**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Twenty-one**

**Day 33**

Day 33: “Christian Superstitions”

🡺You may find it helpful to divide this day into two lessons.

**Discussion Questions**

**As you study this chapter, make note of other false teachings or superstitions that come to mind that make it difficult to believe that God is good and that He wants to answer our prayers.**

1. **“God Willing”**

* In what ways could the concept of tagging “God willing” to every plan we make be a superstition?
* How can this superstition hinder our faith in His grace?
* What are some practical and Scriptural examples of legitimate planning?
* When might planning be ill-advised?
* We know from Scripture that God’s will is knowable. If we are wise, we will seek to know His will. What resources do we have for discovering God’s will?
* How will being free from this superstition change our outlook in life and set us free?

1. **Kristian Karma**

* In what ways do some Christians believe in Kristian Karma?
* Why is this NOT a New Covenant concept? (Contrast with the blessings and curses of the law.)
* Discus how this statement totally contradicts the idea of Kristian Karma. “Grace is undeserved favor from God. If we earn His blessings as some sort of cosmic reward, then it is no longer grace. If we are punished for our sins, as we deserve, then the penalty that Jesus paid for our sins was not enough (Gal. 2:21).”

1. **Generational Curses**

* Sometimes, I ask myself, “Did Jesus ever do this?” It helps me get perspective. So, did Jesus ever set someone free from the sins of their parents? The answer is an obvious, “NO!”
* The truth is, individuals face judgment for their OWN sins, not those of their ancestors, and thankfully, our sins have been paid for by the blood of Jesus. When things go wrong, we need not delve into our past, however dark it might be. We have been set free COMPLETELY. How might this good news help you or someone you know?

1. **Morse Curses**

* Why do Christians NOT need to be delivered from any curse?
* In what way is believing we are cursed a superstition and how does it keep us bound?
* Sometimes, this concept is less obvious, revealing itself in the form of the idea that we “have a sin we have not confessed”, and that this is why it seems our prayers are not answered. This is also ridiculous when we realize that we don’t need to confess our sins to be forgiven. We are already forgiven.

1. **Basing Our Doctrines on Experience**

* It is a natural part of life to “learn from experience”. There is nothing wrong with this because it can be beneficial and keep us out of trouble. However, when it comes to biblical doctrine, basing our beliefs on our experiences of those of others can bring tragic results. Discuss.

1. **Being “Authentic”**

* Discuss how our desire to be “honest” about everything can interfere with the process of believing**.**

🙚***This is a logical place to divide the lesson, if you choose to do so***.🙘

1. **Suffering and Sacrificing to Obtain Favor**

* How is it that Christians are saved and blessed and how does this truth negate the idea of earning Brownie Points with God?

1. **Begging God and Prayer Chains**

* How does the concept of prayer chains take us off course of believing that God is on our side and wants to help us?

1. **Everything Happens for a Divine Purpose**

* In what types of circumstances do people usually use this saying?
* Why does it go against Scriptural truth to say this?
* Can you think of some specific examples of when this is obviously not true?
* Having spoken with Shelley about the story she shared in my book, she relayed to me how she might have responded differently when she used to believe that God sent or allowed calamity to “teach” her something. How might we respond differently to the difficult circumstances in our lives if we truly believed that God is for us, not against us?

1. **Attributing Everything to God**

* Have you ever caught yourself blaming God for the little things that happen that drive us crazy? Have you ever asked God “why” something happened that really was just an accident?
* Can you see how thinking God does everything can make him look like the school yard bully who tries to frustrate his classmates by tricking and tripping them?

1. **God Needs Her in Heaven**

* Have you said or heard someone say this in the face of tragedy? How does this portray God in a selfish manner? Discuss.

1. **My Time to Go**

* Discuss the difference between God knowing the future and the false idea that God has set a day and time for our death.
* How is this belief problematic in light of Scripture?
* Again, discus the difference between being “appointed to die once” and God setting an appointed day and time that we will die.
* What does it actually mean to “number our days”?
* God wants to satisfy you will long life. What does this imply?
* Why should we be thinking of living instead of dying?

1. **Why Live?**

* Have you ever gone through a situation in which it seemed easier to give up instead of fighting to survive? Or have you known someone who came to this hopeless way of thinking?
* Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8*We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; 9persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— 10always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.” The truth is, life isn’t always easy or fair, and most people have times of wanting the throw in the towel. What personal reasons can you give to keep on believing and living?