

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Part two of chapter 11, was identifying the modern Impediments in hindrances. To meditation.

Now I did order a new microphone but it did not order. I did not arrive like I said it was going to be so I'll try to make sure that uh, I'm close this microphone. So, Our modern day and modern age has produced many things. Many Temptations that assault us, that hinder us from putting the proper effort.

And, Biblical meditation. Keeping us from doing what is necessary for proper meditation. And some of those things are entertainments and gadgets. Now, this thing right here, Is one of those impediments? Is that all these Rings the wrong time? Or bonks at you when it's in the wrong time. Um, television.

Television is an impediment. There's like hundreds and thousands of channels. And like somebody said nothing on Um, satellite radio. The the book mentioned that you could drive from Florida, California, and listen to the same channel the entire time. Um, I remember when I was a kid, when we go through some of the more rural areas of West Virginia, and in Pennsylvania and Maryland, we wouldn't have any radio stations.

So we, we would sit there and we would do what we typically would do. And, you know, sing songs and and count the cow game and all that kind of thing. On the internet. The internet allows us to. Keep our minds, so full of stuff. Um, that is kind of hard to put anything else into it.

Edmund Smith, who is a modern day historian and Economist. He said this about our age, we the electronic age have much trouble with prolonged thinking Television discourages it The average length of a shot on television is only 3.5 seconds so that the eye never rests and always has something new.

It must see. Christians have allowed themselves to come under the spell of electronic images and spend many hours dazzled by them. Thus, even to read the Bible, may prove difficult for many Christians nowadays, let alone the efforts required to contemplate in a serious way. The meaning of the words.

Well, we know that God calls his people to regular and undistracted consideration of his word and his spiritual truths. But we live in a world. That is full of almost constant interruptions and distractions. To meditate. We must be able to concentrate on God's word to fix our souls on it as if it were Um, Because the unsettled mind cannot meditate.

If the believer is to survive in a world of constant distractions, you must really think about what is important in his life. What is really important to his spiritual health? To make some hard choices about what's easy going to do with his time. What's he's going to allow to take him away from doing what is important?

He's got to be willing to part with anything that distracts his mind from quietly communion or quietly communing with the Lord. Um, God tells us in Hebrews 12. Therefore, we also since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses. Let us lay aside every weight and the sin, which so easily ensnares us and let us run with endurance.

The race that has set before us looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Who for the joy that was set before him endure. The cross despising, the shame and has set down at the right hand of the Throne of God. So what does that say about?

Humaning with the Lord. What does that say? About biblical meditation. You kind of have to read into it, let it let us lay aside every weight in this sin, which so easily ensnares us. That kind of tells us that All these things that are around us. Advise with our time for things that are necessary for our spiritual.

Um and the sin. That's so easy and snares us that tells us right there, but we have to put those things aside. Um, to be able to Be in a proper mindset and a proper life where that where this biblical meditation is going to be good for us. Something neat that the Uh, the book said is that many Americans live, a typical life that is caught up in the latest movie sporting events sitcoms and YouTube videos.

What I say is, it's more that the whole world really. Um, maybe not the smaller parts and some remote island or something. But uh, If you'll find a phone anywhere nearby, you probably have a whole lot of interruptions. Um, I've seen many many times where people just sit there and they'll just scroll through there and look up at this thing and they'll scroll through some more and then they look and they'll scroll through, they'll spend half an hour just scrolling through stuff.

And never really sitting down on one thing Liz and I went to dinner the other night and there was this little teeny waiting room. It's a little little Asian restaurant and it's really good food but people are just standing there. And instead of having a conversation with anybody, they're all just in there.

There was like, six people with telephones out there and even people there were under six single people. They were, there were parties and Liz and I were talking these people going I don't understand that. But that's the way that's the kind of world that we live in right now.

Um, second Timothy 2. Verse 4. No one engaged in Warfare. Entangles himself with Affairs of this life. That he may, please him who enlisted him as a soldier and we are in a battle. What does the book say? God's battle plan for the mind. We are in a battle.

We are in a holy Warfare. With God's enemies who also should be our enemies. At war, with Satan and his minions. Now think about this what? It says, here a soldier when he enlists should be thinking about and should be all about executing that Warfare. And if he doesn't, He's a worthless Soldier.

