

More than Surviving in a Crazy World

“No More Lies” Proverbs 5,6,7

June 2, 2019 Robert Szoke

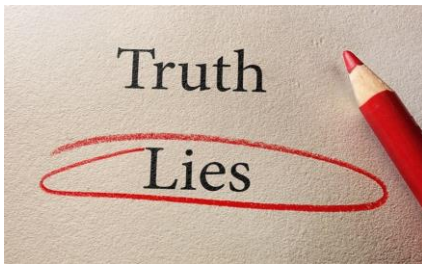
Illustration: Being lied to. I’ve been lied to many times, but in reflecting on this idea of **“no more lies,”** I wanted to begin with a lie that I was told several years ago. I was ministering at another church, and I received a phone call from someone who was in desperate need of food. As I tried talking with the person, it was apparent, from what I understood, that the need was urgent and could I do anything. I also was under a time crunch as I needed to leave for an appointment quickly. The person on the other end who was sounding very desperate asked me, *“Could you just leave some money in an envelope and I’ll come and get it?”* At that time, all I had was a \$5 bill, and so I did that. When I came back from my appointment, the envelope with the money in it was gone, and so I thought that settled the issue. It was about a week later that I received another phone call, this time from a person who had somehow found out that I left a \$5 bill in an envelope for someone. I was asked, *“Can you do that for me too? I heard you are a really great guy and like helping people, and I could sure use the \$5.”* I carried on the discussion for a few more minutes and asked a few more questions. What I ended up asking was, *“Are you going to use this money for drugs, cigarettes or booze?”* The answer was, *“Well, what does it matter, you gave this other guy \$5 and he bought booze. Why does it matter to you how I*



**PLEASE
DON'T
LIE
TO
ME**

spend the money?” Yeah, I’ve been lied to. On the Impact phone line I’ll get a call from someone looking for money, and tell them we can’t help them. A few minutes later they will call back as if they’d never called us before. I’ll say, *“You just called here,”* and the person will respond, *“No I didn’t, I probably just sound like someone you just talked with.”*

Lies are pretty much a part of life for some, and often times there's not much we can do about that. **As I look around at our 21st Century culture, we are being lied to every day about sexuality.** We're being told that our views were



Puritanical, that our morals are outdated, that our concerns are too marginal, and that we are too unaccepting of people for who they really are. We are lied to that sexual relationships can be casual without commitment, that people unwilling or even too young to understand things like marriage can and should have

all the liberties of sexual relationships. We are being lied to that one can be born a male but can only find fulfillment as a female. Lies abound. Shows like Jerry Seinfeld, Sex in the City, and many movies have removed the barriers that made sex the holy thing with God created. Instead we are being lied to all the time and told that we are the ones who are greatly mistaken.

We live in a world where just about everything can be sexualized with the lie that sex is an important part of a product. For example, sex sells cars, cosmetics, clothes, food and alcohol. The typical add combines sexuality with their product so as to convince the potential consumer, it's a package deal. It's a lie, but few bother to see it any other way or make that distinction. **No one clamors, "Stop the lies about your product!"**

The sad part is that our world hasn't really changed much in the last couple thousand years, and as important as this message was then, it is absolutely necessary today. Thus, the title of this message today is, **"No more lies!"**

No More Lies! There will be 3 Days of Regret Proverbs 5

1. The context of **Proverbs 5**. Just skimming through the verses of **chapter 5**, one can easily see that the topic of this text is that of sexuality, in specific, how to avoid the problems that will destroy a person.

**3 DAYS
REGRET**

- a. **A way to view this chapter is to imagine that a father is having a talk with his son about sexuality, a rather hard talk.** It's the kind of

discussion which most parents would probably not want to do, and most would definitely feel uncomfortable with.

b. Even looking at this subject may make us cringe a bit because it is going to address how young people need to view their sexuality, the role of God in all this, and what's right and what's wrong.

i. One of the articles I was reading made reference to the fact that part of the reason we don't want to talk about sex with our kids, or that there is reluctance, is because we are embarrassed, or we know that we aren't the perfect role models to lead this kind of discussion.

ii. We don't want to consider our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, the kids we all know well as sexual beings.

iii. We are overwhelmed with the glut of information that is now available. We become worried that we will tell the kids too little or too much, or that we will confuse them.

iv. We hesitate because our own attitudes and examples of past experiences do not prop up the biblical example, and we fear we may to have explain some of our shortcomings and failures in the midst of teaching about God's plan.

c. This is the scenario that sets the context for most of us. Yet, the necessity is there.

i. The schools have sex-ed, but most likely they won't have your standards, and God's view as part of the curriculum. The kids watch television and learn pretty much anything, but to do so without comment from us as parents. ***By allowing them to watch such shows acts as you affirming that what they see and what they learn is normal. Abnormal would anything else.***

2. ***As a way to end the lies, I want us to look at Proverbs 5 and see that there are 3 days that become a part of the education about sexuality.***

3. ***Day #1: The Day of Capture. Proverbs 5;20. Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress?***



a. The idea I want to enhance is the idea of being **“captivated,”** or rather a better way to understand this is **to be captured.** **It’s the day one is captured.**

