

## Reading Assignments for each lesson

### Lesson 1 – January 11

Romans 13:11-14

In this order: Psalm 24:1, 50:12; I Corinthians 10:26; Galatians 4:4; Colossians 1:19, 2:9;

Ephesians 1:22,23; John 1:16; Ephesians 3:19; I Corinthians 15:28; Ephesians 1:10, 23)

I Corinthians 6:12 – 20

II Corinthians 5:10, 6:7, 16 – 7:1

Jude 1 – 25

John 8:43 – 45

Isaiah 14:12 – 14

Romans 7:5 – 7

Colossians 3:3 – 7

Romans 1:1 – 32

Ephesians 2:1-7

II Peter 1:3-4; 2:12, 18-19; 3:5-11

Genesis 6:11-13

II Peter 3:5-11

Psalm 14:1, 3

### Lesson 2 – January 12

James 1:12-18

James 3:13 to 4:6

I John 2:15-17

Ephesians 2:1-7

Galatians 5:19-21

I Timothy 6:3-12

I Thessalonians 4:3-5

Genesis chapters 1 and 2

Galatians 5:13-26

### Lesson 3 – January 13

John 8:43-45

Romans 7:5-7

Colossians 3:3-7

Ephesians 2:1-7

2 Peter 1:3-4; 2:12, 18-19; 3:5-11

### Lesson 4 – January 14

James 1:12-18

James 3:13 to 4:6

I John 2:15-17

I Timothy 6:3-12

I Thessalonians 4:3-5

Galatians 5:13-26

## Syllabus For Let Us Put on the Armor of Light

### Casting off the Works of Darkness Part 1

- I. Introduction: Romans 13:11-14
  - A. Its high time to wake up, our salvation is near, the night is far spent, the day is at hand.
    1. Therefore:
      - a. Cast off the works of darkness
      - b. Let us put on the armour of light
      - c. Let us walk honestly
      - d. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ
      - e. Make not provision for the flesh
        - 1) To fulfil the lusts there of
        - 2) Not in rioting
        - 3) Not in drunkenness
        - 4) Not in chambering (shacking up, one-night stands, Living together without marriage)
        - 5) Not in wantonness (the trait of lacking restraint or control; reckless freedom from inhibition or worry, no filter)
        - 6) Not in strife
        - 7) Not in envying
  - B. In Lessons 1 and 2 we will be talking about casting off the works of darkness.
  - C. In lessons 3 and 4 we will be talking about putting on the armor of light
- II. Why God cares about our lusts
  - A. God is fully interactive in his created world
    1. The fulness of the world belongs to him (Psalm 24:1, 50:12, I Corinthians 10:26 – including you)
    2. In the fullness he sent his son into the world (Galatians 4:4)
    3. The fullness of the Godhead dwells in Jesus (Colossians 1:19)
    4. Because of what Jesus did all fullness belongs to him (Colossians 2:9 – including you)
    5. The church is the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 1:22,23 – you if you are a church member)
    6. Of Christ's fullness believers receive grace and truth (John 1:16 – that's you.)
    7. As believers we can be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19 – that's you)
    8. In the fullness of time God will gather all things into Christ and God will be all in all (1 Corinthians 15:28, Ephesians 1:10, 23 – including you)
    9. Romans 12:1
  - B. God does not speak man into existence but forms him from the ground and from a rib.
    1. We are made in his image – much of our personalities correspond to his personality
    2. In our body is the only place where time and eternity intersect. Our body returns to the ground. Our Spirit returns to God. It's the only place where God can dwell beside heaven.
    3. Because of that image, Jesus could be full man and fully God without distorting the image of either being.
    4. Scripture says:
      - a. Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ I Corinthians 6:15
      - b. For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done whether it be good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

