

The 'Discipleship Check List' Transcript

A GV247.TV Programme presented by Stewart Menelaws

DCL No12: Warnings to the believer:

This series is for any Christian believer who is either at the very beginning of their journey with Jesus Christ or has been a believer for some years but lacks a sound understanding of the Christian faith. It should also prove to be a helpful aid which interlinks with all our resources for Shepherds, Overseers and Believers reaching out to others.

In this present age of mixed theology, false doctrines and lack of discipleship training we take a brief overview of the warnings the follower of Christ must be aware of.

Do not alter the Word of God: (Deut 4:2 and Rev 22:18-19)

Do not alter, add to, subtract from, misinterpret or misappropriate The Word of God. In Revelation chapter 22:18-19 we see the penalty for doing so and we see the parallel in Deuteronomy 4:2

Warnings in the desert: (Matt 4:1-10)

Testing will come...

Every follower of Christ is to follow in His footsteps and in Matthew chapter 4 we must heed that:

- God's Word alone is our spiritual food (Matt 4:3-4)
- Do not put The Lord God to the test (Matt 4:6-7)
- Serve only God and no other (Matt 4:8-10)
- The call is that all must repent and turn to God (Matt 4:17)

Warnings against losing your salt / light: (Matt 5:13-16)

If salt loses its savour and a lamp is put under a table – both are of no value. We see the parallel with the tree that bears no fruit in Matt 7:19 and the branch that is burned in the fire in John 15:6. The antidote can be found in Revelation where The Lord counsels 5 churches out of 7 to repent.

Warning against calling a brother a fool:

The 'fool' does not believe in God (Psalm 14:1). The actual word denotes an immoral reprobate, so be careful what you say about others or you will be in danger of the fire of Hell! (Matt 5:22).

Warning against making oaths:

Do not swear (or take an oath) by Heaven or Earth, but let your 'Yes' be Yes and your 'No' be No – or you will be condemned (Matt 5:33-37 and James 5:12).

Warnings regarding prayer:

(Matt 6:5-15) Do not draw attention to yourself, do not babble – and do not even begin to seek The Lord until you have forgiven those who have trespassed against you. For the husband, make sure you have not treated your wife harshly or your prayers will be hindered (1 Pet 3:7). And note that unbelief will go unanswered... (James 1:5-8).

Warning against the deceit of money and riches:

Do not store up treasures on Earth. James warns the rich who have hoarded wealth and lived indulgent lives (James 5:1-5) that you cannot serve both God and money (Matt 6:19-24), while Paul also warns against the love of money in 1 Timothy 6:3-10

Warning against a judgemental spirit:

Do not judge. That is; do not condemn a brother (Matt 7:1-5), although right judgements are required when dividing truth and error (2 Tim 3:16-17). See DCL-11: for Love, forgiveness and judgement.

Warning for those with false motives:

(Matt 7:15-23), The Lord warns that many false prophets and workers of signs and wonders will be rejected. The Apostle Paul also warns of those who preach out of a false motive (Phil 1:15-18).

Warning about building your home on sand:

(Matt 7:24-27) The Lord warns that if you do not put the Word of God into practice, you will not stand. This is represented in the parable of the sower where the soil is shallow or choked with weeds (Matt 13:18-23).

Warning against NOT keeping God first:

(Matt 10:34-39) To put anyone or anything before God makes you unworthy to follow Christ. This may seem harsh to those lacking biblical understanding, but when correctly understood, the blessings are clear.

Warning against blaspheming the Holy Spirit:

(Mark 3:28-30) Simply - to reject God's gift of salvation. Some Pharisees irreverently told The Lord that He had a demon in Him thereby blaspheming God's Spirit. Once the Lord returned to the Father it is The Holy Spirit who can be wilfully rejected, thereby the wrath of God remains on an individual (John 3:36).

Warning of false christs, prophets and false doctrines:

(Matt 24:4-5) The warnings regarding false christs, prophets and false doctrines is prolific throughout the New Testament and was something that the Apostle Paul wept over (Acts 20:28-31).

Warning – The Lord is coming – do not fall asleep – oil in lamp:

Be alert! Be watching, ready and waiting (Mark 13:32-37). Peter warns of those who scoff at The Lord's return (2 Pet 3:3-14). The parable of the wise and foolish virgins warn about the condition of believers at the end of the age (Matt 25:1-12). The Church in Sardis (Rev 3:1-6) is warned sternly to wake up!

Warning against faithlessness:

Hebrews 11:6 states that without faith we cannot please God. In the parable of the talents (Matt 25:24-30) we see the individual who buried his talent because he was first of all afraid, then justified his actions, questioned the master as to his right to receive anything and proudly returned the buried coin believing himself to be vindicated.

Warning against rejecting the 4 commands in Acts:

The Holy Spirit instructed the Jewish apostles to teach the newly converted gentile believers what they must refrain from doing (Acts 15:19-20; 27-29 and Acts 21:25). That is (1) eating food sacrificed to Idols (2) from eating or drinking blood (3) from eating the meat of strangled animals (4) from sexual immorality.

Whilst these are fairly self-explanatory one of the most common infringements is the topic of eating or drinking blood such as popular blood or black pudding or sausage. Blood has never been approved as food for human consumption. (Genesis 9:4) God forbids the use of blood as a food source to all mankind. At Mt Sinai the Lord repeats this command (Lev 7:26) not to eat blood and to cut-off anyone who does. Scripture states that the blood has the life force within it (Lev 17:13-14) and it must not be treated as a food source. When Christ shed His blood for us, it gives insight into a deeper spiritual reality.

Warning in regard to the Lord's Supper:

(Luke 22:14-20) Believers unite in their love of the Saviour, remembering His completed work on the cross and the promise of His return. There is a strict warning that this must be approached with an upright heart. (1 Cor 11:23-33).

Warning against breaking the law of the land:

Christians must pay their taxes and bills that require payment (Rom 13:6). Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar (Matt 22:18-21) If you do not settle your accounts promptly you may end up in prison and will not be freed until the last penny is paid (Matt 5:25-26).

Warning against idleness:

There is a saying that the devil finds work for idle hands. In 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, the apostle Paul gives stern instruction in these matters. If a man will not work he shall not eat – verse 10.

Warning against falling away:

In the letter to the Hebrews there are stern warnings against hardening your heart, turning from God (Hebrews 3:7-19) and falling away (Hebrews 5:11-14 and Hebrews 6:1-12).

Warning against the slander of celestial beings:

In the letter of Jude verses 8-10 there is a warning never to slander celestial beings. In 2 Peter 2:10-12 he does not hold back in his warning against such arrogant individuals.

Warning for leaders:

There are many warnings regarding false or unfaithful leadership throughout the bible. Leaders must hold to sound doctrine and look after and train the sheep. The leadership that proves unfaithful in their service will be thrown into the lake of fire (Matt 24:45-51).

Warning against losing your crown:

Don't let anyone take your crown (Rev 3:11)

Warning – God hates:

In Proverbs 6:16-19; God hates: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

For those that love The Lord, be encouraged. Because it is He Who is able to keep you from falling and present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy. (Jude 24)

Next week (DCL No13) we look at:

What is Hell? – Life and Death.

The 'Discipleship Check List' series has been produced with the sole aim of encouraging the hearer / reader to study the Holy Bible so that faith in Jesus Christ will be built on Him alone. Every human work is fallible and whilst every effort has been made to represent the truths of God Almighty's Holy Words, this series is but an aid to help encourage study so that the Christian disciple of Jesus Christ will go onto maturity in the most Holy faith.

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