

# Be Careful

Sunday, January 7, 2024

A couple of months ago God put a word in my heart for closing out this year and entering in to the new one. I felt like the Holy Spirit was saying “Be Careful”

But not in the sense of fear, but of caution and preparation, and in the way we should live our lives in this coming year

After He had brought some thoughts to mind I remembered that song many of us learned early on in Sunday School. We learn some of the most powerful lessons in Sunday School...

*"O Be careful little eyes what you see"*

So last week we began by taking a look at several areas of our life in which we need to be more careful and how we can accomplish that with the tools that God has already given us.

Key Texts:

Proverbs 4:18-27

”The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to one’s whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.“

Ephesians 5:8-17

”For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.“

Where we need to be careful...

- Eyes what you see
- Ears what you hear
- Tongue what you speak

We also read 2 Peter 1:3-13 before we talked about 1 of the tools that God has given us to help us BE CAREFUL

### 2 Peter 1:3-13 NLT

”By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires. In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, I will always remind you about these things—even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught. And it is only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live.“

### 1. Read the Book

- Read it for breadth
- Read it for depth
- Study it with others
- Memorize it
- Meditate on it
- Use it

So let's continue today with a look at 4 more areas in which we need to be careful this new year

## Hands what you do

Remember - what begins with the eyes and arms leads us to the actions we take

We must be careful to honor God with our works

Matthew 5:16

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:19

"Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Being careful with our hands means being careful about what we do and what we don't do

James said it this way *"Faith without works is dead"* (James 2:26)

Jesus said of the Pharisees...

Matthew 15:8

8 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

It is important to do more than just talk a good game... We must live out what we believe.

John The Baptist told them...

Matthew 3:8

"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."

And Peter taught us...

1 Peter 2:12

12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God...

Jesus gave us these warnings in Matthew 21 & 24

Matthew 21:43

43 “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

Matthew 24:45-47

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Feet where you go

Proverbs 4:26

”Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways.“

Where we choose to position ourselves is important to our continued success in our Christian lives

Psalms 1:1-2

”Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.“

Psalms 119:101

”I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word.“

Proverbs 4:14-15

”Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evildoers. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way.“

## Mind what you think

Matthew 5:28

”But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.“

Proverbs 23:7 NASB

7 For as {a man} thinks within himself, so he is.

Romans 12:2

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Philippians 4:8

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

What do you allow your mind to dwell on?

## Heart what you Embrace (Hold On To)

Proverbs 4:23

23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Matthew 23:25-28

25 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Luke 6:45

45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

It's what's inside that counts

What are you holding on to in your heart?

Anger

Envy

Bitterness

Wrath

Unforgiveness

Sin

Let's remind ourselves of some more tools that God has given us to "Be Careful"

Talk to the Father (Prayer)

Philippians 4:6

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

17 pray continually,

Spiritual Community (Church)

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

## Listen to the Spirit (Baptism of The Holy Spirit)

Galatians 5:16

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

19 Do not quench the Spirit. (don't put out the spirit's fire)

## Learn the enemy's playbook (Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding)

2 Corinthians 2:11

11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Ephesians 6:11

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.