

## **An Environment of...**

2 Tim. 2.19

### **Intro:**

God knows those who are His! How? These are they who depart from iniquity or that which is lawless (2 Tim. 2.19). Belonging to God (in the faithful sense of the word or idea) requires respecting His Son's authority in our lives and producing fruit unto God. This we do while encouraging one another to be spiritual and cultivating an environment through love and good works (Heb. 10.24; 13.1).

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. An Environment of Promoting Priority!**

##### **A. Making **Spiritual** Things First (**Luke 9.23**)**

1. Self denial is the first priority for a successful atmosphere with God.
2. Humility and Communication fosters a Christ-like culture (Col. 3.1-5).
3. Edification, Exhortation and Comfort through preaching (1 Cor. 14.3).

##### **B. Putting First Things First (**Matt. 22.37-39**)**

1. Learning how to love God with all we have.
2. Loving God as He commands and desires (Jn. 14.15).
3. Showing a genuine love for our fellow man as He commands.

##### **C. Seeking First Things First (**Matt. 6.24-34**)**

1. Learning to Trust God and His will no matter the distraction in life.
2. The Kingdom/church must be sought after. What does this mean? (vs. 33)
3. The righteousness of God must be sought after daily. What is it?
  - a) Rom. 1.16-17; 6.17 (The Gospel system persuading the heart)
  - b) Tit. 2.11-13 (God's grace resulting in right living and hope of life)
  - c) Heb. 1.8-9 (resulting in Loving righteousness and hating iniquity)

##### **D. Remembering First Things First (**Eph. 2.10**)**

1. The church was created to work.
  - a) We must look for opportunities to do so (Acts 8.1-5).
  - b) Taking spiritual/right thinking into the world.
  - c) Spreading the word of the crucified Christ.
2. This should be our conversation when fellowshiping (Heb. 10.24).
  - a) Provoking one another unto love and good works.
  - b) God is glorified and we are better when our fellowship has meaning.
  - c) Being put in remembrance of these things help us and our neighbors.

## II. An Environment of Promoting Prayer!

- A. For **Trusting** God to Comfort and Protect Us (**Psalm 23**).
  - 1. Through His Promises
  - 2. Through His Provisions
  - 3. Through His Protections
- B. For **Tranquility** to Live Peaceably with All (**1 Tim. 2.1-4**).
  - 1. We have the responsibility to approach God on man's behalf.
  - 2. Our prayer life will result in peace with our fellowman.
  - 3. Praying with one another for our country should encourage us.
- C. For **Thanksgiving** to Serve God without Governmental Oppression.
  - 1. We should thank God as a congregation for the opportunity to serve.
  - 2. As in Haggai's day, we can have a free course to preach the gospel.
  - 3. Open doors to teach and preach (Col. 4.2-6).

## III. An Environment of Promoting Parting!

- A. Departing from Ungodly Behaviors Promote God's Environment (**2 Tim. 2.19**).
  - 1. Taking seriously our Christian identity with Christ.
    - a) Naming the name of Christ.
    - b) Protecting what we have at all costs.
    - c) Ensuring sin does not have a residence among us.
  - 2. Departing from iniquity ensures our position with God Himself.
    - a) Examples in the OT like Achan must teach us the seriousness of keeping sin out of the camp of God (Josh. 7.1ff).
    - b) When sin is eliminated, God's people can move forward and ultimately stand before their enemies (Josh. 7.10-12).
  - 3. Sin will keep God's people from Him or He will keep us from sin.
- B. Darkness and Light Cannot Co-exist (**1 John 1.5-9**).
  - 1. What we owe God and one another—faithful living in the Light
  - 2. We should encourage one another to live in the light—better accountability.
  - 3. We must strongly encourage confession and faithfulness in our assemblies.
- C. Demanding consistency among God's people (**James 3.10-12**).
  - 1. Transparency and Truth promotes consistency.
  - 2. Operating in Truth allows true growth amongst us.
  - 3. Seeking consistency in thought and behavior promotes parting from sin.

### **Conclusion:**

As we continue to foster the culture of Christ, may we never forget to bring Christ with us to every opportunity we gather in. Let's continue to remember what we have and seek to invite others into the great fellowship we have in Christ. If we live according to the truth, we will attract those who desire the same. God is true.