

LIVE WITH SOUNDNESS OF MIND IN A DEPRAVED WORLD

Note to the speaker:

Help audience appreciate that soundness of mind is required by God of his servants and must be exhibited in all avenues of life. Only in this way can we truly conquer the world as Jesus did and merit God's approval and blessing

SATAN'S WORLD IS A WORLD GONE MAD (5 min.)

Satan's system of things is like a ship being tossed by a stormy sea, badly damaged, out of control, heading for disaster

Shocking violence, terrorism, and sexual immorality plague mankind (*w99* 5/15 32; *w99* 9/1 10; *w97* 7/15 11-12; *g97* 1/8 31)

Many harmed through drug and alcohol abuse (*g99* 11/8 3-14)

This climate of moral decay is promoted by Satan to achieve ruin of mankind (Re 12:12)

To resist successfully the immoral influences of Satan's world, we need to "live with soundness of mind" (Read Titus 2:12)

How do we develop soundness of mind?

WHAT LIVING WITH SOUNDNESS OF MIND INVOLVES (12 min.)

Exercising soundness of mind means more than just exhibiting sanity, mental capacity, or mental stability (*w97* 8/15 17, 22; *w93* 6/1 15-16)

It involves becoming acquainted with the revealed will of God, accepting his principles and judgment as true, obediently reflecting God's thinking in our lives, being balanced

The revealed will of Jehovah is set forth in his spirit-inspired Word (1Co 2:10-13)

By studying, meditating on, and applying God's Word, we learn to think and act in harmony with Jehovah's revealed will (Jos 1:8)

When questions arise, we determine the proper course of action from the Scriptures (Pr 3:5, 6)

We ask ourselves: 'What is God's will in this matter? What course will make Jehovah's heart glad? What would Christ have done in a similar situation? What Bible principles apply?'

Not enough merely to know God's revealed will on matters

Living with soundness of mind involves applying it in our daily lives, quickly adjusting our thinking and course of life when God's will in a matter is apparent

Let us discuss some specific areas in which soundness of mind is vital and what is required on our part

ALL MUST LIVE WITH SOUNDNESS OF MIND (23 min.)

(Read 1 Timothy 3:2, 5)

Soundness of mind is a qualification for all elders because they have the responsibility of directing family members and congregation members

Elders need to know the revealed will of Jehovah and understand the proper application of Scriptural principles (Tit 1:7-9; Heb 5:14)

Their expressions of what is proper and improper should be based on the Scriptures (2Ti 4:2)

Need to be levelheaded and reasonable (Jas 1:19, 20)

Must also be receptive to counsel based on God's Word

(Read Titus 2:2-8)

Family heads should show soundness of mind by arranging a good program of theocratic training for their families

This would include regular family study, along with instruction on building peaceful relationships, good manners, and proper dress and grooming; regular meeting attendance and participation; progressive training in the field ministry (1Ti 5:8)

Christian women are appreciated in congregation

Older sisters told to "recall the young women to their senses to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sound in mind" (*w94* 6/15 20-1)

Sisters show soundness of mind by example and by expressing love for the members of their family

A woman who thinks and acts in harmony with Jehovah's will and who works for the benefit of her husband and children is praiseworthy (Pr 31:10-31)

Modesty in adornment important (1Ti 2:9, 10; *g00* 8/8 19; *g98* 8/8 21)

Young men should show soundness of mind by their fine works, with wholesome speech (1Ti 6:18, 20; *w94* 6/15 21)

Need to make their advancement manifest as they reach out for greater service privileges (1Ti 3:1; 4:15)

Young or old, *all* must show soundness of mind

Should be quick to apply God's direction through his organization in all areas of life (Ps 119:60)

Life-style should manifest appreciation of the urgency of the times (1Pe 4:7)

Would be a mistake selfishly to pursue personal pleasures, feeling that there is plenty of time to correct course

Are you “walking in wisdom toward those on the outside” by avoiding association with the world to the extent possible? (Col 4:5; 1Co 15:33)

Does your choice of entertainment reflect soundness of mind?

Must be “zealous for fine works”—including the work of disciple making (Tit 2:14; Mt 28:19, 20)

LIVE WITH SOUNDNESS OF MIND, AND CONQUER THE WORLD (5 min.)

Satan and his organization want to squeeze us into their mold, making us conform to the world (Ro 12:2; w99 4/1 21)

We can successfully resist Satan’s efforts

To do so, we must carefully study God’s Word regularly, draw close to Jehovah, persevere in prayer, attend and participate in congregation meetings, share fully in preaching activity, exercise faith, and hope in Jehovah

By living with soundness of mind, we will not be swallowed up by Satan’s world but will be led along by Jehovah’s Word and spirit

We will not be destroyed with Satan’s organization but will enjoy Jehovah’s gift of everlasting life because we have come to know and do the revealed will of God

Will be able to say, as Jesus did: “I have conquered the world” (Joh 16:33)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)