

THE WORLD VS. THE CHRISTIAN

Study this lesson carefully before answering the questions.

A. WORLDLY TEMTATIONS ARE OUR ENEMIES



We now come to the third and last lesson on the enemies which the Christian will meet on his way to Heaven. Can you remember the other two lessons? The first one was about our terrible enemy Satan. Last month we learned about our old desires to do wrong. This month we are going to learn about the enemy we call "**The World.**" This does not mean that the earth and all the people on it are our enemies. When we speak of "**The World**" and our Christian living, we are thinking of the many things around us which Satan uses to keep us from living for Jesus. These may be things we see and hear, places we might go, and friends we might follow. Satan will do anything he can to stir up our old desires and cause us at times even to forget God.

Satan makes the things in the world which are not pleasing to God look good to us. In this way he makes us want them. If we get or do these worldly things, we will find out that Satan lied to us. Then we will wish we had obeyed God. Sometimes Christians live in the sins of the world so long that their bodies become weak and even die. No one should use his body in such a way, especially a Christian.

B. WHY SHOULD WE TAKE CARE OF OUR BODIES?

After we are saved, our bodies and all the things we have, belong to the Lord Jesus. Belonging to Him should make us want to obey Him. He paid a great price for our salvation. This price was His own precious blood on the cross. The following story may help you understand.

A boy made a boat. He was very proud of it. One day he was playing with it and a big wave came in and carried it off. His precious boat was lost! Several weeks later, he saw his very own boat in a store window. He rushed in and asked the man to give it to him, explaining how he had lost it. The man said, "I'm sorry, but you must pay the price that is on it. I bought it from someone else." He asked the man to keep it until he had earned enough money to pay for it. Then he went and paid for his boat after he had earned the money. He was thrilled to have it again and said lovingly, as he walked home, "You are **mine!** I made you! You were lost. I bought you! You are mine!"

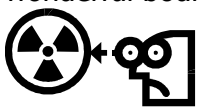


This is what Jesus lovingly says to us, "I made you. You were lost in sin. I bought you with My own precious blood and now **you are mine!**"

When we buy a house, we expect to use all of it. Christ has bought us. He should have every part of us—our eyes, lips, ears, hands and feet. What would you think of someone who sold you a house and then said, "you may use every part of the house except the kitchen, the stairs and the front bedroom." Yet many Christians treat the Lord Jesus this way. How careful we should be to give our all to Him. When we give every part of our bodies to Christ, He uses them in the very best way.

C. TEMPERANCE

The word "temperance" is usually used in speaking of those who do not drink beer, whisky, or other alcoholic drinks. However, it also means not doing or saying **anything** that would harm these wonderful bodies of ours. Temperance means to control yourself in eating, spending money, playing, watching television, etc. These things can be helpful if used in the right way. However they can even ruin our bodies if used in the wrong way. A Christian should also be temperate in the kind of clothing worn. A saved person is to be like a mirror



and show the Lord Jesus—to act the way He would act, and to speak the way He would speak.

D. WHISKY, BEER AND OTHER ALCOHOLIC DRINKS HARM OUR BODIES

Our bodies are the most wonderful things in the world. They can do much more than any machine ever made. As a brick house is made out of bricks, our bodies are made of millions of living cells.



These cells are so small that they cannot be seen without a microscope. Each cell is made of something that looks like jelly. This is easily hurt or killed by poisons in the body. **Alcohol**, found in beer, whisky, etc., is **poison**. Some people can drink it a long time without noticing that these cells are being killed. Suddenly, they find their bodies are broken down. No two bodies are alike. Some take longer to break down than others, but they all break down sooner or later. The moment alcohol enters the body, the nerves and the brain are poisoned. They get slow and dull. When it reaches other parts of the body, they too are poisoned. This why a person who drinks alcohol becomes dull and stupid. He cannot see clearly, nor is he able to feel as he should. **Alcohol is very harmful** to the body. **Never drink it in any form.** One drink demands another, and another, and another until it is hard to stop. **Do not take your first drink and then you will never need to try to stop.**

E. TOBACCO HARMS OUR BODIES

Nicotine, found in tobacco, is a deadly poison and highly addictive whether it is in chewing form or in a cigarette. Tobacco causes cancer, heart disease, emphysema, and many more diseases and causes 1 in 5 deaths in the US each year. Millions of people suffer illness each year from using tobacco or inhaling second hand smoke from someone smoking nearby. Once a person becomes addicted to nicotine they will battle the desire to use tobacco for the rest of their lives. Despite how glamorous TV and movie stars try to look when they are smoking, they are only acting! Tobacco users have bad breath, unattractive teeth, smell bad from the smoke, and are unattractive. Never use tobacco when someone asks you to try it!

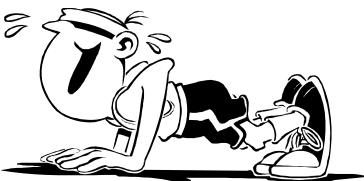


F. OTHER THINGS HARM OUR BODIES

There are many other bad habits besides using alcohol and tobacco which will harm the body such as illegal drugs. Don't let anything worldly hurt you. Study these verses and do what they say. I Corinthians 6:19, 20; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Colossians 3:1-4, 17.

G. LIVE FOR JESUS

Remember—you do not belong to yourself any longer. Christ has bought you. Therefore, you should serve Him with your **whole** body. Christ lives in you. He will give you all the strength you need to stay away from worldly things, **if** you pray for it (Philippians 4:13). Keep away from alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs as you would from a rattlesnake! Let others call you "yellow," "softie," or "chicken" all they want to, but stand firm and say, **"No!"**



Ask the Lord Jesus to help you to say "No!" Do not let Satan chain you to alcohol, tobacco, drugs or any other worldly habits. Be strong in the Lord and have clear mind and a healthy body, free from bad habits (Isaiah 41:10, 26:3, 4). Do not ruin your body and your life. Give God a healthy body (Romans 12:1, 2). Remember, God holds us responsible for what we do with anything that belongs to Him—our bodies, our money, our time, all that we are and all that we have. We will have to report to Him as to how we lived since we were saved (Romans 14:12). Don't miss out on your rewards by using alcohol or tobacco or anything else that would keep you from being your best for the Lord Jesus Christ.