Worldliness

“Worldliness,” as set forth in the New Testament is any conduct or thought that is hostile or antagonistic toward God. John wrote, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is no in him.” (1 John 2:15). It is just this simple: when one of God’s children engages in or longs for anything in this world which is hostile or antagonistic toward God, then he is guilty of worldliness! And let me add, when a child of God is “soft” in attitude toward things that are hostile or antagonistic toward God, you may be sure he is being overtaken by the spirit of worldliness. The Christian is supposed to be able to discern between good and evil and in so doing he is admonished to hate evil. We are surrounded by evil in this world, and if we are not careful we become so influenced that we decide sin is not so had and we fail to see it as hostility toward God.

But, how can we determine what is right and what is wrong? You can't, if you are guided by human wisdom. You can, if you are guided by God's Word. The next time you are trying to decide what is right and what is wrong regarding a practice, ask yourself the following questions.

IF I DO THIS WILL IT MAKE ME LOOK WORLDLY?
Romans 12:1-2. In other words, if I do this will I appear before others as a devoted Christian or a person of the world? If it will make you look worldly, then you can't afford to do it.

IF I DO THIS WILL IT LEAVE ME WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE?
Read Romans 14:23. If what you are doing, or what you are about to do can not be done with a clear conscience, then you had better leave it alone, unless you want to be condemned.
1. Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have I give thee: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.

2. How are the mighty fallen.

3. If now I have found grace in thy sight, then show me a sign that thou talkest with me.

4. Go not to glean in another field...but abide here fast by my maidens.

"And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified." (Daniel 5:23)

It is amazing how often history repeats itself. We humans are stubborn and have a hard time learning from the past. Surely someone had told Belshazzar of the demise of the Nebuchadnezzar, his predecessor. (Daniel 4:28-33) Surely stories had circulated about the deliverance of three Hebrew men from the fiery furnace. (Daniel 3:26.,27)

For close to 70 years the Babylonians had witnessed the impact of Daniel, this godly Hebrew. When troublesome times came, who did they turn to? None of the Chaldean soothsayers or astrologers had the answer. But Daniel, with the Spirit of God was able to provide answers.

Belshazzar, the Babylonian ruler called for a great feast of wine and revelry. They defied the god of Daniel by taking the articles of the house of God and praising the idols of men. Suddenly their party was rattled by words that appeared on the wall: "And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of each word. Mene: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; Tekel: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; Peres: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." (Daniel 5:26,27) Belshazzar had failed to use his life to glorify the very God who had given him a breath.

It is the duty of every human to glorify God, regardless of social, or economic status. Even the most powerful rulers cannot escape this responsibility. This obligation primarily stems from man's complete dependence on his Creator and Provider.

Those who fail in this matter are regarded as rebels. When one fails, he defiles his maker by fashioning his own god and worshiping it. This is the unfortunate dilemma of every human who is accountable to God. (Romans 3:23)

Belshazzar was not an exception. God made him ruler over the Babylonian empire. Like all humans, he was accountable to the one who made him and blessed him. He was tried and found wanting. One day all of mankind will face God in a final judgment. Sadly, many will follow the path of this Babylonian ruler. Where will you be on that day?

Belshazzar lost his kingdom in one night. Sadly, he will be among those on the final day who will be sentenced to eternal destruction. What would God say about your life? Are you using it to God's glory?