. 5:7-8). Getting drunk is evidently different with each human being. So, I can't tell exactly where a person crosses over the line—in fact, God did not either! Let's be careful not to bind something that God, Himself, did not bind!

2. God warns of the Danger of Strong Drink!

To those people who are determined to drink "strong drink," God has pointed out some grave dangers to avoid.

Prov. 20:1 _____

Prov. 23:20-21 _____

Prov 23:29-35 _____

A wise man listens, learns, and gains valuable knowledge. But a fool despises learning and knowledge because it is against what he wants to do! One who thinks that he is smarter than God is a fool!

Following are some factual information that was gathered by surveys:

1. It is estimated that 3/4ths of all Americans drink to some extend.
2. It is estimated that 20 millions or better become alcoholics.
3. Drinking alcohol is the 3rd major cause of death on our highways.
4. Drinking is a major factor in crimes of violence and suicides.
5. Drinking can eventually destroy a healthy body and even bring death.
6. Drinking is a tremendous drain financially upon our health systems.
7. It is also a drain on the family budget.
8. There has been a lot of alarm over Tobacco and its use in this country, but in comparison very little about alcohol.
9. Look at the broken homes because of alcohol.
10. Also, look at the poverty it brings to many homes.

Following are some statistical information in comparison:

1) **During the Prohibition Era (1919-1933)**

- a) Crime decreased 54%.
- b) Death rate due to alcohol decreased 43%.
- c) Insanity decreased 66%.
- d) Most of the alcohol clinics closed for lack of patients.

2) **After the Prohibition Era.**

- a) Drunkenness increased 350%.
- b) Crime spiraled and we have not seen the end of it yet.
- c) Millions became addicted to alcohol.

3. Spiritual Leaders need to set the Proper Example before the Church!

1 Tim. 3:3 _____

1 Tim. 3:8 _____

1 Tim. 4:12 _____

What is a proper example? You might ask yourself the following:

1. If you wanted to set the right example before your children, what would you do? _____

2. If you were concerned about lost souls, what kind of an example would you set? _____

1 Cor. 10:23-24 _____

1 Cor. 10:31-33 _____

The choice Before Us!

1. To learn the hard way! We sometimes get hardheaded and want to do our own thing, instead of listening to God and the facts about drug or alcohol additions. You probably have heard this saying:

"Those who will not learn from history are destined to repeat it."

God has given us sufficient warnings! Common sense should do the same. We are not blind! We need to see all about us the devastation that strong drink has caused. But too many seem to want to learn the hard way! They are like our original parents—Adam and Eve—they were told don't eat or you will die! They ate and they died (spiritually).

2. To learn from the words and calamities of others! God has told us! Our society has given us plenty of examples! Just how wise are we in regards to listening and learning? Just what does wisdom suggests to us?

Concluding Thoughts

My wife and I made a decision long ago to abstain from alcohol and drugs. We don't need it! We can better use the money that would be used to purchase either or both drugs or alcohol. We can set a proper example before others—especially our own children and grandchildren.

It is important that we realize that God's Laws cannot be circumvented! What we sow, we will reap! Self-deceived people will have to learn the hard way—and with many it will be too late!

What decision have you made in regards to alcohol and drugs? I can't bind mine on you; but I would like to recommend it!

Questions for Discussion

1. Do you consider Alcohol a drug?
2. Is Alcohol a disease or sickness passed on by their genes?
3. What is specifically condemned in Scripture concerning Alcohol?
4. What are some stated consequences of strong drink (drugs)?
5. Why is total abstinence advocated by some Christians?
6. What are some Scriptures that might apply to taking drugs?
7. Why do people get involved with drugs, alcohol, and smoking?
8. What does the Christian have to help him deal with the problems of life?

Lesson Two

"Gambling"

Gambling is widespread in this country. A large percentage of people gamble regularly. As far back as 1965, it was recognized as the biggest "business" in the U.S.A. But gambling is obviously not a new device among us. There have been indications of such as far back at 1800 B.C. In the inspired Old Testament books, it seemed that Israel did not have a problem with gambling until the time of the Babylonian Captivity.

