Theological Study: "How Now Shall We Live?"

I. Foundational Question

The question "How now shall we live?" arises from the tension between **God's revelation** and our **human condition**. It demands an **ethical, spiritual, and missional response**.

II. Biblical Basis

1. Ezekiel 33:10

"If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?"

- **Context**: A desperate plea under the weight of sin.
- **Implication**: Life under judgment leads to repentance or death.
- **Theme**: God's call for **repentance and restoration**.

2. Romans 12:1–2

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind..."

- **Living Sacrifice**: Life is a response to mercy.
- **Worldview shift**: Replaces worldly thinking with gospel-centered purpose.
- **Theme**: **Transformed living** in response to God's grace.

3. Micah 6:6–8

"He has told you... what is good: to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

- **Ethical clarity**: A heart aligned with God's character.
- **Relational and social dimensions** of faith.
- **Theme**: **Faith lived out** in community.

4. Titus 2:11–14

"The grace of God... teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness... and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives."

- **Grace as a teacher**.

- **Purpose**: Zealous for good works.

- **Theme**: **Sanctified living** by grace.

III. Theological Themes

A. Creation – Identity

- We are **image-bearers** (Genesis 1:26–28).

- Our life has **intrinsic purpose and dignity**.

B. Fall – Brokenness

- Sin distorts purpose, self, and community.

- Leads to the existential crisis of *"How can we live?"*

C. Redemption – Grace

- Jesus Christ is the way to **new life** (John 10:10, Col. 3:1–4).

- The Gospel gives us **identity and mission**.

D. Restoration – Mission

- We are **agents of renewal** (2 Cor. 5:17–20).

- Our life answers the call to **live redemptively in culture**.

Teaching Outline: "How Now Shall We Live?"

SESSION 1: *The Crisis of Life Without God*

- Text: Ezekiel 33:10; Romans 1:18–32

- Main Idea: The weight of sin leads to the honest question of survival.

- Discussion:

  o What does it mean to "pine away" in sin?

  o How do people today ask this same question?

- Application: Recognize the depth of our need for God.

SESSION 2: *Transformed by the Gospel*

- Text: Romans 12:1–2; Titus 2:11–14

- Main Idea: The Gospel doesn't just save; it reshapes how we live.

- Discussion:

    o What does "non-conformity to the world" look like today?

    o How does grace teach us to live?

- Application: Embrace a counter-cultural, renewed mindset.

SESSION 3: *Walking with God in Practice*

- Text: Micah 6:6–8; James 1:22–27

- Main Idea: God desires an integrated life of justice, mercy, and humility.

- Discussion:

    o How do we distinguish between ritual and authentic worship?

    o What does "walking humbly" look like in leadership, family, society?

- Application: Practice visible and holistic righteousness.

SESSION 4: *Living with Eternal Perspective*

- Text: Colossians 3:1–4; 1 Peter 1:13–16

- Main Idea: Our future hope transforms our present living.

- Discussion:

    o How do we "set our minds on things above"?

    o What does holy living look like in an unholy world?

- Application: Anchor your daily life in the reality of eternity.

SESSION 5: *Agents of Restoration*

- Text: 2 Corinthians 5:17–20; Matthew 5:13–16

- Main Idea: Christians are called to embody and extend Christ's redemption.
- Discussion:
    - What does it mean to be salt and light?
    - How do we engage culture without compromise?
- Application: Live missionally in your vocation, community, and culture.

Suggested Spiritual Practices

- **Daily Scripture reflection** with journal prompts: *"How shall I live in response to this truth?"*
- **Rule of life** creation: Define rhythms for spiritual, relational, and vocational integrity.
- **Community accountability**: Share personal applications and ask for prayer.

Recommended Resources

- *How Now Shall We Live?* by Charles Colson & Nancy Pearcey
- *Total Truth* by Nancy Pearcey
- *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *Live No Lies* by John Mark Comer