



The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and
make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

Romans 13:12-14

Provision: Greek: *pronoia* “forethought” (*pro*, “before,” *noeo*, “to think”) – Vines Dictionary

MAKE NO PROVISION

Don't think about the lusts of the flesh. Letting your mind dwell on them provides fertile soil where they can grow and break out in actions.

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

James 1:13-16

Stay away from places or circumstances where the lusts can be fulfilled. Remember, one does not go to the donut shop and just smell the donuts.

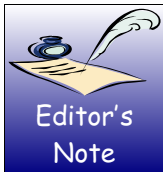
“Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,” says the Lord. “AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me” says the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

Don't hang around worldly-minded people. Don't think you are so strong that you are beyond being influenced by them.

Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.” Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

1 Corinthians 15:33-34



Having preached the Gospel for many years, I found that there was one thing that I had to constantly watch: not letting the compliments made by members and the esteem of the position cause me to think too highly of myself. Being praised as an evangelist can easily go to one's head, if unchecked.

You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?

Romans 2:21

Teach Yourself

THE SITUATION

The Pharisees taught others what to do, but exempted themselves.

"The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them."

Matthew 23:2-3

And [you] are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?

Romans 2:19-21

LESSON

Teachers and proclaimers of God's word need to be careful to practice what they preach. They must live it as well teach it. Someone once said that when you point a finger at others, three other fingers are pointing back at you. One who teaches others not to be prideful is not exempt from the prohibition.

Be Not Proudful

In the parable found in Luke 18:9-14, Jesus used a Pharisee to illustrate the lack of humility.

[:9] And He [Jesus] also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt.

[:12] "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.'"

LESSON

He was proud of himself. ("He prayed to himself"). He viewed himself as righteous and viewed others with contempt. Today, one would say he was so full of himself he could strut sitting down. His pride had blinded him. Pride can blind one today, including preachers. Once I heard a preacher say, "Some are full of pride, but they don't realize it." Sadly, he was blind to his own pride. **He failed to teach himself.**

SELF-DECEPTION



Pride's Peculiarities

Pride is a peculiar disease; it makes everyone sick but the person who has it.

"I'm not bragging, I'm just stating facts." Hmmm ... Really?

SIGHT

The Hubble telescope allows one to see what the unaided eye can not see. Electron microscopes allows one to see what the unaided eye can not see. Infrared cameras can see what the unaided eye can not see. Heat-sensing cameras can see things in the dark what the unaided eye cannot see.

In like manner the “eye of faith” helps us see things that are not visible to the human eye. With it we are able to “see more than meets the eye.”

[FULL TEXT IN COLUMN 2]

SEEN WITH THE PHYSICAL EYE

- 4:16 outer man decaying
- 4:17 momentary light affliction
- 5:1 earthly tent (body of flesh)

SEEN WITH THE EYE OF FAITH

- 4:16 inner man
- 4:17 eternal weight of glory
- 5:1 building from God
- 5:5 Spirit
- 5:8 home with the Lord
- 5:10 judgment seat

FAITH

Faith gives substance (foundation) for things hoped for. Spiritual things become real to us.

Hebrews 11:1

Faith convinces us of the existence of things not seen. Spiritual things become “visible.”

Hebrews 11:10,13

Faith in the resurrection of Jesus gives substance to our personal resurrection.

1 Thessalonians 4:14

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10

[4:16] *Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our **outer man is decaying**, yet our **inner man** is being renewed day by day. [17] For **momentary, light affliction** is producing for us an **eternal weight of glory** far beyond all comparison, [18] while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

[5:1] *For we know that if the **earthly tent** which is our house is torn down, we have a **building from God**, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

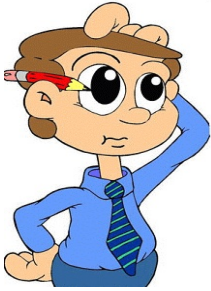
[2] *For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, [3] inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. [4] For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.*

[5] *Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the **Spirit** as a pledge.*

[6] *Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord– [7] for we walk by faith, not by sight– [8] we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at **home with the Lord**.*

[9] *Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. [10] For we must all appear before the **judgment seat** of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

**When one is spiritually myopic, judgment seems afar off.
When God seems distant, one loses sight of His divine power.
Weak faith and weak spiritual-sight go hand-in-hand.**



Ponder This

Pride

God never intended for us to “pat ourselves on the back” – otherwise he would have connected our arms differently.

*Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;
a stranger, and not your own lips.*

Proverbs 27:2

An uplifted nose keeps one from seeing where
he’s going.

*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit
before stumbling.*

Proverbs 16:18

Pride is a fine asset to have, as long as it helps
you keep you chin up, instead of your nose.

*“ ... I say to every man among you not to think
more highly of himself than he ought to think;
but to think so as to have sound judgment ... ”*

Romans 12:3

Favorite Hymn of the Proud of Heart

“How Great I Am”

(Subtitle: Singing My Praises)

Look up to me you people.
Admire my many great qualities;
Praise my wonderful works that abound.
Elevate me to a place of honor,
For in me no fault or flaw can be found.

Chorus:

How great I am, how great I am, Oh, how great
I am!

FOOTNOTE:

[There is no suitable melody for these lyrics.]

A Borrowed Thought

Selected Thoughts From A Daily Journal

Every man must be concerned about crossing the line between ordinate self-esteem and egotistic pride. The line is thin — almost imperceptible at times. To recognize it, one must know himself well and be able to judge himself objectively. To do that calls for not only great wisdom, but great courage as well.

– from the book “That’s Life” by Dee Bowman

*For through the grace given to me I say to every
man among you not to think more highly of
himself than he ought to think; but to think
so as to have sound judgment, as God has
allotted to each a measure of faith.*

Romans 12:3



Pearls from Proverbs

*When pride comes, then comes dishonor,
But with the humble is wisdom.*

Proverbs 11:2

*Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty
spirit before stumbling.*

Proverbs 16:18

*A man’s pride will bring him low, But a
humble spirit will obtain honor.*

Proverbs 29:23

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Articles written by others are duly noted.

Bible references are from the NASB except where
another translation is referenced.

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