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STEWARDSHIP

Beyond Appearance ... Living Like I Believe

2 Timothy 3:1-7

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Enhance Your Faith, Set Boundaries



SNAPSHOT

Beyond Appearance ... Living Like I believe (2 Timothy 3:1-7)

Who: Paul is teaching Timothy, a younger pastor and ministry leader.

What: Paul warns about people who have the appearance of godliness but whose lives do not reflect genuine transformation.

When: Near the end of Paul's life, during a difficult time for the early church.

Where: Paul is writing from prison in Rome to Timothy, who was serving the church in Ephesus.

Why: To prepare Timothy to recognize false godliness and remain faithful to the truth.

How: Let God's word change how we think, live, and treat others.

Scripture 2 Timothy 3:1-7
What is your takeaway from the text?

- 1. But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:*
- 2. For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*
- 3. unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,*
- 4. traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*
- 5. having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*
- 6. For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,*
- 7. always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Beyond Appearance

Paul is having a teaching moment with Timothy, warning him about false godliness. Paul is describing people who look religious outwardly but have not truly surrendered inwardly. Living in a corrupt world, it can be easy to become self-centered and unchanged. What we say we believe should change how we live. Stewardship is how we manage our lives according to what we believe. Worldly appearance may gain attention, but consistent spiritual character builds godly credibility.

***What does it mean to live beyond appearance? How
Think in terms of living on a daily basis.***

Living Like I Believe

(1). What You Love:** What we love most will shape what we pursue, value, and give our time to. Our priorities show where our heart really is. **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5

(2). What You Show:** Outward appearance does not always mean inward surrender. By allowing God's word to shape our choices and daily actions, our outside will match our inside. **Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4

(3). What You Change:** Real godliness should produce real change in how we think, respond, and live. Transformation shows that what we believe is working in our lives. **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5

***What spiritual evidence is present if we are living like we believe?
Why is it important for others to see your belief?***

Living Sacrifice

When you hear the phrase “beyond appearance”, what comes to mind? Are you living like you are a true believer? Many people work hard to look right on the outside while ignoring what is happening on the inside. Paul reminds Timothy that godliness is more than an image, a routine, or religious language.

What we truly believe should affect our choices, our relationships, and the way we live each day. God is not only concerned with what people see; He is concerned with who we are becoming. Living like we believe means allowing our faith to move from appearance into action.

Let's talk about; being doers of the word and not hearers only?

If we are set apart for God, what should we be doing?

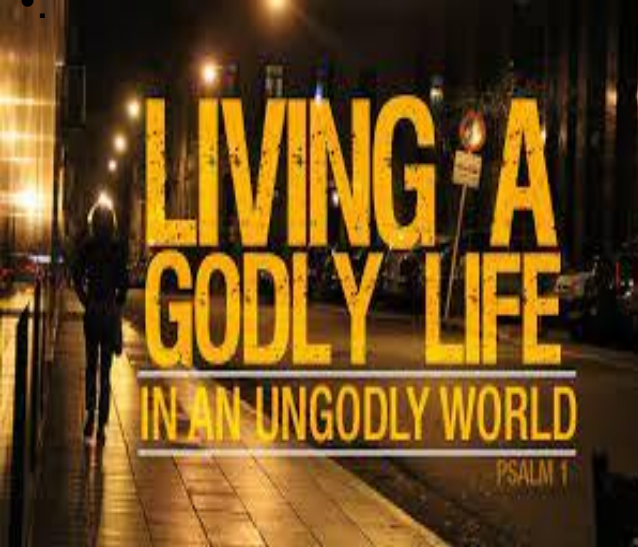
Matthew 7:24-27; Matthew 5:14-16

More of God and Less of Ourselves

Are you living like you are a true believer? We can say the right things, attend the right places, say some of the right things and still live differently from what we claim we believe. True belief should be seen in our choices, our character, and the way we treat people.

Our belief should be more than something we talk about; it should be something people can see working in our lives. The challenge is simple: stop just looking like you believe and start living like you believe. Today, let us be encouraged to live in a way that reflects what we truly believe. We will all make a difference when we start living like we believe. What a mighty God we serve! Yes and Amen

***Let's talk about
Renunciation; Spiritual conformity, Manifestation***



Easy As 1...2...3

We Can, We Will, We Must

Love, Show, Change

(1). What Your Love: What we love will eventually shape who we are. A heart centered on God keeps our desires from becoming our master.

(2). What Your Show: What people see should agree with what we say we believe. Consistent character gives credibility to our Christian witness.

(3). What You Change: Real growth begins when moves from just what we hear to how we live. When God changes our thinking, our direction begin to change too.

What is your point of application?

(Bonus Question)

What is integrity; How can you tell your private life matches your public faith?



Prayer / Benediction

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Beyond Appearance ... Living Like I Believe

When our lifestyles matches what we believe, people can see the power of God working in us. People should not have to guess what we believe; our lives should make our faith clear.

The more we grow spiritually, the better we get physically, the closer we get to Christ. Believers count themselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

***Timothy 3:5;** Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*