

Keep a Constant Vigil for the Days Are Dark

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ [who is] our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore, put to death your members, which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.”
(Colossians 3:1-7 NKJV)

The call is to all who name the name of Christ. Have you been raised with Christ? If you have, then you must do two things. Set your mind on things above and put to death your members.

This is a needed exhortation for the days in which we live are increasingly wicked. That does not mean we are without hope. No! God is able to renew our strength, and send His Spirit mightily among His people. Pray that He does.

However, there is no doubt that the moral separation between the world and the church has narrowed. Reports are that in some areas the world is even more moral than the church. If this is true then the days are indeed dark.

Therefore, it is vitally important that we set our minds on the things above, not on the things of earth. We have 24 hours in a day in which we engage various tasks. Work obviously consumes about a third of that time. If you sleep the normal eight hours, another third is consumed. That leaves another third more or less at your discretion. What do you do with that third?

Now understand that even the time during which you are working, you can set your mind on the things above. Not meditation, but an ongoing conversation with God about the things you are facing each hour. The Scriptures might call that praying without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17). However, focus on that discretionary time for a moment.

Do you spend it sitting in front of a television? Do you fill every spare moment with some hobby? How much time do you spend reading, meditating, and praying? Paul said you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Believer, you were to have died to your old way of life. If you have, you are to set your mind on the things above. This requires that you engage your mind in spiritual activities. This in turn will help you by the Holy Spirit to fulfill the next mandate, which is to put to death your members.

He is speaking of the flesh and the deeds of the flesh. Will you consider just one example of how to put to death your members? Meditating on God allows God to draw near to you. His nearness will then magnify the sinfulness of all fleshly desires making it easier to resist them. However, watching perversion after perversion on television grieves the Holy Spirit of God.

Oh how God's anger must boil when a believer cries. “Lord, deliver me from this lust,” and every night he sets before his eyes a parade of sinful pleasures. Living vicariously through the lusty characters on television is all but engaging in the sin physically. It is a violation of God's holy law!

These are the things that bring the wrath of God. Will a believer engage in such things? Keep watch over your soul. "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7 NKJV)

Dear God, the days are indeed dark. Perversion is increasing in our churches. Please have mercy on your children. How shall we glorify you in this disgraceful condition? Purge us Lord with your Holy Spirit. Please burn conviction into the hearts of your people. Revive us. We desperately need you Lord, amen.