If he's thinking about what he left at home, he really can't be a good Soldier. So, we As Christians. We have a great responsibility to please. Please Christ. To be to approve ourselves to him for. We are in a battle. So, that was Some of the distractions and entertainments of gadgets.

Let's continue on. Another thing that keeps us from properly meditating on God's word is the influence of ungodly friends. And a lot of people think that they're unaffected by the culture and what they live in, And that their thoughts are unpainted by the world that they live in that they are independent thinkers.

And that would be a really, really good thing. If that were true But if we read, if we really read what the Holy Spirit tells us in the first Psalm, the first words of that first Psalm, We'll see that we are in no way untainted by the world. Psalm 1 verses 1 and 2.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of Sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his Delight is in the law of the Lord. And in his law, he meditates day and night, Can y'all see with?

What that means there. And what that means with with meditation. The Blessed man cannot be Godly in meditating while receiving competing counsel from the wicked.

You know, I grew up in in the church and I kind of moved away from the church. Um, And had my time in the council the ungodly and I can tell you that you cannot focus on God's word if we keep having this others, this competing information into your head.

Um, If we think about what Peter said on this, you know, in this sermon on the day of Pentecost, he said, And this is from Acts 2 verse 40. And with many other words, he testified and exhorted them saying be saved from this perverse generation. If we are in a perverse generation, we are going to be hearing things that that run counter to what God's word tells us.

And we have to make sure that those things aren't clotting up their minds and we're trying to focus on God's word. So just as we need to be Discerning about what we allow into our minds, we need to be sterning about the influence. Of unbelievers and ungodly company. Sometimes it's kind of hard to See what is ungodly company and what is Godly company, but I always say look to the fruit At the fruit of that company is not godly fruit.

Then we have to be triple with ourselves about spending time with ungodly company. The. Impediment is the failure to decisively separate from the world. Uh, Peter, you want to read second Corinthians for me? The second Corinthians 6 11-18. Corinthians. We have spoken openly to you. Our heart is wide open and you are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections.

Now in return for the same, I speak as the children. You also be open, do not be unequally go together with unbelievers. Well, what Fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness and what communion has life is Darkness. In Christ with the Lyle. Or what part has a Believer with an unbelievable and what agreement has the temple of God with Idols, where you are the Temple of the Living.

God, as God has said, I will dwell with them and walk among them. I will be their God and they shall be my people therefore come out from among them and be separate says, the Lord. Do not touch, what is unclean and I will receive you. I will be your father to you and you shall be my sons.

And daughters says the Lord, all might Thank you. So, Very little in this world is neutral. And anything that hinders us from running that race that we just spoke about in Romans 12. Um, And that includes with communion with God, admitting on his truths. That is part of the race, really?

Um, anything that hinders us from doing. That is actually Wicked. In something that we would we should remove ourselves very far from them. Um, there was a really neat quote in the book. About odor. And I want to read that to you. If a Believer fails to separate from the world, eventually is odor.

Will overtake his mind and soul like the smell of rotten fish in a room full of flowers. He will find that. He neither enjoys nor desires what takes place in meditation. That really is. It's a meaningful quote. I simply put sharing the same goals and daily habits with the world will hinder.

Our walk with the Lord. And even though we walk this Earth, our hearts must be in heaven. Our thoughts must be focused on things Eternal because one day, all of this is going to burn up maybe no more. So letting excuses and hindrances. Stop us from properly, meditating on God's truths is dangerous for our souls.

So let us remember. We are all in a battle. And use all the tools that God has given us. To do this. Any thoughts any questions? It's been kind of quiet. But I hope y'all, um, You got something from this chapter. It was a pretty good chapter. Um, Um, Russell, I'm just gonna say about saying that they had in the military that don't rise to your next level of expectation, you fault your, your level of training and the idea is that with something Significant happens.

You don't always rise to the zero status, but you fall to whatever training you've been just retraining is really good, then you won't call it. You'll be fine. And, In meditation, on God's word and making ourselves having access to the means of Grace, is that our prayer? And so, when hey difficult, things happen to us, or where we're in difficult situations, or we're around the wrong company, we don't We're not always.

