Sermon outline by Marc W. Gibson

THE CHRISTIAN AND SOCIAL MEDIA (2)

Introduction
1) Having described the current state of the internet and social media in the previous lesson, we will now consider the application of divine principles of godly living revealed in God's word to our involvement in these things (Titus 2:11-12 living righteous in "the present age" – the last days)
2) We must be sober and careful in remaining faithful servants of God in this wicked world (Matt. 24:42-47; Acts 2:40; Eph. 5:15-17; Phil. 2:15; Gal. 1:4; 2 Cor. 13:5)
3) We must always be careful to not give Satan an opportunity (Eph. 4:27; 6:11; 2 Cor. 2:11)

I) **Godly Principles While Using Social Media**
   A) Choose your friends carefully (Prov. 17:17)
      1) Bad online "friends" can damage your reputation (1 Cor. 15:33; Eph. 5:11)
   B) What does your online profile and activity promote?
      1) Spiritual or earthly priorities? Kingdom of men or of God? (Col. 3:2)
      2) Building up or tearing down? (Eph. 4:29; 1 Cor. 3:3)
      3) Attitude of love, longsuffering, grace or hateful, inconsiderate, rude? (Titus 3:1-3)
      4) Being truthful, honest, open or deceitful, dishonest, closeminded? (Eph. 4:25)
      5) Upholding things pure and decent or excusing things indecent and immoral? (Phil. 4:8)
   C) Do not…
      1) Become addicted under its power – can you step away from it? (1 Cor. 6:12)
      2) Waste away precious time and opportunities with family, friends, brethren (Eph. 5:16)
      3) Promote what is immodest, vulgar, profane, lustful, worldly, hateful (Eph. 5:3-7)
      4) Engage in corrupt communication – gossip, vile speech, insults, arrogant sarcasm, ugly disputes and debates (Eph. 4:29; Jas. 3:5)
      5) Become bitter, jealous, and envious of others with malice (Eph. 4:31)
      6) Promote yourself or your deeds to be seen of men (Matt. 6:2)
      7) Compartmentalize your Christianity – one thing in person, another online (Matt. 23:25-28)

II) **Temptations To Be Aware Of**
   A) False profiles, anonymity, secrecy, and distance give false sense of non-accountability
      1) Posting immodest pictures and videos, sharing vulgar and filthy memes (1 Tim. 5:22)
      2) We will all give an account to God (Rom. 14:10-12; Gal. 6:7)
      3) We cannot hide from God (Heb. 4:13; Num. 32:23)
   B) Easy access to evil ("just a click away")
      1) Lusts of the flesh – pornography, fornication, gambling (Heb. 13:4; Col. 3:5; Rom. 13:14)
      2) Human wisdom – anti-God/Bible evolution, humanism, liberalism (Col. 2:8; 2 Tim. 6:20-21)
      3) False doctrine – denominationalism, Calvinism, unity-in-diversity (2 Tim. 2:17; 1 Jn. 4:1)
   C) Choose words wisely – our words show who we really are (Prov. 10:19; 27:19; Lk. 6:45)

III) **Letting Our Light Shine**
   A) There are many ways that a Christian can be a beacon of righteousness on social media
      1) Openly espouse a Biblical perspective and Christian worldview (Matt. 5:13-16)
      2) Speak with grace and understanding with those who are not Christians (Col. 4:6)
      3) Offer prayers, encouragement, and aid to those suffering and in need (1 Thess. 5:14)
      4) Share the gospel and other spiritual information with those lost in sin (Mk. 16:15)
      5) Organize online Bible studies or religious discussions for interested individuals (2 Tim. 2:15)

Conclusion
Our use of social media should be with caution and soberness. It is a powerful tool for good or evil, and it will have a profound impact on my life and others. May God help us seek His truth.