

Beloved Sisters and Brethren

1Co 7:29-31 But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

Brother Terry has drawn our attention to the fact that we must use this world in order to exist and has given examples of circumstances and help and explained that we must let our moderation be known to all men. Of course we must use this world in order to exist but, as he has shown, it is having balance and this can be judged only by ourselves for ourselves

Well we live in a very different age from the apostles. Knowledge has increased and surely with it the variety of temptations (human nature has not changed simply the temptations). Covetousness in man will exist no matter the age which is lived in. Judas was tempted by money yet lived in the simplest of circumstances and surrounded by love and trust-no one knew he was the betrayer.

What about us in this “modern, technological age“

Eph 5:14-17 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

In this modern age with advanced technology, especially in the communications field, we have access to stuff never imagined in earlier generations and these have their own peculiar temptations:

TELEVISION, MEDIA, PHONES ON WHICH WE GET FACE BOOK ETC. These can be beneficial-for news, education good

communication and we become users but we must know where to draw the line. From soaps we see the ways of a godless world. But we can also see wonderful discoveries of Nature, the creation and get help in our day to day living-updates on “The Signs of The Times, etc Hence the warnings of verse 31: *And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.* It is easy to lose our awareness.

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Also another aspect - Unless the Lord Builds the House

Psa 127:1-2 **A Song of degrees for Solomon.** *Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.*

Unless we have balance there will be suffering and it will be in our service to God or companions. It is in respecting His commandments that our lives are to be directed. Only then will His helping hand be upon us. There are two great commands and in these is bound up all the Law and the prophets and we know them

Paul continues to show how marriage might distract from our service

1 Cor7:32 *But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:* If we care more for our wife than the things of God then it will be a detraction from our service; but “*husbands love your wives*” is a command and surely we can get a balance so that neither are neglected and, where mutual love exists, the marriage and the whole family will benefit Also it is for the Dad in the family to play a part and show love to everyone but this can so easily be neglected with him at work all day and studying all night. In this ecclesia the time

of young families has passed other than as grandparents but they certainly exist in other of our ecclesias.

Bought with a price 1 Co 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. This can arise with employers making unreasonable demands. The need then to change jobs where possible.

Brother Terry has drawn attention to the transient nature of life and for this reason (Eccl 3/22, 2/24) men and women should rejoice in the work of their hands and enjoy their labour.

As in v29. If we overwork in any aspect of our lives we cannot give God the best and it will be reflected in the way we treat our companions. We cannot relive any day and it is important to use it to the best of our abilities. In this we must be aware of our calling and that as in v 23 we are bought with a price. That price is the precious blood of The Son of God. This price can never be fully repaid but we must do our best bearing in mind all the Scriptures, yet when we have done the will of God say, “we are unprofitable servants”

Deu 6:4-6 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: .

This is the prime thing for us

Pro 4:7-13 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee. Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

So then happiness and confidence before God is assured and, as Jesus says in Luke 12, God cares for us more than many sparrows for the very hairs of our head are numbered.

1Ti 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Be satisfied and so find peace

Php 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

*Luk 12:13-21 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, **Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?** And he said unto them, **Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.** And he spake a parable unto them, saying, **The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.***

Do Not Be Anxious

*Luk 12:22-32 And he said unto his disciples, **Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body,***

*what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, **neither be ye of doubtful mind.** For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. **But rather seek ye the kingdom of God;** and all these things shall be added unto you. **Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.***

Brother Terry has laid emphasis to:-

1Pe 4:7-8 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

And a few more words to focus upon

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night

2Pe 3:8-15 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and

godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you.

Have the same care –without partiality

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

That we all might be saved

Love to all

Brother Ken