- III. Why study lusts?
- A. 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 We are the temple where God lives, dwells, walks, and calls us family
    1. Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate
    2. Touch not the unclean thing
      - a. and I will receive you.
      - b. And will be a father unto you
      - c. And you shall be my sons and daughters
  - B. Difference between desires and lusts – no need for false guilt/clearly understand the concept
    1. Desires – normal, very similar to God’s desire, part of the image of God in us
    2. Lusts – inordinate, all consuming, controlling passions that will not consider other’s needs, desires, nor regard the boundaries of relationships. The satisfaction of me.
  - C. Three reasons given in Jude 14 – 23
    1. God intends to judge lustful people – Jude 14-16
    2. Sign of the end times – Jude 17-18
    3. We are commanded to help others overcome lusts Jude 22, 23 – need to know what we are talking about to be evangelistic.
- IV. Origin of Lusts John 8:43-45
- A. Because God is all knowing he knows what he is and he knows what he is not.
  - B. Because he is almighty, He chooses to be who he is – good Nothing beyond him created him.
  - C. Because he is holy and righteous, He decides what is evil – who he is not
  - D. Isaiah 14:12—14 – Satan in choosing to be like the most high had to create a reality that did not include God or who God is. Thus, evil became reality.
  - E. Satan
    1. Lusts – pride (I Timothy 3:6, 7)
    2. Murders – death instead of life.
    3. Lies – instead of truth.
    4. Worships self – not his creator
- V. Our Lust of self-worship leads to vain religion
- A. Axiom of Logic: If A = B and if B = C, then A = C
    1. Romans 7:5-7 (if) lust = covetousness
    2. Colossians 3:3-7 (and) covetousness = idolatry
    3. then lust = idolatry.
  - B. Before the fall Adam and Eve worshiped the God in whose image they were made.
  - C. After the Fall Adam and Eve worshipped the image of the God who made them – themselves.
 

As those who bear the image of God, but who are now corrupt and dying, we try to be lords of our isolated, self-centered world. We strive to be our own source of life, but we do not have true life. Our existence in this corrupted world is overshadowed by imminent death; but we long to live. The inner drive of lust moves us to desire to live but enslaves us to a living death in sin. (John :34)
  - D. Romans 1 details the effects of idol worship/idolatry has an object of affection, desire and worship – we sacrifice things of value to feed our passions and long for the blessings these lusts bring to us.
  - E. Ephesians 2:1-7
    1. Mark 1:40-45 leper who didn’t obey Christ
    2. Serving God on our own terms is iniquity (Luke 13:26, 27, Matthew 7:21-23)
      - a. Working iniquity is a form of willful disobedience where we pick and choose how we will serve God.
      - b. Church problems stem more from self rather than society infiltrating the church – all church problems stem from someone living by lusts.

- F. There is no power in vain religion
  - 1. II Peter 2:18-20 entangled again in world's pollution
  - 2. I Timothy 1:3-7 lack of sound doctrine leads to vain jangling
  - 3. 2 Timothy 4:3 after their own lust they promote things contrary to sound doctrine
  - 4. No victory over sinful desires/no power to live righteously. Lust keeps church rituals and standards but does not live by love or produce the fruit of the Spirit

VI. Lusts corrupts the world 2 Peter 1:3,4

- A. Corruption corresponds to destruction
  - 1. Hebrew – death, violence, destruction and rotting
    - a. Geneses 6:11-13 (corrupt and destroy) 2 Peter 3:5-11
    - b. Isaiah 24:5 The earth is defiled – a description of our world
  - 2. Greek – Perish (Colossians 2:22) and destroy (2 Peter 2:12)
    - a. 2 Peter 2:12
    - b. 2 Peter 2:18-19
- B. When we give in to our lusts, corruption slowly overtakes our hearts and minds, binding us to its will and corrupting the image of God in us. – a corpse is a good example
- C. Leads people to deny God exists – Psalms 14:1,3 see also Romans 1:19-32
- D. As the world wears out like a garment, corruption of lust lingers on, but God makes a way of escape (Isaiah 51:6 and Hebrews 1:10-12)

