

# Christian Living in Uncertain Times

*November 6, 2016*

## I. Introduction

The faith we live out will separate us from the world we live in.

**1 Peter 2:11-12** Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**1 Peter 3:15-16** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

In uncertain times, Christians live with confidence and influence.

## II. Five Ways Christians Live In Uncertain Times

### *1. Christians Have Christ At The Center Of Their Lives*

**1 Peter 3:15** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

- Christianity is not the religion of man but a relationship with God.

**1 Peter 3:22** who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

- When you center your heart on the Lordship of Christ it rightly guides your responses to the challenges of life.

### *2. Christians Make Wise Choices*

**1 Peter 2:11** Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

- Our faith, and not our feelings, should set the course for our actions.

A. Your choices will either bring you victory or defeat.

- Life is a series of choices. How you choose determines how you live.

**Joshua 24:15** But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

B. Questions To Consider When Making Wise Choices

- What am I choosing for today?

**Psalms 119:30-31** I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws. I hold fast to your statutes, Lord; do not let me be put to shame.

- What am I choosing for my future?

**Psalms 119:173** May your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

### *3. Christians Realize That Actions Speak Louder Than Words*

**1 Peter 2:12** Live such good lives among the pagans that...

A. People need to see your example as much as they need to hear your sermon.

- The ears won't receive what the eyes can't see.
- A disconnect between what is heard and what is seen is a fatal distraction from the truth.

**1 Peter 3:15-16** But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience

B. Christians rely not on the strength of argument but the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Zechariah 4:6** “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.

**2 Timothy 2:24-26** And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

**Proverbs 15:1** A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

- We are to influence others more than we are to be influenced by others.
- Christians are called to be influential not isolated.

**Matthew 5:13-16** “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**Philippians 2:14-16** Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.

#### *4. Christians Face Challenges With Courage*

**1 Peter 2:12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong,

- An active faith may not be clearly seen by blinded eyes.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- A bright light is often painful to blinded eyes

#### *5. Christians Have Hope*

##### A. We Have Hope In This Life

- The Christian has found the hope that humanity is looking for.
- It is often the person you least expect who needs to find hope the most.

##### B. We Have Hope In Times Of Trials

- Your struggle may be the catalyst that leads to another’s salvation.

**1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

- The Christian is called to declare the praise of God, not receive the praise of man.

#### C. We Have Hope In Eternity

- A Heavenly home gives us an earthly hope.
- Things may get worse before they get better.
- Things may get worse before they get better. But, never forget, the best is yet to come.