

Spiritual Contrasts to Secular Things

I. Introduction: Sometimes we need things drawn out for us (**Matthew 21:28-32**).

- A. A Christian's life should be different from the world (**Galatians 1:4, Ephesians 2:1-5, Colossians 3:5-7, and James 4:4**).
 - 1. We need a spiritual focus in our lives (**Colossians 1:9-10**).
 - 2. Folks, we need to examine ourselves to make sure we are not condemned with this world (**I Corinthians 11:31-32**).
- B. Are we more focused on carnal things than spiritual (**Galatians 6:8**)?
 - 1. To what are you indebted (**Romans 8:12-14**)?
 - 2. What side of the battle are you invested in (**Galatians 5:16-17**; cf. **Luke 12:34**)?

II. Body: Are spiritual things foolish to us (**I Corinthians 2:14-15**)?

- A. Consider how we look at the preaching of truth (**Ezekiel 33:30-33**).
 - 1. After 3 hours in the waiting room: "Doctor, tell me if I'm dying... Doc, give me what I need to live... You're great Doc" *versus* "preacher, tell me I'm going to Heaven... Preacher, you'd better just stick to the approved subjects... Preacher, you stink" (**Isaiah 30:20-21, Isaiah 62:6, Jonah 3:1-2, Mark 6:12, I Corinthians 2:1-5; 13, II Corinthians 3:12, I Thessalonians 2:1-8, I Timothy 1:3-4, and II Timothy 4:2-5**).
 - 2. "Yes! The game is going into overtime... What a great movie, I didn't notice it was 3 hours long... I've seen this movie seven times, I love it... I can't wait to hear this band perform, I could listen to them all night... Those fireworks were great, too bad they were too short" *versus* "Preacher, if you can't say it in 30 minutes don't say it at all... I already know this subject so I'm leaving early, not coming, etc... My attention span is only 30 minutes" (**Nehemiah 8:3, Matthew 15:32, and Acts 20:7; 9**).
 - 3. "I'm on a healthy diet to have a good heart... I love to eat good food..." *versus* "I don't care what's preached as long as it's not blatant error... I've had my full of the Gospel today" (**Matthew 4:4; 5:6, Hebrews 5:12-14, and I Peter 2:1-3**).
- B. What if we put the same effort into spiritual education as most do secular education (**I Corinthians 1:20-21; 3:18-20**)?
 - 1. "Do your homework, study for the test, you have to pull good grades because your future depends on it" *versus* "if I have time today I'll study the Bible" (**Psalms 1:1-2; 119:97-99 and Proverbs 7:1-3**).
 - 2. After 13 years of first level education you spend 18,720 hours at school (180 days per year x 8 hours per day x 13 years). The congregation here assembles about 6 hours per week (out of 168 hours). If you are here all of those times, it'll take 60 years before you reach 18,720 hours (6 x 52 = 312. 18,720 ÷ 312 = 60). What do you suppose is our focus in life after those statistics (**Matthew 6:33 cf. II Chronicles 31:20-21**)?
- C. What if we worked as hard for the Lord as we do ourselves (**Haggai 1:2-10**).

1. “I work 40+ hours a week and provide great for my family... I have worked for many years to get the financial security I have now” *versus* “Hey, I show up for services and now you want more... I have a life away from the church you know” (**Galatians 6:4-5, Philippians 2:25-30, Titus 3:8, and Hebrews 13:20-21**).
2. Realize that your hard work secularly is for temporary things (**Ecclesiastes 2:18-24; 5:10-16 and I Timothy 6:6-9**).
3. Your labor for God has an eternal reward (**John 5:28-29 and Galatians 6:7**).

III. Conclusion:

- A. We have to change our desires if they are of the flesh (**Psalms 78:29-31**).
- B. This world and the things therein are going to perish (**II Peter 3:10**).
- C. Our focus has to be on a higher plain (**Philippians 3:13-15**).