**CHRIST OR COMPROMISE?** 2022-01-09

“Don’t be like the world” **ROMANS 12:2**

* Many years ago, I sensed God give me an image in my mind, which I then went on to draw with pastels, to capture it and keep it as a reminder of the image. That image was about the phrase: “ Christ or Compromise”. Little did I know that all these years later, the Holy Spirit would lay this phrase, as a sermon title on my heart, to share with His people
* When we speak about compromise in the Christian sense, our minds may easily go to the fruit of the flesh as described in:

**GALATIANS 5:19-21(NLTSE)** 19 “When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God”

* However, we’re going to speak about a kind of compromise, is that is perhaps more subtle than the list in Galatians and yet just as damaging to the Christian walk. Let’s look at three such areas of compromise:
1. *What we think and what we say*: **PSALM 19:14(TPT)** So may the words of my mouth, my meditation-thoughts, and every movement of my heart be always pure and pleasing, acceptable before your eyes, Yahweh, my only Redeemer, my Protector
* I’ve often challenged myself with the concept of what it would be like, if I had a little screen or display on my forehead, depicting all my thoughts all the time. What would people see?
* Our thought life is so critical important to our Christian walk because as a man thinks in his heart, so is he: **(PROVERBS 23:7(NKJV)**

2. *Time management:* **EPHESIANS 5:15-17(NKJV)** 15 “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 ***redeeming the time***, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is”

* One of the greatest challenges regarding time management for the Christian, is finding the “Kingdom balance” between these two verses:

**ECCLESIASTES 1:14(NTSE)** I observed everything going on under the sun, and really, it is all meaningless, like chasing the wind.

**ECCLESIASTES 8:15(NLTSE)** So I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for ***people in this world*** than to eat, drink, and enjoy life. That way they will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives them under the sun

* We need to remember, that king Solomon wrote these words in a backslidden state
* By being led by the Holy Spirit in all we do, we can enjoy a life, full of joy, that is productive for the Kingdom of God
* Redeeming the time, as we’re led by the Holy Spirit, means making use of every opportunity that God gives us, to advance His Kingdom and not just focus all of our attention on having fun
* Let’s remind ourselves of what Jesus said: **MATTHEW 6:33(NLTSE)** Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need

3. *Laziness:* **PROVERBS 6:6-11(NLTSE)** 6 “Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise! 7 Though they have no prince or governor or ruler to make them work, 8 they labour hard all summer, gathering food for the winter. 9 But you, lazybones, how long will you sleep? When will you wake up? 10 A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, 11 then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber”

* Even Jesus rested (see **LUKE 8:23(NLTSE)** As they sailed across, Jesus settled down for a nap), but there’s a difference between rest and laziness
* Laziness regarding physical work is one thing. Laziness in our spiritual discipline, is another thing. This laziness leads to compromise in our Christian walk and this is very dangerous
* So in summary, we need to guard against compromise
* We need to choose Christ above compromise

**CARE GROUP NOTES**

1. What do you understand by the word “compromise”? Explain this, using your own words
2. What do you understand by the phrase “don’t be like the world” (see ROMANS 12:2) and how does this relate to the three areas of compromise we discussed? ( what we think and say, time management, and laziness)
3. Are there areas of compromise in your life, that are harmful to your heart and Christian walk? Pray with one another in your care group about these heart issues and trust God for healing and breakthrough as you repent of these compromises