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2 **Latrell Bateman**

- Latrell has shared Christ with anyone who would listen, been a faithful missionary and wife.
- She will soon be with Jesus and will hear Him say, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the Lord.*"

3 **Will I finish life well?**

- Many Christians do not finish life well.
- At some point, they get tired and discouraged and give up.
- They backslide.

4 **Beware the Backslidden**

5 **2 Timothy 3:1-4**

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...

6 **2 Timothy 3:5-9**

...having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.

7 **2 Timothy 3:9**

But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

8 **2 Commands**

- Understand
 - The character of the ungodly and backslidden
 - The fact that the world is becoming more evil
 - "Last days" means the time period between the resurrection and Christ's return
- Avoid
 - Be kind to all
 - But avoid close personal relationships or official affiliations with the ungodly

9 **1. Loving the wrong things**

10 **Lovers of self**

- Lovers of self (2 Timothy 2:2) – φίλαυτοι
 - Selfish
 - Seek to gratify themselves and do what feels good rather than what pleases God
 - Justifies their behavior even when it harms others

11 **Lovers of money**

- Φιλάργυροι -- "lovers of silver"
 - Avaricious, greedy
 - Immoderately desirous of acquiring wealth
- Causes them to compromise:
 - Taking advantage of others
 - Failing to give to God's work

12 **Your wallet and checkbook say a lot about your love for God**

13 **Malachi 3:10**

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

14 **Matthew 23:23**

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

- If you make this apply to Jews only, then you can say that everything Jesus said to the Pharisees was for them only.

15 **1 Corinthians 16:2**

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

- Money given to church
- Church sent money to missions efforts by the hands of the apostles

16 **Matthew 6:22-24**

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

17 **Healthy eye vs. bad eye**

- The healthy eye sees the needs of others and opportunities to give to God's work.
 - In giving, a person becomes more like our Giving God.
 - His light fills you as a result of your generosity.
 - Show me a Christian who gives abundantly and I can show you a joyful Christian.
- The bad eye sees only its own selfish desires and needs and fills a person with darkness.

18 **Understanding the tithe**

- The purpose of the tithe was a weekly reminder of your need for the fear of the Lord.
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- God will not love you less if you fail to tithe.
- God tells us in 1 Corinthians 16:2 to give in proportion to our blessing.

19 **Understanding the tithe (2)**

- Tithe established hundreds of years before the Law -- 10% of income, and were an act of worship.
- Mosaic law prescribed specific offerings were required to meet the needs of the indigent, supply the Tabernacle, and government operations. These mandatory donations amounted to 22% of income and were much like taxes are today.

20 **Should you tithe?**

- Tithing is not legalism.
 - The tithe was established before the law of Moses.
 - Hebrews 7:4 makes it plain that Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek (literally “my king of righteousness”).
- Affirmed in the NT:
 - Jesus commends tithing in Matthew 23:23.
 - Paul speaks of proportional weekly giving
 - Writer of Hebrews affirms the tithe.

21 **2 Corinthians 9:6**

- So the tithe is biblical, appropriate for NT Christians, and is an excellent guideline for a starting point for giving.
- The tithe is not OT legalism.
- But the NT emphasizes the principle of sowing and reaping.
- *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

22 **Where does the money go?**

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- Baptist Missions
 - Baptist Benevolent Ministries of Irving
 - BMA Theological Seminary
 - Dallas County Baptist Missionary Association
 - Baptist Missionary Association of Texas
 - Baptist Missionary Association of America – hundreds of foreign and interstate missions (some 15,000 people come to know Christ every year through this ministry)

24 **Where does the money go? (2)**

- Texas Baptist Home for Children (Waxahachie)
- Lifeword Broadcast Ministries (radio and TV)
- Specific individuals
 - Global Service Network (Bridges family)
 - Ortman family
 - Filomeno Kakilala family (Philippines)
 - Sam Jordan ministry (Country of Jordan)
 - Ashraf Anwer ministry (Arabs in Metroplex)

25 **Where does the money go? (3)**

- Benevolence for those in our church
- Joseph Pantry
- RightNow ministries – more than 2000 Bible studies and resources online for your family
- SermonAudio.com – Our sermons 24 x 7 reaching into places we cannot go

26 **Where does the money go? (4)**

- Operating expenses
 - Electricity (about \$800 / month)
 - Water
 - Pest control
 - Cleaning
 - Supplies (plates, forks, napkins, toilet tissue, soap, sanitizer)
 - Piano tuning

