**“God’s Priorities For Today’s Woman *-Discovering His Plan for You”***

**By Lisa Hughes -Fall 2020**

***PART 2 -- THE ART OF FOLLOWING GOD’S PRIORITIES***

Tuesday, December 8th -Chapter 6 – *“The Art of Self-control”*

“So far we have learned from Titus 2:3 the godly woman is to be reverent in her behaviour and careful with her words (“not a malicious gossip”). Then Paul tells us she is not to be “*enslaved* to much wine.” p.87

**T** hink about this heartbreaking statement, “her drinking controls our lives”! p.87

**H** ere is a scenario that the apostle Paul addresses as an area of life that we must govern self-control.

**E** very believer must exercise self-control not only when drinking alcohol but in *every area of life*. p.87

**A** re you aware of the dangers of sin’s slavery? Do you know ***how*** to break free from sin’s grip?p.87

**R** eady to make God’s priority of self-control your priority?

**T** o start, let’s look at Paul’s command for woman not to be “enslaved” to “much wine” (Titus 2:3).

**O** ur study of God’s Word makes it abundantly clear that getting drunk is a sin (Eph. 5:18). p.88

**F** or God commands and condemns all drunkenness. Drunkenness of any kind for the believer is sin.

**S** cripture teaches us this principle: any substance that can hinder wise judgment is to be avoided. p.89

**E** *nslaved* to much wine, means that wine can become your master, and you become its slave. p.90

**L** ife’s liberties such as food, though not inherently sinful, can enslave us too if we don’t use self-control.

**F** or when something begins to master our bodies and minds, that particular thing becomes sin to us.

**C** hristians are slaves of Christ. He is our Lord and Master. He now empowers us to walk in His ways.

**O** ur lives served our wicked and despotic master, Satan, before we came to know Christ as Saviour.

**N** ow when we turned to Christ in faith and repented of our sins, Christ set us free from sin’s slavery.

**T** he Holy Spirit’s presence now gives us the power to overcome sin that so often wants to ensnare us.

**R** ealize this: the struggle to avoid slavery to sin is a lifelong effort. Temptations will bombard us daily.

**O** ur thoughts or emotions like worry, fear, anxiety, and fretting are common sins that enslave women.

**L** etting these sinful emotions and thoughts control us can steal our joy, zap our spiritual vitality, quench the Spirit, and prevent us from giving glory to God. p.93

What is mastering your body and mind today? Is it alcohol? Is it food? Is it fear? Is it anger and frustration? Is it pity parties? Is it immorality? Is it your health? Is it a virus? Is it news media? Or…Is your Master Christ alone? “Never is a believer to serve two masters. When we become enslaved to anything other than Christ and His righteousness we are trying to do the impossible---serve two masters.” p.91

“Because every believer receives the Holy Spirit at salvation, he or she will exhibit the qualities of the Holy Spirit as they grow in their Christian life. Self-control is one of those qualities. Self-control must govern our speech, our drinking and eating, how we dress, our finances, and yes, even our emotions. Self-control is what sets Christians apart from the rest of the world. Living self-controlled lives makes us effective witnesses for Christ. This is why we must practice self-control---it demonstrates to the world we are followers of Christ.” p.95

Lisa says that, “When we find ourselves enslaved to sin, we must begin breaking free by seeking the Lord’s help. We came to Christ *by faith*, and we must continue to *live by faith*, asking the Lord for help in overcoming our sin and leaning on Him for assistance in the fight. We must remember we have been given a new nature and all-sufficient grace to overcome sin and the desires of the flesh. Our greatest ally against sin is the Word of God. ***The transforming power of God’s Word changes us from the inside out.*** As we interact with God’s Word, it strengthens and changes us so that we can experience increasing victory over the lust of the flesh.” p.95

Ladies, may I encourage you along with Lisa, “If you find something other than Christ is your master, and it has you in its grip, then you need to begin to break those bonds with the ax of repentance and the bolt cutter of confession…We are to give all our allegiance and love to God. ***May the Lord give us the grace and courage to overcome anything in our lives that takes our eyes off Him***.” p.96

With love and prayers and gratitude in my heart for you all,

Christyn