**SAFEGUARD YOUR VALUABLES** 2020-06-07

* The value we place on something will determine the steps we take to safeguard it
* The means you use to keep matches safe, will differ from the means you use to safeguard jewellery
* Lock down due to Covid has cost us 10 weeks of corporate fellowship. During that time, what steps did we take to safeguard our intimacy with God?
* If we’re stripped of the privileges we have as Christians, like regular fellowship, free access to the word of God, freedom to share our faith, freedom to ensure growth through the study of Christian literature, what would our walk with God look like then? In what ways will our daily worship and devotion be affected?

**COLOSSIANS 3:1-3(MSG)** “So if you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don’t shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that’s where the action is. See things from His perspective.

Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life”

**(NKJV) VS 3** For you died, and your life is ***hidden with Christ in God.***

* If we let him, the devil can easily break in and steal the valuables of our hidden life in Christ
* He does this through our hearts

**PROVERBS 4:23(NLTSE)** Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life

*OFFENSE*

* It’s impossible to live a life without ever offending anybody and this is just one of many ways the enemy can steal from us

**MATTHEW 18:7(NKJV)** Woe to the world because of offenses! For ***offenses must come***, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes

**1 CORINTHIANS 10:32(NKJV)** Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God

*JOY*

* Surrendering our joy through complaining. Sometimes, the devil doesn’t even have to steal our joy because we just gladly hand it over to him
* I found myself complaining heavily about the inconvenience of lock down

**NEHEMIAH 8:10b(NLTSE)** Don’t be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!”

**PHILIPPIANS 2:14(NLTSE)** Do everything without complaining and arguing

*FEAR*

**ISAIAH 41:10(NKJV)** Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

* Covid must be looked at from a Godly perspective and also from a factual perspective
* So how do we safeguard our heart’s treasures?
* Against offense, think before you speak

**JAMES 1:19(NLTSE)** Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry

* Joy: make sure you do enough of the things you enjoy

**PHILIPPIANS 4:8(NLTSE)** And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

* Fear: keep reminding yourself of God’s promises and think back on times the Lord has delivered you

**2 TIMOTHY 1:7(NLTSE)** For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline (*NKJV:*sound mind)

**CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. What are the reasons we place value on things? What makes them valuable to us?
2. What does a life “hidden with Christ in God” mean to you? Explain in your own words (see **COLOSSIANS 3:3**)
3. Are your Christian “habits” enough to ensure you safe guard your heart, against offense, fear, lack of joy etc?