## Syllabus For Let Us Put on the Armor of Light

### Casting off the Works of Darkness, part 2

- VII. Lust verses temptations James 1:12-18
- A. Misconceptions about lust
    1. God is all powerful and he allows evil to exist, doing nothing to stop it – so he is accountable
    2. God and evil are equal in power, so God can't really do anything about evil – so why worship him or worry about him judging us.
    3. God made me the way I am, so he cannot hold me responsible for my actions
    4. God created evolution and so now he cannot intervene in stopping evil
    5. God isn't all knowing so he can't stop lusts and sin everywhere or every time.
  - B. Truth about lust
    1. God is not tempted by evil, nor does he use evil to tempt anyone into sin
    2. James 1:14-15 paradigm shift
      - a. **NOT: We are tempted; therefore, we lust**
      - b. **REALITY: We lust; therefore, we are tempted**
    3. Dealing only with temptations will never solve the problem of lusts. Matthew 15:17-19, Romans 6:12
    4. Sperm + egg = pregnancy that must give birth (live, still born or aborted) = Baby who as he/she matures becomes a contribution to the human race
    5. Lust + temptation = pregnancy that will give birth (on our own we cannot stop it) = Sin which as it matures causes pain, sorrow, corruption, and death
- VIII. Separation caused by lust James 3:13 – 4:6
- A. Bug and windshield story
  - B. Mathematics of sin
    1. One act of kindness can change the world
    2. Even so one act of lust can change the world
  - C. Sin is never an isolated incident
    1. Joseph and Potiphar's wife
    2. I Corinthians 6:18 – sexual sin against our own body
    3. I Corinthians 8:10-12 – we can sin against the church and Christ
    4. I Peter 2:11—sin wars against our soul
  - D. Lust is never private
    1. Law of sin and death
    2. Law of sowing and reaping
  - E. We are victims of our own lusts
    1. Keeps us confused, distracted and discontent
    2. We judge, label, and condemn other people
    3. We long for connection with others but find ourselves separated. The magnitude of the gulf between people is proportionate to the strength of the lust within.
- VIII. Lusts of flesh, eyes, heart, soul, and pride of life I John 2:15-17
- A. Most human behaviors are driven by the lusts of the eyes, flesh, and pride of life
  - B. Lusts of the eyes – Images are powerful temptations that seek to connect with our lusts – Achan
  - C. Lusts of the flesh
    1. Physical and emotional desires built into us by the image of God
    2. Romans 1:24 – the lusts of our hearts

3. Ephesians 2:3 – the desires of our hearts and minds
4. Galatians 5:19-21 -- Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21 KJV)

D. Lusts of Pride of Life

1. I Timothy 3:6, 7 – one of the first lusts of the devil – traditionally the cause of all sin
2. Proverbs 13:10 and Jude 10 – pride produces contention and strife – the same effects as fleshly lusts
3. Social Media driven by the pride of life – talking about self produces same sensations of pleasure in the brain as eating, receiving money, or enjoy sexual activity.
4. Dale Carnegie the desire to feel important is something almost everyone wants but that is rarely satisfied.

IX. Lust of Materialism I Timothy 6:3-12

- A. Love of money = perverse disputings, corrupt minds, destitute of the truth, evil surmisings, piercing sorrows, temptation, snares, and perdition – mansion in Chicago.
- B. Ecclesiastes 5:10 – he that loves silver is not satisfied with silver/loves abundance not satisfied with increase – self storage units
- C. Ecclesiastes 5:12-16 – riches kept for the owners there of leads to sleeplessness, they perish by evil travail and its working to gain the wind. – stock markets
- D. 2 Corinthians 8:14 – money and material are fluid – use our abundance to help others want so they will help us in our want
- E. Rich Young ruler – harder for a rich man to get into heaven than a camel through a needle (Luke uses the Greek word for syringe)