27 **Where does the money go? (5)**

- Insurance (church facility, van)
- Van maintenance
- Facility repairs
- Payroll taxes
- Internet access
- Pastor and staff salaries

28 **Where does a \$1 go at FBCLC?**

- A \$1 goes to:
 - Missions -- \$0.32
 - Salaries -- \$0.31
 - Benevolence -- \$0.05
 - Operating expenses -- \$0.32

29 **What happens when:**

- Giving is insufficient:
 1. Operating expenses
 2. Pastor and janitorial salaries
 3. Supported ministry families
 4. Other salaries and ministries as we can
- Giving is abundant:
 - Pay all budgeted expenses
 - We give extra “blessings” to missions in excess of our normal giving.

30 **What does God love?**

- A cheerful (“hilarious”) giver
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 -- *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

31 **Now we return to our regular programming....**

32 **Lovers of pleasure**

- Literally, "close friends with hedonism"
 - Webster's – Hedonism is "the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the sole or chief good in life."
- These lovers of pleasure are more concerned with what feels good or what is fun to them than:
 - Do my life and activities glorify God?
 - Is God pleased with what I am doing?

33 **Failing to love good**

- The ungodly and backslidden fail to love good (2 Timothy 3:3)
 - "Without interest in the public good"
 - They make choices that weaken others rather than strengthen them for serving Christ.

34 **Failing to love God**

- These people fail to love God (2 Timothy 3:4)
 - Ultimately, our choices should not be based on what we want or what others think.
 - Our choices should be based on what gives God the glory.
 - Our choices should be based on what pleases God.

35 **Revelation 4:10**

- KJV -- *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*
- You were created to please God. So you will experience fulfillment to the degree that you are doing what pleases Him.

36 **Colossians 3:17**

- *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
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- WHATEVER you do should be done in Jesus name (in accordance with His will) and done with thanksgiving and a worshipful heart toward God.

37 **2. Lacking in Christian virtues**

38 **What they are missing**

- Several of the words which follow begin in the Greek with the prefix a=, meaning "without" (as in moral-amoral, theist-atheist), signifying absence of the designated virtue.

39 **What they are missing (2)**

- Disobedient (*apeitheis*) to their parents
 - Indicates a lack of intention to obey or to honor
- Ungrateful (*acharistoi*)
 - Not gracious; lacking in joy; complaining
- Unholy (*anosioi*)
 - Lacking in reverent awe for God
 - Failing to demonstrate respect for the sacred

40 **What they are missing (3)**

- Heartless (without love – *astorgoi*)
 - Lacking in regard or affection for another
 - Hard-hearted; unfeeling
- Unforgiving (*aspondoi*)
 - “*pertaining to being unwilling to be reconciled to others—irreconcilable, unwilling to be at peace with others.*”

41 **What they are missing (4)**

- Without self-control (*akrateis*)
 - Not having dominion or power over their own self.
- Brutal (*anēmeroi*)
 - Untamed, brutal, uncivilized, not caring that they are hurting others);
- Not lovers of the good (*philagathoi*)
 - Not concerned with whether something pleases God.

42 **3. Leaning the wrong way**

43 **Zealously inclined toward vice**

- Treacherous (*prodotai*)
 - “Disposed toward betrayal and dishonesty
 - Deceives others to get what they want
- Rash (*propeteis*)
 - “Disposed toward recklessness”
 - Makes decisions without:
 - Prayer
 - Considering the consequences
 - Considering the impact on others

44 **4. Living with a prideful attitude**

45 **The downward spiral of pride**

- Boastful—the outward manifestation of pride
- Conceited—pride that leads you to make poor decisions and ignore godly counsel
- Proud (“arrogant”)
- Abusive toward others (*blasphēmoi*) (“blasphemers”)

46 **The downward spiral (2)**

- Slanderous – like the devil accusing others
- Hypocrites – having only a form of godliness
- Ultimately, the folly of these people becomes apparent to everyone (2 Timothy 3:9).

47 **BEWARE the backslidden**

- In Ephesus, backslidden Christians had begun to damage the lives of other Christians.
- They slipped into the homes of church members and caused others to backslide—often starting with the women.

- They bring about corrupted thinking in those whom they influence.

48 **The real question**

- How many of these 19 characteristics describe you?
- How many do you think God is pleased with?
- Is the Holy Spirit of God telling you right now that you need to repent?
- Can you answer these questions honestly?
- Will you respond to His leading?