The keyword that we think it would be when we fall to whatever training we have, and So, making good use of meditation. The means of greatest things, it helps significantly, that's true. And I, I like that, that Soldier. Um, What's the word reference? Okay, anything else? I was seeing in particular, hey, just because I have young people in this age group, but, You know, in terms of being wary of friendships, not just, I think I think most And easily spot someone who just is flat out.

This is not like the Lord, is not a Christian openly, but I think the ones that are more dangerous are the ones that Did say just an enough writing or they're like, oh no, that's one of my they go to church but their salary is not When you think last week in the sermon, when James was talking about, not going to scripture looking for the answer that you want to hear, because our, our Majors are to go to friends and sometimes as well looking that are going to agree with us or say, oh no, yeah, no, that's fine.

That's Fine. And just that that caution and Manhattan. I got to work. It's just another Like someone I need to talk about that. Like a terrible work against. Being told like, oh no, no, the Bible says that that's specifically. That's okay. You know, because you're gonna find that, it can work hard enough.

You'd find a friend too as a Christian friend, that's gonna Agree, which would say whatever it is, you're trying to justify in your own. But again, if you look for that fruit, right? If you that person is telling you what you want to hear, but their fruit is is inconsistently what they're saying?

Then you have to be careful. Our young. Well we're not fun. That is a harder thing sometimes to talk because how many people who say good things and take Sometimes things that are correct, but then Watching their lives into what they're doing. That, that Discerning of like, who are the friends that are the ones, the, what the council, the good counselor, Pastor.

And I think that, Another for the the Apostle uses an effective treatment for us really helpful on the theft in together. With one another or with them. With whenever you spend A significant amount of time with Not just because If you're yoked in with someone who opposes Christ,

Like darkness of Jesus Christ, like Lyle of the Moses Christ, but The Lord has yoked us together.

In this life, in which we walk with him with one another And did you think that you had? Two animals laboring together in a yolk. If one of the animals is pulling to the side instead of pulling holes, Or just dragging its feet standing still trying to Trying to catch a snack instead of moving forward.

Uh, it makes it significantly more difficult for the other one. And I think we have a responsibility to one another. Not to be distracted. By worldliness or competing priorities that get in the way of necessary things. Uh, and Not. Gonna slouch. In our, in our Christianity and our Christian walk where we're just kind of stagnant and complacent, Uh, because the Lord does mean for us by grace, dependence upon him.

Remember we yoked in Christ too and that's what makes the the yoke easy and the burden light. Uh, but my grace, we we all need to be pulling forward together. Otherwise. Uh, even just by licensing or going nowhere. Uh, we're holding others. Uh, back and hurting them and then You know, to push the metaphor a little further.

Hopefully, it causes break. You know, those who are more mature than the Lord, those who are stronger. Those who have some momentum I think there's providentially the assignment. Of pulling on those scores tending still that they Get moving with us. Or with them again. Um, so really appreciated. The apostles really, the spirit's use.

Of that metaphor. First and second Corinthians. Are really rich with helpful teaching on what it means to. Be a congregation together. There's a lot of congregational life stuff. Uh, in those two, two letters. Particularly yeah, Probably didn't pull enough out of the second Corinthians, but a lot of people use the second Corinthians saying oh you shouldn't be married with unbelievers.

Being yoked is a lot more than just being married. There are so many different levels of being yoked and marriage is one but then what the pastor's saying is just being you know, alongside each other doing what we daily do. And we shouldn't be yoked with people who are going to be pulling us away from Christ and his truths.

Anything else? Okay, let's, let's pray. Glorious. Heavenly Father. We thank you for Uh your use your providential use of this book and and teaching us about you about our position and our place. What you have given us to help us in our our walk in our daily lives. You have given us your word, your truths, you have given us meditations so many things, Lord that you have given us.

To help us. And To further us in our walk. To make us more and more like Christ, help us Lord to use these things that you might be glorified in our lives. And Lord, we do. Thank you for this uh this time and in the morning to study, and not only your word, but to how your word affects our lives.

Lord, as we move from this room to the chapel, we pray you at Us to focus, our minds and our hearts on you, and your worship and on your truths, your word, help us Lord, to spend this day. Keeping it. Holy keeping it for you first. In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.