Isa. 65:11-12

Definition for Gambling

Webster's Dictionary states: *"To play games of chance for money or some other stake; to take a risk in order to gain some advantage; to bet, wager; an act of undertaking involving risk of a loss."* It basically involves profiting off of another's loss or at the expense of others. Some feel it could be defined as *"stealing by permission!"* It is gaining something without the exchange of service or goods. Gambling can take many forms: Card Games, Dice, Numbers, Betting on Elections, Buying sweepstakes tickets, betting on horse races, slot machines, betting on sporting events, various types of sports pools, punch boards, bingo, buying tickets in raffles, betting on recreational activities, matching for cokes, and even pitching pennies.

"Any betting or wagering, whether for money or not, where the outcome is uncertain or depends upon chance or 'skill,' constitutes gambling."

"Gambling is parasitic, producing no personal growth, achieving no social good. Even the strongest advocates of gambling agree that gambling is a non-productive human activity."

Someone has suggested that life itself is a gamble—but, we do not believe it is, in the same sense. Some have pointed out that Farming is gambling. But again, not in the same sense. Also, some advocate that Insurance is a gamble. The Insurance Companies are selling a service (protection) that all of us pay for.

Is Gambling a Sin?

The following thoughts need to be looked at and evaluated carefully to see if the evidence is sufficient to call gambling a sin.

1. Gambling destroys the incentive to work. Toil and labor are honorable! God has given strong indications of people having to work to earn a living.

Gen. 2:15 _____

Gen. 3:19 _____

Eph. 4:28 _____

Acts 20:34-35 _____

Gambling does not produce goods or services, nor does it bear good fruit.

Matt. 3:10 _____

2. Gambling brings unjust gain. If a gambler wins, his gain is unjust!

Prov. 28:6-8 _____

Ezek. 22:12-13 _____

3. Gambling is a form of Covetousness. God's Law states that a person must not covet (Exo. 20:17; Rom. 13:9; Eph. 5:3). To covet indicates an inordinate longing for something which belongs to another.

Jer. 22:13 _____

1 Tim. 6:5-10 _____

Gambling is not honest work and does not produce goods nor services to others. Instead it fosters laziness and indolence—making parasites of those who would live off the productive labor of others.

4. Gambling breaks the 2nd greatest commandment—"love thy neighbor as thyself!" We would not want another to try by trickery or skill to take from us that which rightly belonged to us—without recompense in money, goods, or services.

Rom. 13:10 _____

Matt. 7:12 _____

5. Gambling robs his family. It is taking wages from the family which should support trusting wives and innocent children. The money is gone with nothing to show for it.

Eph. 4:28 _____

6. Gambling is known by its fruits. Its fruit is often very damaging to the welfare of the family.

Matt. 7:18-20 _____

7. Gambling does not glorify God. The Christian primary purpose for living is to glorify God. There is nothing about gambling that brings glory to God—but it often brings shame upon the name of Christ because a child of God gambled and lost.

1 Cor. 10:31 _____

Concluding Thoughts

Someone has suggested that there are three legitimate means of transferring money or its equivalent:

1. **The Law of Labor**—Physical or mental efforts where time and energy are expended in the production of goods or rendering of services.
2. **The Law of Exchange**—A commodity is exchanged for its value in goods, services, or money.
3. **The Law of Love**—Something is given without any desire or expectation of receiving anything in return.

Gambling comes under none of the three above. It is a dishonorable means of transferring money or its equivalent.

Don't brush off the above thoughts too quickly! Think things through and come up with your conclusion as to whether gambling is a sin.

Questions for Discussion

1. How would you define gambling?

2. Is gambling a form of stealing?

3. How wide-spread is gambling?

4. Are the following things gambling?
 ___ Farming
 ___ Insurance
 ___ Investing in a business venture
 ___ Investing in the stock market

5. Is gambling a matter of kind or degree?

6. Why do people gamble?

7. How do people try to justify gambling?

8. What are three legitimate means of transferring money?

9. Is gambling a form of honest work?

Lesson Three

"Profanity and Cursing"

To profane the Name of God and cursing is a grievous sin coming from the lips of mankind. The inspired James stated the problem very well: *"the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell."* (3:6). An Israelite that had blasphemed the Name of God and cursed was stoned to death by God's command (Lev. 24:10-16). Those who define the meaning of these two words (profanity and cursing) show the terribleness of their use—*"Irreverence or contempt for God; to desecrate or misuse anything that should be respected; or to scorn or show disrespectfulness."* Look at what the following Scriptures have to say about such:

Exo. 20:7 _____

Lev. 20:9 _____

Lev. 19:12 _____

Ps. 10:7 _____

Rom. 12:14 _____

Col. 3:8 _____

Matt. 12:36-37 _____

Excuses for such Actions!

