*“With the Master Before the Mirror of God’s Word”* by Susan Heck

A Ladies Bible Study on First John

Tuesday, April 7th, 2020

Susan starts off this chapter with sharing*, ”I find it interesting and amazing to see the things, the people and the circumstances in which many people spend the bulk of their time.”* She points out that by observation, may people’s lives, believers and non-believers alike are “*wrapped up either in their children, or in material possessions, or in the latest gadgets, or in the latest Hollywood gossip and movies, or in just being busy.”* What about you? What observations have you made? What do you see people spending the bulk of their time on? Susan says, “*…as I observe and contemplate, I see few---yes, even believers in Jesus Christ---whose lives are wrapped up in the son of God, Jesus Christ.”* What about you? Is your life wrapped up in material possessions, media and mindless activities or is your life wrapped up in the One who has given you eternal life? *(pg. 287)*

**Susan’s Summary** of Chapter 21– “Receive the Son and Live; Reject the Son and Die!” – 1 John 5:9-12 (pg.295-297)

We have considered:

*The Outcome of Those Who Receive the Witness that Jesus is the Christ (vv 9-12)*

They have the blessed assurance within themselves that they are children of God; they have eternal life; and they have life now.

And… *The Outcome of Those Who Reject the Witness that Jesus is the Christ (vv 10b, 12)*

They make God a liar; and they don’t have life eternal or life now.

**Wouldn’t it make sense that if we have eternal life now and this life is in His Son that the Son should be our life?**

As I meditated on these verses, I recalled my observations in the introduction of this chapter as I reflected on people whose lives are wrapped up in things, people and circumstances. And I asked myself, “Why aren’t the children of God wrapped up in the Son of God?” If God spared not His Son for you and for me, and gave us life eternal, then I would ask, “What are we doing with that life?” I’d like to close by looking at some very important and challenging passages. I’d like to leave you with four challenges for **how** to make sure that your life is wrapped up in the Son of God.

This will be in the form of an acrostic, **LIFE**.

**L**IVE LIKE CHRIST. “With Your hand from men, O LORD, from men of the world who have their portion in this life, and whose belly You fill with Your hidden treasure. They are satisfied with children, and leave the rest of their possession for their babes. As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.” The Psalmist says, “Lord, men of the world are caught up in the world. Their lives are consumed with this earthly life. But as for me, Lord, I want to be consumed with You, to the point that I will be satisfied only with being like You!” (Psalm 17:14-15). Dear friends, are you consumed with this earthly life, or are you consumed with being like Jesus?”

**I**NVEST IN THE ETERNAL. “For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come” (1 Timothy 4:8). Life, in its truest enjoyment, Paul explains, is not in going to the gym to work out but in pouring your life into what is yet to come. The eternal is what will last; the temporal will be gone tomorrow. Do the weekly activities you find yourself doing count for eternity, or will they be burned up in the end?”

**F**IXATE ON CHRIST. “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory” (Colossians 3:1-4). Paul says that we should be dead to the world and all its temptations and pleasures. Our life is different; our life is hidden with Christ in God; our life is concealed or locked together with Christ. None of those other things should be able to break through that relationship we have with Christ. Again, I would ask you, “Is your life dead to the world and all it has to offer? Are you so tight with Christ that nothing the world has to offer can break through that relationship with Him?”

**E**SCAPE THE WORLD’S TEMPTATIONS. “No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who enlisted him as a soldier” (2 Timothy 2:4). Paul reminds us that no man or woman who is a soldier for Jesus Christ entwines or wraps himself or herself up in the affairs, the business and occupations of this life. Why? Because they want to please Him who has chosen them to be a good soldier. Would others view your life and say, “There goes a woman who is out to please the Lord and it manifests itself by what she is involved in.” Or, “There goes a woman who is so wrapped up in the affairs of this life, that she barely can give God a minute of her day.” Do you desire to live a life that is wrapped up in the Son? If you do, then live like Christ, invest in the eternal, fixate on Christ and escape the world’s temptations.”

**Ladies, to know and to live for Jesus Christ is the greatest there is. What or who are you living for? What is your life wrapped up in this day? Why not wrap up your life in Jesus, God’s Son? He is your life today; He is your life eternal.**