Summertime! *(A Call To Be Salt & Light In Summer)*

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday June 2nd, 2019

Text: Philippians 4:8

### Intro

1. Memorial Day is often cited as the kickoff to summer – It’s summertime!
   1. The world around Christians starts to shed clothes as the days grow hotter the next few months.
   2. Saints live where it’s hot and can enjoy summer too – but we need to remember that we are called to be salt & light to the world, *even in the summer!*
2. Worldliness is a danger to Christians for it is easy to participate in and or justify behavior!
3. Worldliness is:
   1. “Of or limited to this world; temporal or secular; devoted to or concerned with the affairs, pleasures, etc. of this world.” (Webster)
   2. I Jn. 2:15-17: God says we must not love the world or things in it.
4. In contrast to worldliness a Christian is to be pure, and unstained by the world.
   1. Matthew 5:13-16; Ephesians 5:11-12: Salt & Light! For preserving and illumination, influence and exposing darkness (evil)! *Need to do what’s right despite others around us!*
   2. Js. 1:27; I Jn. 3:3-4: To be in the world but live apart from it!
5. One cannot engage in the immoral practices of the world and be pleasing to God!

#### A Call to Modesty

* 1. The Purpose of Clothing
     1. The purpose of clothing is to “cover” and “hide” our nakedness *(Gen. 2:25; 3:7).*
     2. Instead of covering, a lot of clothing is designed to expose and entice lust.
     3. Clothing designers have all but stolen the innocence of childhood! (Try to find decent shorts for little girls!)
  2. Our Clothing Speaks
     1. The way we dress reveals much about our character, what we value, and what we are trying to portray.
        1. *Mt. 11:8:* Dress makes a statement about riches. Jesus said the people went out into the wilderness and expected to find John the Baptist dressed as if from the king’s palace!
        2. *II Sam. 3:31; 14:2; Mt. 11:21:* Dress makes a religious statement. Sackcloth and ashes, mourning or fasting before the Lord.
        3. *Prov. 7:10:* Dress makes a moral statement. The adulteress was dressed as a “harlot.” *Her dress advertised what was in her heart!*
     2. Today, the way you dress speaks and people are drawing conclusions about your character *(Many people judge a book by the cover)*
  3. Our dress and actions affect others…
     1. *Prov. 7:10:* “Attire of a harlot” – one can still dress as a “harlot”
     2. *II Sam. 11:2-4:* David saw Bathsheba and lusted.
     3. Men can easily lust, and to do so is sin – *Mt. 5:28: Lusting after a woman makes one guilty of adultery/fornication!*
     4. Sometimes what we see cannot be avoided, but it is that second look that can lead men and women into trouble! Avoid the second look!
        1. The young naïve man from *Prov. 7:7ff* saw the adulteress dressed as a harlot *(7:10)* and did not turn away but went with her to his destruction *(7:22-23).*
        2. David was innocently on his rooftop at night and saw Bathsheba bathing *(II Sam. 11:2).* He didn’t look away but gazed at how beautiful she was and even inquired about her identity. When he found out she was married he still didn’t turn away but had her brought to him *(II Sam. 11:3-4).*
     5. One can be immodest and be fully clothed: too low cut, too tight, see-through.
  4. What Our Clothing Needs to Say
     1. I Tim. 2:9-10: The concept for modesty for women (modest apparel/dress)
     2. I Tim. 2:9: “…proper clothing” (NASB), “modest apparel” (KJV/NKJ), “respectable apparel” (ESV)
        1. ***Modest:*** “Having or showing a moderate estimation of one’s own talents, abilities, and value; observing conventional proprieties in speech, behavior, and dress; quiet and humble in appearance.” (American Heritage Dictionary)
        2. ***Modest/Proper:*** *kosmios [kos-mee-os] (G2887):* *(From G2889 kosmos = orderly arrangement)* “Orderly, of good behavior, modest.”
     3. I Tim. 2:9: “…modestly and discreetly” (NASB), “shamefacedness and sobriety” (KJV), “propriety and moderation” (NKJV)
        1. ***Modestly/Shamefacedness:*** *aidos [ahee-dos] (G127): (From G1 & G1492 that means “downcast eyes”)* “bashfulness, that is, (towards men), modesty or (towards God) awe”: - reverence, shamefacedness
        2. Webster’s says, “Bashfulness, excess of modesty”
     4. Our clothing can say, “Sex,” “Pride,” “Money,” or “Purity,” “Humility,” and “Moderation.”
        1. Our clothing should not leave people wondering whether we want to be “chased” or “chaste.”
  5. Our (men & women) clothes should:
     1. Be modest – reserved, decent, respectable
     2. Show shame/humility – one can still blush *(Jer. 6:15; 8:12)*
     3. Show good judgment – common sense
     4. Show godliness – devoted to God not to world
     5. Respect others – not intentionally causing lustful thoughts
     6. Bring glory to God – In all that we do we are to glorify God (Col. 3:17)
  6. We must live pure lives even in the apparel we choose to wear (no matter how hot it is!) *– Note: This was written to people living in the Middle East, in the heat!*