The above passages show the seriousness of such use of our tongue. Then, why do humans curse, swear, or express profanity? Evaluate the following ideas:

1. Some thinks that it sounds smart to do so.
2. Because their intellect is weak.
3. To re-enforce their statements.
4. Out of anger or frustration.
5. Because of being full of liquor.
6. Because of habit.

Whatever excuse that is offer—it does not justify our wrong actions!

To Profane _____

To Curse _____

To Swear _____

To Take in vain _____

"Bywords or Slang"

"Bywords" or "Slang" are often used instead of the sacred Names for Deity. These words are considered less offensive or not as objectionable. Notice how they are connected by Webster's New International Dictionary:

1. "Gee Whiz"—Short for Jesus?
2. "Gosh"—instead of God.
3. "Gad, Egad"—instead of God.
4. "Golly"—instead of God.
5. "Good gracious, Good grief, My Goodness"—instead of God.
6. "My Lord," "Lordy—Lordy"—instead of Lord.
7. "Darn"—instead of Damn.
8. "Dickens"—instead of Devil.
9. "Duce"—What the Devil?

Whether you agree with the above or not—Jesus states the issue very clearly—*"But I say to you, do not swear at all: Neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'no' be 'no.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."* (Matt. 5:34-37)!

God's Name used in Vain!

God made it very clear to the Israelites that they were not to use His Name in an irreverent or disrespectful way (Exo. 20:7). His name is to be on our lips in a reverent or respectful way! (Heb. 12:28; Jas. 5:12). There is nothing good to be gained by such actions—but rather, we can bring the wrath of God upon our soul if we do not change our ways. Christians are commanded to: *"Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for edifying as the need may be, that it may give grace to them that hear."* (Eph. 4:29).

The Outcome of Profanity or Cursing

1. **It shows a disrespect for God.** We bring God down—not to our level—to a lower level than us. It fails to make a distinction between the holy and unholy.
2. **We show disrespect for our fellow human beings made in the image of God.** We are God's handiwork—He created us! When we do not show respect for what God has done, we disrespect Him also.
3. **We make ourselves unfit to worship God.** In order to draw near to God we need to "cleanse our hands and purify our hearts" in order to be acceptable to Him (Jas. 4:8).
4. **We allow bad habits to be formed.** We then do it without thinking—it is a habit. To stop such would require us to break the hold of a habit! We are to no longer continue in the way of sin (Rom. 6:1-2).
5. **We set a bad example before others.** We bring shame on the name of Christ by such actions. It lowers the estimate of good people who hear our corrupt speech. (1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Pet. 2:21-23).

Concluding Thoughts

Profanity and Cursing are wrong! Christians must guard their hearts, or out of it will come all kinds of evil (Matt. 15:19-20). Those who use profanity or cursing:

1. Transgress the rules of good manners;
2. Outrage decency;
3. Insult good people;
4. Belittles God and those made in His image.

There is nothing good or nothing to be gained by using such language. It shows contempt of Law, both civil and spiritual. It belittles us before the eyes of good people.

Questions for Discussion

1. Define Profanity.
2. Why is profanity a problem?
3. How does one profane God's Name?
4. What does it mean to curse someone?
5. How do you feel about using "bywords?"
6. Why do people curse, swear, or express profanity?
7. What is the outcome of such?
8. Does the New Testament condemn Profanity?

Lesson Four

"Television Programs (Movies)"

In the last 50 years the over-all moral tone of our country has changed drastically. Even religious groups have given in to some of these changes for the worse. The home has been demoralized. Marriage has been de-emphasized. Divorce has grown rapidly. Raising of children has been passed on to others besides the parents. Etc.

These changes have been brought on by many different things.