X. Lust of sex I Thessalonians 4:3-5

- A. Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. (Hebrews 13:4 KJV) – same activities but different results
- B. To understand perversion, we need to understanding the correct, God ordained/created use of sex
  1. God made our genders in his image
    - a. Male and female are first mentioned in scripture in the creation of humankind
    - b. People are not spoken into existence, but formed by God's hand (our of dirt and out of a rib)
    - c. Ephesians 5:32 – it's a great mystery – the relationship between a man and a woman is somehow connected to God's nature (image) and what he is attempting to accomplish in the course of history. ( Ephesians 5 and Revelations 21)
    - d. Psalm 139:13-16 – everyone of us is carefully crafted in the womb by the choice of DNA, giving us a soul, numbering our days, writing this information down in a book, and our gender.
  2. God is pleased and glorified by sexual relationships within marriage
    - a. Jesus – Mark 10:6-9
    - b. Not made from two mounds of dirt and left to discover each other
    - c. Made from a rib (something close to Adam's heart) and brought back to him – given to him
    - d. A marriage relationship is exclusive and unique because of their personalities
    - e. The relationship is face to face enabling psychological and emotional closeness
    - f. The relationship is a closed loop
      - 1) Protects from sexually transmitted diseases
      - 2) Develops trust and love that goes to depths and heights of intimacy other cannot participate in

3. God made our genders to produce life
    - a. Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth – our genders allow us to form relationships that produce life
    - b. Sexual relations are very pleasurable, but not created for pleasure – created to give life
      - 1) To the relationship – doesn't have to produce a baby every time
      - 2) To another human being
  4. God intends for sexual relationships to create a family
    - a. Genesis 2:24 – therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh
      - 1) Our culture sees men and women in a contractual agreement so divorce, remarriage, same sex, having children without a marriage are acceptable
      - 2) God sees the man and woman as melded together into one creating a family whether with or without children
    - b. Marriage creates a safe nurturing environment for the children to grow and mature
    - c. Any other use of sex is a lust-based perversion
  - C. The perversion of lust – How the world views sex
    1. Any form of sex is natural and no one is accountable to a moral standard as long as there is mutual consent
    2. Lust requires ever more exciting experiences and thrills
    3. Lust destroys the very thing it is meant to create – corrupting the image of God in us
    4. Lust demands my cravings be satisfied – not how can I meet your cravings and satisfy you
    5. Adultery is lying, cheating, clandestine, and destructive to the closed loop of a marriage – it's the worship of the experience of intimacy
    6. Homosexuality cannot produce life – is the worship of the male image or the female image in another person
    7. Masturbation produces no life, produces no relationship, and forms no family
      - a. It's based on lies – fantasy about the situation or persons turning you on, fantasy about your own attractiveness, fantasy about how satisfying the sex really is.
      - b. It is the worship of the orgasm.
    8. Sodomy, masochism, sadomasochism, incest, rape are all perversions (See Leviticus 18)
- XI. Spiritual defeat Galatians 5:13-26
- A. Romans 7:18
  - B. Liberty in Christ cannot be used to satisfy our fleshly lusts
  - C. Lust cannot love or serve others
  - D. Lust leads to biting and devouring each other
  - E. The flesh continuously lusts against the Holy Spirit

## Syllabus For Let Us Put on the Armor of Light

### Put on the Armor of Light, Part 1

- I. **Light of divine nature 2 Peter 1:3, 4**
  - A. The light of God becomes a dynamo within us changing us into light in a dark world
  - B. To live above lusts does not come from simply battling deeds of darkness. The power and protection we need comes from God's light – his tools
  - C. God's divine power gives us a divine nature
    1. Our carnal nature is controlled by the law of sin and death
    2. God's nature exudes life –
      - a. born again
      - b. new creation/new creature
      - c. Godliness
      - d. Conformed to the image of Christ
  - D. God's divine power gives us divine promises
    1. precious – only God can give and keep
    2. exceeding great – glory and virtue
- II. **Light of heavenly wisdom James 3:13 – 4:6**
  - A. Mark 7:20-23—Why is the word foolishness in that list? Means morally reckless.
  - B. Colossians 2:3 – Jesus is our wisdom
  - C. Matthew 12:42 – Jesus' wisdom exceeds Solomon
  - D. I Corinthians 1:24 – Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God
  - E. I Corinthians 1:30 – Christ is wisdom righteousness and sanctification and redemption
  - F. Ephesians 1:17-19 – The Father wants to give us the spirit of wisdom
  - G. Colossians 1:9 – wants us to be filled with knowledge based on wisdom and spiritual understanding
  - H. Elements of wisdom
    1. Oneness/unity – Deuteronomy 6:4/Duet 6:5/Gal 3:28/Ephesians 4:4, 5
    2. Soberly, righteously, godly -- Titus 2:11, 12
    3. Spiritual disciplines of fasting, prayer, Bible reading, study, meditation, and memorization
    4. Church Standard
    5. Purity Titus 1:15, 16
    6. Peaceable
    7. Gentleness – required for ordination and it is a fruit of the spirit – also meekness and compassion
    8. Easily entreated
    9. Full of mercy, good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy
    10. Produces the fruit of righteousness—creates an environment for growth
- III. **Light of Freedom in Christ Romans 7:5-7**
  - A. Jesus was born under the law and yet was full of grace
  - B. All human beings are concluded all under sin and we were kept under the law Galatians 3:22, 23 – we are powerless to keep it so we are all guilty of breaking the law
  - C. Every one's conscience informs people they are guilty because they know what is good and evil – even if they do not know the law – the law could not purge the conscience
  - D. Jesus



1. Fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17, 18)
  2. Fulfilled the righteousness of the law
  3. frees us from the law's consequences (Galatians 4:4, 5)
  4. Justified us (Acts 13:39)
  5. Became the end of following the Law for righteousness (Romans 10:4)
  6. Is our husband – not the law (Romans 7:4)
  7. Purges our consciences and empowers us to life for God (Hebrews 9:13,14)
- E. Saving grace does the same thing to the law of sin and death that Jesus did to the law of Moses
- F. Grace
1. Frees us from the law (Roman 5:20, 21)
  2. Redeems us and makes us accepted (Ephesians 1:6, 7)
  3. Justifies us (Titus 3:7; Romans 3:24)
  4. Ends the dominion of the Law (Romans 4:14)
- G. New laws
1. Law of faith
  2. Law of Christ
  3. Law of liberty

**IV. Light of Protection Colossians 3:3-7**

- A. Protection for everyday living – hidden in Christ who refused to give into temptation Romans 6:6/Galatians 5:24/Galatians 5:16/I Peter 4:1-5
- B. Protection for our minds – adventure of transformation Ephesians 4:20-24/Romans 12:1, 2)
- C. Protection for our hearts – 2 Timothy 2:22/ Hebrews 10:22
- D. Protection within the church – We cannot be a Christian by ourselves, we are saved into the body of Christ and separated unto God

**V. The light of the living word John 8:43-45 /John 12:44-50**

- A. John 17:17 – God's word is truth that sanctifies us – or separates us for holy, sacred use
- B. John 8:31, 32 – His words identify us as his disciples and his truth frees us
- C. John 15:3 – God's word cleanses us
- D. Hebrews 4:12-14 – When we work out in the word of God we can discern what is good and evil
- E. John 14:24-26 – We prove our love and our faithfulness to the Holy Spirit's leading when we keep Jesus and the Father's sayings.
- F. John 12:48 – If you have heard the word of God even once it will judge you – His word is everlasting life.
- G. Luke 24:45 – God will open our understanding of the scriptures.

**VI. The Light of God's will I John 2:15-17**

- A. Victory over temptation is absolute surrender to the will of God
- B. Galatians 1:3-5 His will is to deliver us from the present evil age
- C. 2 Peter 3:9 God does not want us to perish in the corruption caused by lust
- D. I Timothy 2:4 God wants all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth
- E. We are sent into the world much like Jesus seek the lost, do the father's will and keep his word – therefore we must not seek to fulfill our lusts but to do the will of God
- F. Romans 12:1, 2 – we must sacrifice the body to know the will of God

