Three-Legged Stool Of Godly Living

Prepared by Nathan Morrison for Sunday February 18th, 2018

Text: Titus 2:11-14

# Intro

1. There are many things we are told to avoid doing in the word of God, but there are also things we are told to do, attitudes we are to have, and so on, in order to live a pleasing life for God.
2. Titus 2:11-14: Text not only reveals things we are to cut out of our lives (ungodliness and worldly desires), but reveals three things we are to add to our lives to live godly.
   1. The Scriptures don’t just tell us to cut things out without also telling us things to add.
   2. *Mt. 12:43-45:* Jesus pointed this out with the parable of the cast-out demon finding his old home (the man) swept and unoccupied, and lives there with even more evil spirits!
3. Consider a 3-legged stool: If you remove one leg the stool falls over. Takes all three legs to make a stable whole.
4. Our lives are like a 3-legged stool, if we cut out or omit one part of three legs that make up living godly (self-control, godliness or righteousness), our lives will not be pleasing to God!
   1. Titus 2:12: 3 “legs” of our life (Stool-Seat) we need to be living simultaneously:
      1. To live Sensibly (Soberly)
      2. To live Righteously
      3. To live Godly
5. Each of these “legs” makes up a stable godly life on the whole!

# Live Sensibly

1. This “leg of the stool of life” deals with our self-discipline, self-control, and self-restraint.
2. II Tim. 4:1-5: Timothy is being instructed to be sober and alert, to be a Watchman on the wall. To not be blinded to the fact that there will be those who want to pervert the gospel, and when it happens, to be ready to fight against it.
3. Is. 56:10: The contrast here to a watchman who is not sober-minded and alert.
4. Here is depicted a watchman who is blind and mute. He can’t see the danger coming so can’t warn. *This type of watchman is good for nothing.*
5. We are told to be sober and alert!
6. The watchman in *Is. 56:10* just wanted to sleep and dream – We need to be sober and alert!
7. *I Thess. 5:1-11:* Those who engaged in the things they want to do will be surprised when Christ comes again.
8. We are to be the contrast, the ones expecting it, and watching for it.
9. The Christian is not to turn a blind eye willfully (self-inflicted-blindness).
10. This has to do with how we handle restraining our passions and desires.
11. II Pet. 1:5-11: Adding virtues, including self-control, to our lives opens the door to Heaven abundantly to us! (Gal. 5:23)
12. This “leg of the stool of life” is important, for without it, the other two would not be possible, but our lives (the stool) would tip over!
13. We must be aware that we have an enemy, and of how he works.
14. I Pet. 5:8-9: Without being sober and on the alert, how could we resist him?
15. Would we really even know he had struck us?
16. Without self-discipline, self-control, and self-restraint we can’t live righteously or godly!

# II. Live Righteously

1. This “leg of the stool of life” concerns our dealing with others.
2. The word “righteously” signifies what is right and just.
3. We are to set the example for those around us to follow.
4. In order to do that, first we must be able to live sensibly or soberly, as setting a good example often requires self-denial to stand out in a crowd.
   1. Mt. 5:14-16: Light is not only used to light one’s path but to expose darkness.
   2. We are to be a light in the world, and that requires us to stand out.
   3. *Eph. 5:11*: “Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them.”
5. It takes courage to do what is right, no matter the consequences.
   1. But in doing what is good, our conduct will offend those doing what is wrong without us even saying anything (Jn. 3:19-21). We must be willing to NOT compromise the truth.
   2. I Thess. 5:21-22: “Hold fast that which is good.” “Abstain from every form of evil.” That takes incredible self-control.
   3. Being a light to the world is harder than we think sometimes. But our example must be one that causes others to glorify God thru our behavior. *(Mt. 5:16)*
6. Do we treat others the way God would have us? (Col. 3:12-15)
7. From our self-control (sensible, sober living) we are able to maintain a life of righteousness!

# III. Live Godly

1. This “leg of the stool of life” concerns our relationship with God.
2. It is not enough to be sober and alert, or even to live doing what is right, but we must also live godly *(To strive to be “Christ-like” – I Cor. 11:1; Eph. 5:1).*
3. It is not enough to just be a good person as the example of Cornelius shows us in *Acts 10*.
4. One must be obedient to the gospel of Christ first, and then live in obedience to the word of God.
   1. *Jn. 14:15*: “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”
   2. *Jn. 8:31*: “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.”
   3. Eph. 5:1-5: We are told to be imitators of God, then are reminded how Christ loved us, and are told what things not to do.
   4. I Tim. 4:7-8: To live godly takes discipline. That requires self-control.
5. We must know the word of God to live godly for we know that it is the word of God that will judge us in the end.
6. Jn. 12:48: It is important to know what it is that will judge us. That requires study.
7. *Rom. 2:16*: All will be held to the standard of Christ. There will be no excuses.
8. II Pet. 1:2-3: God has supplied everything pertaining to life and godliness thru His Son, Jesus Christ.
9. We are told in Scripture how the world will be destroyed, and that by knowing this, we need to be living godly lives, looking forward to His second appearing.
10. II Pet. 3:10-13: Knowing this, we ought to be living righteously and godly.
11. Can we share the same sentiment that we are looking forward to His coming?
12. We need to not only be alert and do what is right, but be imitators of Christ and live godly lives!

# Conclusion

1. A godly life is truly a 3-legged stool, for one part (leg) does not exist without the others.
2. Without Self-control, the other two strands are meaningless.
3. You cannot be a good example to others in doing what is right if you have no self-control.
4. You cannot live godly lives if you are a bad example to others and don’t do what is right.
5. “Easier-said-than-done” concepts: The reward in Heaven outweighs the trials of this present age!
6. *Rom. 8:18*: “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” *(I Tim. 4:8: Godliness holds the promise of life now and the life to come!)*
7. *Rev. 2:10*: “Remain faithful till death and I will give you the Crown of Life.”
8. If not a Christian, need to be. Repent of your sins and be baptized!
9. If a Christian who is teetering on a 2-legged stool, repent of your sins and be renewed with God!
10. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand and sing.