

WEDNESDAY STUDY JOURNAL

SERMON NOTES OF THE HIGHLAND CHURCH



THE CHRISTIAN ALTERNATIVES

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Scripture Foundation: 1 Corinthians 8:4–6; Genesis 40:20–22; Matthew 14:6

1. Forbidden Practices

- **Deuteronomy 18:10–11; Ephesians 5:11; 2 Corinthians 6:16–18**
- God's people are called to reject darkness and have no fellowship with it.
- Believers must avoid practices linked to the occult or idolatry.

2. To Be Set Apart

- **2 Corinthians 6:17; 1 Peter 2:9**
- We are to be holy, distinct, and separate from the world's customs.
- Our lifestyle should reflect God's holiness.

3. Halloween

- **2 Timothy 1:7; John 10:10**
- Fear, death, and darkness contradict the spirit of Christ.
- Jesus came to bring life, not fear—believers walk in truth, not superstition.

4. Demonic Influence

- **Ephesians 6:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:22**
- The spiritual battle is real—evil works behind worldly celebrations.
- We are to abstain from every form of evil and stand firm in God's armor.

5. Walk in the Light

- **Ephesians 5:8, 11**
- Once in darkness, now we walk as children of light.
- Expose the works of darkness by living in obedience to Christ.

Personal Conviction and Conscience

- **1 Corinthians 8:7–8; Romans 14:3–20**
- Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.
- Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.
- Spiritual maturity involves discernment and a clear conscience before God.

Examples of Pagan Encounters

- **A Pagan & the Temple – 1 Kings 9:11**
 - Worldly alliances can corrupt what is sacred.
- **A Pagan Shipmaster & the Prophet (Jonah 1)**
 - Rebuke – **Jonah 1:6; Genesis 20:9**
 - Pray – **Jonah 1:6**
 - Cast Lots – **Jonah 1:7**
 - Confrontation – “Why hast thou done this?” (**Jonah 1:10**)
 - Effort & Sacrifice – They rowed hard, then offered a sacrifice to the Lord (**Jonah 1:19**)

Advice from a Midianite Priest

- **Exodus 18:1, 17–19**
- Jethro gave wise counsel to Moses—God can use unexpected sources to provide wisdom.

No Idols

- **Exodus 20:1–3 / 25:18–19; Acts 14:13; 1 Corinthians 10:14, 21–33**
- God forbids idols or false worship.
- We cannot partake of the Lord's table and the table of demons.

Jesus and the Jewish Feasts

- **Purim – John 5:1; Esther 9:22**
 - Celebrated deliverance though God seemed silent.
- **Hanukkah – John 10:22**
 - Not commanded in Exodus 23, yet Jesus was present at the feast.
 - Jesus is:
 - The True Temple – **John 1:14 / 2:19, 22**
 - The Light of the World – **John 8:12; Revelation 21:23**