1. Women working out of the home where there are small children.
2. Religious interest is declining.
3. Ignorance of the word of God on the part of even religious people.
4. Lack of training and discipline in the home.
5. The liberal element in our society working hard to secularize our country.
6. Fathers not being loving, but firm, heads of their homes.
7. The general rise in affluence of so many people.
8. Possibly...a major factor...the effect by mass communications (Television and the Movie industry).

POSITIVE SIDE OF TV and Movies

It should be obvious that TV and the Movie Industry is neither moral or immoral, but the use made of it. They are like a car--it can be used to take us to worship God; or, used to kill a person (run them over). Or like a gun—it can be used to kill our supper to keep us from starving; or, used to kill an innocent human being. Both the TV and Movies can be used for good or bad. They can be used:

1. To preach the gospel to a lost world;
2. To keep us informed about important events that can affect our lives;
3. But also to weaken, tear-down, or destroy man's moral outlook;
4. Or, mislead, misinform, brain wash all of us, etc.

Television is a wonderful teaching tool. It has a great potential. We can see and hear major happenings in our world. We can actually see a man walk on the moon. It can teach all kinds of subjects. It can teach history as though you were there watching it happen. Parents need to use TV for the best interest of themselves and their children. It can be a wholesome entertainment for the whole family. It has opened up a wonderful world to both young and old. Efforts are still being made to upgrade TV and the Movies by those in positions of

authority. However, the progress is slow and shows little promise of getting better at this point.

Negative side of TV and Movies

A thing that must be remembered—it is the world, not Christians, who write many of the bad programs. Their standards are not like our standards. Money is a big factor in all of this bad programming. So, we should not be surprised that TV and the Movies are used for wrong purposes. Following are some of the bad things that need changing:

1. **It portrays sex as something to be gratified outside of marriage and not be wrong.** (Gal. 5:19-21; Heb. 13:4)
2. **It uses foul language without apology.** (Eph. 4:29, 31)
3. **It portrays homosexuality and Lesbianism as an acceptable lifestyle.** (1 Cor. 6:9; Rom. 1:26-27)
4. **It portrays religious people as being in the dark about life or shows a perverted side of Christianity.** (Phil. 2:12-16; Matt. 5:16).
5. **It encourages violence.** This is a major complaint by concerned parents. (Rom. 12:18, 21)
6. **It makes an appeal to the three avenues of temptation. It promotes immodest apparel and encourages impurity of mind and heart.** (1 Tim. 2:9-10; Phil. 4:8)

What can we do?

A lot of efforts have been made in the past to clean up the TV Programming and the Movies. Some of these efforts have helped for a while and slowly lapses back into their old ways. But what can we do ourselves to help the situation. Evaluate the following suggestions:

1. **Take the TV out of your house and stop going to Movies.** This has been done by some parents, but their children will wind up seeing it in other homes or at school. Such people will miss out on the many good things that TV and the Movies have to offer.
2. **Recognize the potential for good or bad.** Not all TV Programs are bad. We need to have a balanced view—not an extreme position. Extreme views may have a negative effect of our children.
3. **Exercise discipline in regards to their use.** Discipline our time in viewing. Discipline what we see. One of the fruits of the Spirit is "self-control." (Gal. 5:22; 2 Pet. 1:6).

4. Be consistent as a Parent or as a Viewer. Don't say one thing and do another. Don't forbid a child (or yourself) to see something, and then look at it yourself. The child will see inconsistency and hypocrisy in such efforts. Hypocrisy is strongly condemned by Jesus (Matt. 23:23).

5. Recognize the challenge involved. We are in the world, but not of the world (Jn. 17:14-17; Rom. 12:2). We are to be a light to the world (Matt. 5:16). Our challenge is to live right before a lost world that we will not be a hindrance to their being saved.

Concluding Thoughts

The world into which the Gospel first came was wicked—probably more so than ours today. The early Christians did not despair and say, "*Look how evil our world is...there is no hope!*" But they went forth preaching a message of redemption and hope for their world—a message that has changed our world in many ways. Their message was not: "*Look what our world is coming to;*" but "*Look who has come into our world!*" Our job is not to try to force people to do right, but to persuade people to do right by our example and teaching about Christ. He is the hope for a changed world.