## **Syllabus For Let Us Put on the Armor of Light**

### **Put on the Armor of Light, Part 2**

#### **VII. Light of a gifted brotherhood James 1:12-18**

- A. Gifts given to be conquerors
  - 1. Jesus – John 4:10
  - 2. The Holy Spirit – Acts 2:38 (see 8:20, 10:45, 1:17)
  - 3. Grace – Romans 5:15/Ephesians 2:8
  - 4. Justification, righteousness, eternal life – Romans 5:16-21
- B. Gifts of leadership, mentoring, discipling and love – Ephesians 4:8-13
  - 1. Apostles, pastors, teachers, evangelists, prophets
  - 2. Perfecting the saints/doing ministry/ edifying the body of Christ
  - 3. So believers can grow in unity of faith, in knowledge of the Son, into a complete or perfect person, maturing into the stature of the fulness of Christ.
- C. Divine gifts of the Holy Spirit given by Grace and prophecy and laying on of hands to meet the needs of the church Hebrews 2:4, 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6, Romans 12:6-8/1 Corinthians 12

#### **VIII. Light of community Ephesians 2:1-7**

- A. Quickened together – in life
  - 1. Adam's rib taken from his side and brought back to him as a woman
  - 2. Blood flowed from Jesus side and is brought back to him as his church – blood washed sinners
  - 3. My relationship with Christ matters not my relationship with the church is the same idea as my problems with lust are private and I can deal with them on my own results in disinterest in the church and the kingdom of God and few public confessions or expressions of repentance
- B. Raised up together – in mission
  - 1. God rouses us to contend with evil and evangelize the world under his banner we live together in love, unity and purity, displaying the fruit of the Spirit
  - 2. A congregation living as Jesus loved will exhort, hold accountable, support, disciple, encourage
- C. Together in relationship
  - 1. Our values compete with the group values
  - 2. Our independence is sometimes lost by participating in the group
  - 3. We tend to compete instead of rejoicing in other's growth and accomplishments
  - 4. We tend to hold other's weaknesses against them instead of giving the space to grow
  - 5. We want to care for ourself so we resist the need to care for others
  - 6. Belonging should always be a road that leads to personal becoming
- D. So that God might show the exceeding riches of His grace in his kindness towards us in Christ Jesus

#### **IX. Light of contentment 1 Timothy 6:3-12**

- A. Marching orders to overcome materialism
  - 1. From those who think gain is godliness withdraw yourself
  - 2. Flee these things – get out of the situation Hebrews 13:5 be content because Jesus is with you
  - 3. Follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness until you amass them like a hoarded treasure of materialistic things (Matthew 6:33)
  - 4. Fight the good fight of faith – called to battle

5. Seize or lay hold on eternal life – contentment (if discontent we have forgotten that we came into this world with nothing and we will take nothing out with us when we go)

**X. Light of honored vessels I Thessalonians 4:3-5**

- A. Vessel is a reference to our bodies, minds, heart soul, experiences and calling
- B. Bible references earthen vessels, chosen vessels
- C. Body is the temple of God – do we keep it undefiled/do we treat others as temples
- D. Possess our bodies and possess our souls (Luke 21:19)
- E. We must possess our bodies with the value, dignity and esteem God created them to receive.
- F. Marching orders
  1. Abstain from fornication – starts in the mind and begins to assign sexual innuendos into all experience and conversations
  2. I Corinthians 6:9-20 food is for the stomach and the stomach for food (both will be destroyed so don't be controlled by appetites).
  3. The body was made for the Lord and the Lord for the body (our bodies weren't just made for sex)
    - a. God created our body
    - b. Jesus bought and redeemed our body
    - c. The Holy Spirit inhabits our body
    - d. Our soul and spirit exist in the body
    - e. Salvation, sanctification, justification happen in the body
    - f. The body will be resurrected
  4. Moral purity is not just the absence of lustful thoughts but replacing them with godly thoughts and attitudes Titus 2:11-13

**XI. Light of a high calling Galatians 5:13-26**

- A. We are called to liberty
- B. We are called to serve in love
- C. We are called to walk in the Spirit
  1. We are to be occupied in good works (Ephesians 2:10)
  2. We are to be occupied in love (Ephesians 5:2)
  3. We are to be occupied with light (Ephesians 5:8)
  4. We are to be occupied with Christ (Colossians 2:6)
  5. We are to be occupied with wisdom (Colossians 4:5)
- D. We are called to bear the fruit of the Spirit
- E. We are called to live in reality (Galatians 5:24)