

Strive Lawfully

- Necessity
- In The Past
- Today

The lesson is entitled, “*Strive Lawfully*”

- [2Tim.2:5](#) reads, “...**IF** a man also **STRIVE** for masteries (or in the games as an athlete), **YET** is he **NOT** crowned, **EXCEPT** he **Strive Lawfully** (or according to the rules).”

These are the words of the apostle Paul, to young Timothy, and to ALL the rest of us.

They are **NOT** written to merely inform us, how to participate successfully in games, but **CHIEFLY**, to warn us against **VIOLATION** of the rules, **AS** we run the christian race, or **AS** we wage spiritual war, against sin and satan.

Notice that Striving Lawfully is a spiritual,

I. NECESSITY

- “Whosoever goeth onward (or transgresseth) and abideth **NOT** in the teaching of Christ, hath **NOT** God:” ([2Jn.vs.9](#) - ASV)
- “Let us walk by the same **RULE**” ([Phil.3:16](#))
- “**NOT** every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **BUT** he that **DOETH** the will of My Father which is in heaven.” (Jesus said in [Matt.7:21](#))

There were some, who did NOT “strive lawfully”,

II. IN THE PAST

Such as,

A. The Jews, in the days of Jesus

- “In **VAIN** do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines, the commandments **OF MEN**.” (Jesus said in [Matt.15:9](#))

B. Some of the Galatians were,

- “observ(ing) days, and months, and times, and years.” ([Gal.4:10](#))

C. Some only knew of the Baptism of John.

To the Twelve men at Ephesus, Paul said,

- “John verily baptized with the **BAPTISM** of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after him, that is, **ON** Christ Jesus.
⁵ When they **HEARD** this, they were **BAPTIZED** in the name of the Lord Jesus.” ([Acts 19:4-5](#))

D. Concerning the Coming Judgment.

- Jesus said, “Many will **SAY** to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, **have we not**
 - prophesied in thy name?
 - and in Thy Name, have cast out devils?
 - and in Thy Name, done many wonderful works?²³ And then will I **PROFESS** unto them, I **NEVER** knew you:
DEPART from Me, ye that work **INIQUITY**.” ([Matt.7:22-23](#))

There are some, who do NOT “strive lawfully”,

III. TODAY

A. Some are Striving in Human Institutions.

- The Bible teaches us that the **CHURCH** is “the pillar and ground of Truth” ([1Tim.3:15](#); [Eph.3:9-11](#)).
- We “glory (God) in the church by Christ Jesus” ([Eph.3:21](#)).

This necessarily condemns any man-made institution or organization, such as a college or religious publication:

- From training preachers, or disseminating Truth;
- From conducting worship service, lectureships, or gospel meetings.

The only institution that has the authority to

- “sound out the Word of the Lord” and “spread (their faith) abroad” ([1Thess.1:8](#)),
- is the church that Jesus “purchased with His own blood” ([Acts 20:28](#)).

Yes, an individual can do his or her own work of teaching, but an individual is not an organization.

B. Some use schemes, to finance spiritual church work, rather than scriptural giving.

- The Bible says, “Every man according as he **PURPOSETH** in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” ([2Cor.9:7](#))
- “Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, **AS God hath PROSPERED him**, that there be no gatherings when I come.” ([1Cor.16:2](#))

C. Some are "Faith only" observants.

- But the Bible says, “see then how that by works a man is justified, and **NOT by faith only**.” ([James 2:24](#))

D. There are Those Who Practice and Submit to sprinkling or pouring, for baptism.

...Even though the Bible teaches that in Baptism,

- “we are **BURIED** with him **by baptism** into death: that like as Christ was **RAISED** up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so, we also should **walk in newness of life**.” ([Rom.6:4](#); [Col.2:12-13](#); [Acts 8:38-39](#)).

Today, there are those who do not “strive lawfully” through their,

E. Failure to Observe the Lord's supper, each first day, of every week.

- As the Bible says, it was “upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together, to **break bread**, Paul preached unto them” ([Acts 20:7](#)).

F. Some play in worship, even though the Bible says “SING”.

- “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; **Teaching** and admonishing one another **IN** psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **SINGING** with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” ([Col.3:16](#))
- “**SPEAKING** (NOT humming, or whistling) to yourselves **IN** psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **SINGING** and making **MELODY in your heart** to the Lord;” ([Eph.5:19](#))
- “...I will **SING** with the spirit (or right attitude), and I will **SING** with the **understanding** also.” ([1Cor.14:15](#)).
- Notice that, Mechanical instruments,
 - do **NOT** speak ([Eph.5:19](#)) teach and admonish ([Col.3:16](#))
 - Mechanical Instruments, can**NOT** be understood ([1Cor.14:15](#))
 - and Melody is to be done in the heart, **NOT** with mechanical instruments ([Eph.5:19](#))

G. Some are spiritually off and on, or faithful, when they want to be,

- Instead of being “**stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding** in the work **OF** the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain **IN** the Lord.” ([1Cor.15:58](#)).