Questions for Discussion

- 1. Give three reasons why you watch Television.**

- 2. Give three reasons why you go to movies or rent them.**

- 3. What are some of the bad things about TV and Movies?**

- 4. Do you feel you spend too much time watching TV?**

5. How has TV and the Movies affected my life for good or bad?

6. Can you see any effect on your children?

7. How would the following Scriptures help us deal with the questions about watching TV and Movies?

Rom. 12:1-2 _____

Gal. 6:10 _____

Gal. 5:21 _____

Rom. 1:26-27 _____

Matt. 12:34-37 _____

1 Tim. 2:9 _____

Lesson Five

"Pornography"

It should be obvious to the student of the Bible that every possible sin that mankind can commit is not given in the Bible; but there are several listings that give us a good idea of what is sin and what is not. In the listing given in Gal. 5:19-21, there is a phrase at the end of the listing (v. 21) that says....**"and such like things!"** "Pornography" is one of those such like things! The word does not appear in our English translations, but the word is in the Bible. It comes from two Greek words: **Porne** (Prostitute) and **grapha** (Writings). It has reference to that which arouses sexual desires. Pornography would probably come under such terms as: All uncleanness, lasciviousness, unseemly, unrighteousness, lewdness, lust, etc.

One of the main reasons given for the increase of rape or attempted rape is pornography! Criminals that are finally arrested for such actions have filled their minds with pornographic books, magazines, films, and music. If a person fills his body with tainted food, it makes him sick. Likewise, when a person fills his mind with tainted "media," it perverts his life! In many cases, the desires that pornography arouses literally drive men to ruin the lives of others with their lust. Women and children are the main victims of pornography.

Scriptures on Pornography

The following Scriptures are all closely related to the concept of Pornography;

Rom. 1:26-27 _____

Rom. 1:29 _____

Eph. 5:3-5 _____

Eph. 4:19 _____

Rev. 21:8 _____

Gal. 5:19-21 _____

Matt. 5:27-28 _____

Known by its Fruit!

Jesus said that a tree is known by its fruit. A good tree brings forth good fruit, while a bad tree brings forth bad fruit (Matt. 7:16-20). Pornography bears only bad fruit and therefore must be avoided at all cost by the Christian. Those who produce this kind of filth do so for money, greed, to fill their own pockets. They could care less what harm it can do. Some of the bad fruit that is fostered by Pornography is:

1. **It can negatively affect a marriage.**
2. **It can cause perversions of the sexual drives.**
3. **It can lead to exposing one's self before others.**
4. **It can become addictive and progressive.**
5. **It can help to cause rape, abuse, and even murder.**
6. **It can result in pregnancies for unmarried teenagers.**
7. **It is both degrading to the woman, as well as the man involved.**
8. **Etc.**

The above does not begin to really tell the full story of the bad fruit that comes from pornography.

How can we deal with this sin?

It all depends upon what we fill our minds with—for out of the mind or the heart comes all kinds of evil (Matt. 15:19). The Apostles inspired statement in **Phil. 4:8** is an absolute necessity for the Christian—*"Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."* Because of the addictive nature of pornography, we might need help from others to hold us accountable in our efforts to rid our life of such filth.

All of us can certainly play a part in helping others to deal with this problem in their lives.

1. **We can oppose and reprove the evil (Eph. 5:11).**
2. **We can teach people the truth about such in love (Eph. 4:15).**
3. **We can live the truth before such people. (Matt. 5:13-16).**
4. **We can encourage laws to be passed that will protect children in particular (Rom. 13:1-7).**
5. **We can continually be in the Word of God so that our minds can be renewed (Rom. 12:1-2).**

Concluding Thoughts

Because a person fills his mind with the bad, it will take some time to rid it of such trash. There are counseling centers that do offer help for a person who really wants to turn from pornography. But the Bible (God) is the best counselor if we will but listen to His word. It is important to try to protect our children from such in their teen years. Parents need to talk straight to their children about the dangers of such. It is possible that they can escape the addictiveness of this kind of thinking.

