

What can the Christian do?

(The Christian Influence)

2 Cor 4:16-18

By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what the Christian can do while living in a world full of sin.

Intro: 1. What can the Christian do for Christ will living in a world so full of sin.
2. Can the Christian still be a positive influence to others?

I. The Christian must be aware and set a godly example

A. The Christian abstains from fleshly lusts.

1. "Lust" means uncontrolled desire (**James 1:13-16**)
2. "Fleshly" means human nature apart from God; life without the standards and help of Christ.

B. The Christian can find the motivation to abstain because:

1. "Fleshly lusts" war against the soul (**Mt 16:26**)
2. He is aware of the opportunity to use his influence by doing good (**1 Pt 2:12**)

II. The Christian must be aware and pray for leaders (**1 Tim 2:1-3**)

A. Prayers for all including leaders

1. Supplications – petition or request
2. Prayer – communication with God (general prayer)
3. Intercession – interceding on behalf of another
4. Giving of thanks

B. Purpose of the prayers

1. The ability to live a quiet life – tranquil life
2. The ability to live a peaceably life – undisturbed

III. The Christian must be aware and determined.

A. Faithful living is only done by determination (**Gal 6:9**)

1. Only the determined get to heaven (**Rev 2:10**)
 - a. This "prison" mentioned here is a reference to the difficult times the faithful would face.

B. The Christian lives godly in the midst of the ungodly. (**2 Pt 2:7-9**)

1. You cannot be a light to the world if your light has gone out (**Mt 5:15**)
2. When lights fad, darkness only grows.

IV. Lessons for Us Today

A. The Christian influence is a must.

1. Christians are called to a light to the world. (**Mt 5:14**)
2. Christ was bringing light into the world, that is hope.
3. Christians in a similar way can do the same thing. (**Mt 4:14-16**)

B. A world without a Christian influence has no hope.

1. The Christian brings hope by bringing the gospel (**Lk 8:1**)

Application & Conclusion:

1. Are you willing to be a light in the darkness today?
2. There are many things that bring darkness and sin into this world, Christian however can still be positive influence.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9