There are those who do not strive lawfully because,

H. They Willfully Fail to Assemble Together, to Worship God.

Notice the lengthy reading of [Heb.10:23-31](#),

- ²³ Let us **hold fast** the profession of our faith **without wavering**; (for He is faithful that promised);
²⁴ and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
²⁵ **NOT forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

...**thought continues:** ²⁶ For **IF we sin wilfully** after that we have received the knowledge of the Truth, **there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins**, ²⁷ but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

²⁸ He that **despised** Moses' **law**, **died without mercy** under two or three witnesses:
²⁹ of how much sorer **PUNISHMENT**, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who **hath trodden under foot the Son of God**, and **hath counted the blood of the covenant**, wherewith he was sanctified, **an UNholy thing**, and hath **done despite unto the Spirit of grace?**

³⁰ For we know Him that hath said, **VENGEANCE belongeth unto Me, I will RECOMPENSE**, saith the Lord. And again, **The Lord shall JUDGE His people.**
³¹ **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**” (reads [Heb.10:23-31](#))

These are consecutive verses of Hebrews chapter 10; all under the same context.

The implication is that “forsaking assembling of ourselves together”, Is the same as,

- NOT “**Hold(ing) fast the profession of our faith without wavering**”

“forsaking assembling of ourselves together”, Is the same as,

- “**sin(ing) wilfully**”

“forsaking assembling of ourselves together”, Is the same as,

- “**trod(ing) under foot the Son of God**”
- “**Count(ing) the blood of the covenant, ...an unholy thing**”
- And Having “**done despite unto the Spirit of grace**”

Medical conditions aside,

HOW Could anyone get in a rut of “**forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**”?

It seems some have time to attend many secular chores, and the things we are interested in, But sadly, many don't have time for God, and it will be to their own eternal detriment.

Oh, how we need to “Strive Lawfully”.

IV. IN-CLOSING

Am I, and are you; ...are we, Striving Lawfully?

James spoke to some who were spiritually unfaithful.

- He said, “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the **FRIENDSHIP** of the world is **ENMITY** with God? whosoever therefore will be a **FRIEND** of the world is the **ENEMY** of God.” ([Jas.4:4](#))

Paul said,

- “Be ye **NOT** unequally YOKED together WITH unbelievers: (because evil companions corrupt good morals 1Cor.15:33)

for **WHAT** fellowship, hath righteousness **WITH** unrighteousness?

and **WHAT** communion, hath light **WITH** darkness?

¹⁵ and **WHAT** concord, hath Christ **WITH** Belial?

or **WHAT** part, hath he that believeth **WITH** an infidel?

¹⁶ and **WHAT** agreement, hath the temple of God **WITH** idols?

for ye are the **TEMPLE** of the living God; as God hath said,

I will **DWELL** in them, and **WALK** in them; and I will **BE** their God, and they shall **BE** My people.

¹⁷ Wherefore **COME OUT** from among them, and be ye **SEPARATE**, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸ and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” ([2Cor.6:14-18](#))

- “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **PRESENT** your bodies a living **SACRIFICE**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be **NOT CONFORMED** to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind (by the gospel), that ye may **PROVE** what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” ([Rom.12:1-2](#))

The Lord invites us to “Strive **LAWFULLY**”.

If you have a spiritual **NEED**, won't you **COME**,

- **Believing** ([Jn.8:24](#); [Heb.11:6](#)),
- **Repenting** ([Lk.13:3](#); [Acts 17:30](#); [2Pet.3:9](#); [1Jn.1:9](#); [Jn.8:11](#)),
- **Confessing** ([Acts 8:37](#); [Matt.10:32-33](#); [Rom.10:9-10](#)),
- Be **Baptized** INTO Christ ([Gal.3:26-27](#); [Rom.6:3-5](#); [Mk.16:16](#); [1Pet.3:21](#); [Acts 22:16](#))
...Where **ALL** “spiritual blessings” exist ([Eph.1:3](#))
- And Remain **Faithful** ([Rev.2:10](#)), or **Endure** until the end ([Matt.24:13](#))?

...as together we stand and sing.