#### A Call to Guard Our Thoughts

* 1. Heb. 13:4: Marriage is to be held in honor – the God-sanctioned way for men and women to express their sexual desires (One man and one woman since creation – Mark 10:6-8)
     1. Fornication (sex outside of marriage) & adultery (sex with someone not your spouse) is sin and will be judged by God!
  2. Saints must know and guard our hearts, thoughts, and eyes against lewdness/uncleanness:
     1. “Sensuality” (NAS) – “Lasciviousness” (KJV) – “Lewdness” (NKJ)
        1. Lewdness/Sensuality:
           1. Vine’s: “Lewdness is an absence of restraint, it is indecency, wantonness.”
           2. Thayer: “Unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence.”
           3. Webster’s: “Inciting lust; unlawful sexual desires.”
           4. *(Note: Lewdness is opposite of Modesty! (Proper, decent)*
        2. II Cor. 12:21: “…impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.”
        3. Gal. 5:19-21: The first 4 deeds of the flesh deal with immorality: NASB combines adultery and fornication into “immorality.” Sensuality (lewdness) is a work of the flesh!
        4. Eph. 4:19 (NKJ): “…have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”
        5. I Pet. 4:3: A saint should no longer walk in “sensuality” (lewdness)
        6. II Pet. 2:18: Christians can be allured back into the world through the lust of the flesh, through “sensuality (lewdness).”
     2. “Impurity” (NAS) – “Uncleanness” (KJV/NKJ)
        1. Uncleanness/Impurity:
           1. Thayer: “Uncleanness is lustful, luxurious, profligate living.”
           2. Lust = strong desire, usually in context of something forbidden. Warning against fleshly lusts – I Pet. 2:11; Rom. 8:13
           3. Luxurious = acting on those lusts without restraint.
           4. Profligate: Webster’s says, “unprincipled.”
        2. II Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 4:19 (NKJ): Uncleanness & lewdness condemned together!
        3. Rom. 1:24; 6:19 (NKJ): Can become “slaves of uncleanness”
        4. Eph. 5:3 (NKJ): “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints.”
        5. Col. 3:5 (NKJ): Saints are to put to death: “fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”
  3. Some may say they haven’t committed sexual sin, so they are OK!
     1. Some use that to justify immodest dress, dancing (sensual), and looking at pornography.
     2. Job 31:1: Job said, “I have made a covenant with my eyes.”
     3. While one may not engage in those behaviors, oftentimes on the way to committing sexual immorality (fornication & adultery) other sins are committed!
        1. *Prov. 7:7-21:* The young naïve man saw the adulteress dressed as a harlot *(7:10)* and did not turn away but went towards her house, talked to her, listened to her, let her kiss him and entice him.
           1. Had he committed sexual sin? No!
           2. Before he was guilty of that sin *(7:22-23)* he was guilty of lewd conversation, thoughts, and acts (kissed a married woman)!
        2. *II Sam. 11:2-4:* As David gazed at Bathsheba bathing from his rooftop, had he committed sexual sin? No!
           1. As he waited to find out who she was and then waited for her to be brought to him, had he committed sexual sin? No!
           2. Before he committed adultery, he was guilty of lewd/unclean thoughts that then led to sexual immorality!
  4. Immodesty can incite lustful and lewd behavior, and the Christian is to flee from it – *Guard one’s thoughts and exercise self-control!*

#### A Call to Purity

* 1. I Jn. 3:1-3: Christians are called to be pure (purify) because God is pure.

1. To be pure one must not engage in sensual/lewd/unclean practices!
   * 1. Rom. 13:13: “Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.”
     2. I Thess. 4:7 (NKJ): “For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.”
     3. Be careful, not only in your dress, but in what you post on social media!
     4. What did Joseph do when Potiphar’s lewd/unclean wife began talking to him?
        1. Gen. 39:7-12: She desired him and tried to entice him. Joseph fled!
        2. Though there was lewd and unclean conversation and intent (Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce Joseph), Joseph was not guilty of it!
     5. “Flee youthful lusts” (II Tim. 2:22) – “flee sexual immorality” (I Cor. 6:18)
2. To be pure as God is pure one must not engage in any practice that is lewd/unclean!

## Conclusion

1. In the summertime immodesty will be all around us!
   1. Immodest dress is a problem because it can incite lustful intentions in men and women, despite some justifying it as “Trendy.”
   2. To not be guilty of or cause others to be guilty of lewdness/sensuality, one must be cautious in what one wears! (Is it too low, too tight, too shear, or not even there?)
2. In dressing for the heat of summer the Christian must answer this question: “Am I pure?”
   1. The way we dress and hold up God’s standard for holiness in any situation just may be what opens a door of opportunity among those who are seeking God.
   2. Act in love toward one another and not put a stumbling block in each other’s way.
   3. What you post on social media for all to see can affect others both in a positive way but also in a negative way – Be salt & light!
3. Phil. 4:8: In contrast to lewdness & uncleanness let us dwell on what is pure & true!
   1. In the dark world around us saints need to be Salt & Light! (Mt. 5:13-16)
4. Let us all flee from lusts and immoral behavior so that we may be found blameless, even in the heat, and enjoy the summertime! *(Phil. 2:15: Blameless in the midst of a crooked generation)*
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
6. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!