Questions for discussion

1. What is Pornography?

2. Why do you believe that Pornography is a sin and is very dangerous for teenagers?

3. What Scripture would indicate that Pornography is wrong?

4. What are some of the bad fruit that comes from Pornography?

5. Is there any good fruit that comes from such?

6. Who are the people who most likely would get caught up in Pornography?

7. What does Pornography lead a person to do?

8. How well do you handle Pornographic material?

Use to take notes

Lesson Six

"Who Will Get Your Children?"

Our society has been made fearful over possibilities of someone stealing their children. Many children have been stolen away and only a few have been recovered in spite of desperate efforts by parents to find them. How sad! But there are more ways of losing our children than this. This lesson is entitled: "Who will get your children?" This question needs to be seriously considered just as much as though someone would abduct our child, because....someone will get our children! If parents & interested persons do not help our children to give their lives to God with all their heart & soul.....then, others will get them—the Devil, the world, the liquor industry, the drug dealers, the immoral, and the ungodly will get them. What needs to be done....so we can save our children from such?

1. Help them have meaning and purpose for their lives!

In a survey made several years ago, of young people from ages 16-26, a question was asked: *"What is the greatest need you have?"* Over and over they said that they needed meaning for their lives. This age group usually makes some critical decisions during this time in their lives like:

1. Whom they will marry!
2. What will be their life's work!
3. What kind of life they will live!

These young people are asking some very important questions such as:

1. Who am I?
2. Why am I here?
3. Who put me here?
4. Is there a God to whom I owe allegiance?
5. Is there punishment or reward after death?
6. Just what is the meaning of our existence here?
7. What is worth the investment of my efforts?

They need to have these questions answered correctly. They need to be able to establish priorities. At the top of the list should be their relationship with God (Matt. 6:33); then, their relationship to family (Eph. 6:1-4); and then, their relationship with friends (Jn. 13:35). The wise man Solomon stated this concept very clearly—*"Fear God and keep His commandments—for this is the whole duty of man."* (Eccl. 12:1)

2. Remind them that "Fame" is Fleeting!

Youth often set out to make a name for themselves. They try to break records of others. They would like to be better than anyone else. While I was in College, I received several honors. Most people don't even know about such—and could probably care less. What really counts is what I am now, and what can I do now! If we live long enough, life will discard all of our honors that we received earlier in life that we may have worked so hard to achieve. Fame is fleeting!

Eccl. 2:4-11 _____

Matt. 16:26 _____

3. Remind them that Power is Fleeting also!

Some people spend most of their life striving to obtain power—power over other people. They neglect everything else in order to have that power. And then, once attained unto—it is soon gone! A clear example of this is seen in the life of **Don Regan!** He was a powerful man during the Ronald Reagan years in office. He was a man you did not mess with. But one day, he clashed with Nancy Reagan. He was fired—just like that he was gone! He had power to send a detachment of Marines anywhere in the world; but, he was seen carrying his own things out of his former powerful office. Power can be very fleeting also. The Bible is filled with examples of such. Someone wants your power—and often gets it! The same could be said of wealth also!

Eccl. 2:17-20 _____

4. Give them an "end of life" test!

Help them to look at themselves at the end of their life looking back at all they have done and then ask the question: *"What will really count or matter then?"* A man said that he saw a famous athlete die on the gym floor. It caused him to go home and talk to his 17 year old son. He told him about the athlete's death and said: *"It impressed upon me one grand thought—that which I awaken on that resurrection morning, I want you to be there. Nothing will be more important to me than for you to be there with me."* This should be our ultimate goal in life!

Eccl. 12:13 _____

2 Tim. 4:6-8 _____

Phil. 3:12-14 _____

Concluding Thoughts

Who will get your children? Will God, or the World? As a parent you have a great opportunity to help determine which will win the heart of your children. It takes great effort to do it right, but it is worth it all—especially in that day when you stand with them before God!

Questions for Discussion

1. How concerned are we over loosing our children to the world?

2. Where does the Bible place the primary responsibility for teaching and training children?

3. What are some basic things that children need to be taught?

4. Can you help them to see by examples what their goal in life should be?

5. Why do we say that "Fame," "Power," and "Wealth" are fleeting?

6. What is going to really matter in our life when we stand before God in Judgment?

7. What should be the highest goal of Parenting?

8. What role can the church play in all of this?

To Take Notes

