**Seeking God’s Plan for His Family**

**Disciplined Godliness**

3 principles to help God’s people accomplish the purpose for which we were made:

**I. Beware of being Distracted**

Acts 20:29-30 - *I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.*

Ephesians 6:12 - *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

A. The source of false teaching – v. 1

deceitful spirits

doctrines of demons

Matthew 16:23 - *But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”*

B. The nature of false teaching – v. 2-3

hypocritical

lies seared in their consciences

additions to the word, especially with areas related to the body

C. The antidote to false teaching

the Word of God – v. 5

being constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of sound doctrine – v. 6

**II. Seek to Practice Disciplined Godliness**

A. The goal – godliness

eusebeia – Godliness - a right attitude and response toward the true Creator God; a preoccupation from the heart with holy and sacred realities. It is respect for what is due to God, and is thus the highest of all virtues.

Colossians 3:10 - *and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—*

B. The process – discipline

discipline – gumnazo

Philippians 2:12-13 - *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

Philippians 4:13 - *I can do all things through Christ...*

Zechariah 4:6 - *not by might, nor by power, but by thy Spirit says the Lord...*

John 15:4 - *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.*

1. We should be disciplined in the way we pray.

Colossians 4:12 - *Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondslave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.*

2. We should be disciplined in the way we study the Scriptures on our own.

2 Timothy 2:15 - *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth.*

3. We should be disciplined in identifying the ways we need to change.

2 Peter 3:18 - *but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

4. We should be disciplined in the way we handle our anger.

Ephesians 4:31 - *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.*

5. We should be disciplined in the way we use our money.

Luke 12:15 - *And he said unto them, take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses.*

6. We should be disciplined in our speech.

James 1:19 - *This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;*

7. We should be disciplined in the attention we give to our heart.

Proverbs 4:23 - *Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.*

8. We should be disciplined in what we set before our eyes.

Psalm 101:3 - *I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not fasten its grip on me.*

9. We should be disciplined in the way we serve.

2 Timothy 4:2 - *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*

10. We should be disciplined in the way we confess sin.

Proverbs 28:13 - *He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.*

11. We should be disciplined in the way we fulfill our biblical roles.

Ephesians 6:1-4 - *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

12. We should be disciplined in the way we work.

Colossians 3:23-24 - *Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*

**III. Be Convinced about the Profitability of Disciplined Godliness**

A. Profitable in all things – v. 8

B. It is worth laboring for – v. 10

C. This can be done even by those who are younger – v. 12

D. The salvation of others is at stake – v. 16