- i. The understanding of this is as if **“being held captive in chains,”** a prisoner. One is captured by sin. **(From this, as well as some other passages, one can begin building what we understand as the “age of accountability,” where a young person is actually held responsible for his/her wrong decisions.)**
 - ii. The teen who is old enough to be held accountable for sin is captured and now faces the same demise as do others who are caught. No more innocence can be claimed, for the danger and the warning was given, and regardless of the warnings, the youth is captured in the bonds of sin.
 - iii. **The difficulty being caught is huge.** Here are some of the things one experiences from being caught in the sexual sins.
 1. **Sin takes over logic,** and what was before considered wrong is not now perceived as being all that wrong. Our 21st Century culture comes along and affirms that **“It isn’t all that wrong.”**
 2. **Sin changes what one sees.** A youth doesn’t see the destruction the things now set in place which, if left alone, will only increase and bring about a stronger defeat. Sin blinds what one can see, or rather, wants to see.
 3. **Sin reinterprets God’s word.** It is as if Adam and Eve had never had a discussion with the Serpent in the Garden, where the serpent says, **“Did God really say?”** That question becomes, **“Did God really mean?”**
 4. **Sin captures and sets in motion deception.** The key idea about being deceived is that the person being deceived doesn’t realize it till it’s too late.
- b. **Day one is the day of capture.** **It would be unwise to avoid telling the young person or the adult about this day.** Why would I, as a parent, grandparent, etc. not want to tell young people how to avoid a trap like

this? After all, (**Illustration**) we will blink our lights to someone we don't know to help them avoid a possible speed trap. Why would we avoid telling this kind of thing which will capture their hearts? Why would we not alert youth to this??

4. **Day 2, The Day One Realizes God sees it all.** *Proverbs 5:21 For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.*



- a. **Illustration:** Things caught on video tape. One of the most remarkable inventions today is that of the video camera. I'm sure you've seen some of these videos where the culprit is caught breaking in to a home or a business. There's not much of a defense against the video tape, as the police say, *"This is you, you did this!"*
- b. *The issue of the second day is the day one realizes God sees it all, and there is nothing hidden from his view.* David realized this in his sin with having Uriah the husband of Bathsheba killed, and he realized it when he confessed his sin to God about his adulterous time with her. David realized that one cannot hide from God.
- c. We are told throughout the Scriptures that God see sit all, and that he sees deeper than we want him to.
 - i. *1 Samuel 16:7 Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.*
 - ii. *Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.*
 - iii. It's because God sees everything that the idea of repentance is such an important teaching.
- d. *David Jeremiah* adds this comment: What's probably the worst about us is not just the sin that we do (which we know God sees) but the hypocrisy that we try and pull off in front of God and others.
- e. **Day 2 is the day we realize God sees it all, even the sexual sins.**

5. **Day 3 is what I will call the end of life days.** *Proverbs 5:11 At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent.*

DAY 3

- a. **Illustration:** Many of you know that I have an ongoing ministry with several who are in jail or prison. I've been doing this kind of ministry for many, many years, attempting to reach out to men and women who need God's love, care, guidance, and a friend. One of the pieces of counsel I tell a lot of those incarcerated is that one needs to consider his life in 1/3rds. By the time I become acquainted with most of the people, the first 1/3 of his/her life is over. The final 1/3 is what I call the wind down phase, where one is in retirement and it's not the time of grandiose plans. The time to make life changes is now, the second of the 1/3 segments of life. Now is the time so that when the final 1/3 segment of life arrives, one will not be filled with regret.

- b. What's at stake here is the end of life perspective, where one will be full of the *"things I could have, should have, might have done,"* if things were different. But, life was filled with deception, filled with *"tomorrow is when I'll change,"* but tomorrow has come. It's time to face the end of life, and the sexual sins have created much regret.

**YESTERDAY
YOU SAID
TOMORROW.**

- i. **Illustration:** We know that there is a surge of people to want to 'connect' with their biological parents in an attempt to try and somehow compensate for a lifetime of uninvolvedness. Sexual encounters from years previous create later years of regret especially when that encounter produced children. People don't know how to deal with all of this. Will there be adequate answers enough to satisfy those inquiring, will the child be able to process the "difficulties" an uninvolved parent faced in not sticking around? Will there be anger, understanding, or even a relationship? Lots of situations, lots of possible answers, all couched in somewhat of a framework of regret. There's no way to make up for the loss of a childhood.

- ii. Same can be said for absent parents who in late life, want to reach out and somehow offer encouragement to the children they left behind. I'll not try and explain all this. Let me just say that the sexual sins will be the reason for regrets on those last days.

6. The counsel then about “No more lies.”

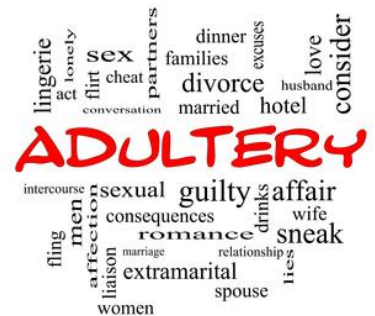
- a. **No more lies. The truth is sexuality easily becomes evil when it's based on one's lack of self-discipline.** Sexuality becomes sinful when it's about one's desires being met, regardless of boundaries and rules.
- b. **No more lies. The truth is that God is not ignoring the sexual behavior of people who do not repent.** Those who engage in sexual activities outside of marriage typically do not reap immediate results of bitterness and disgust. God is not ignoring all this, but as the Psalms repeat often, **Psalm 103:8, God is slow to anger, abounding in love.** ... and Peter explains, **2 Peter 3:9 ... He is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**
- c. **No more lies. The value of self-discipline and obedience to God never ends.** Even the sexual relationships require self-discipline and obedience.



No More Lies About Sex, Adultery and Marriage **Proverbs 6:20-24**

1. The context of this chapter is similar in some ways to **chapter 5**, but it takes it a few steps beyond. The best way for me to build a context for **chapter 6** is to ask each parent or adult in this room to **recall that time you had a very important discussion about the dangers that may lay ahead.**

- a. **Illustration: This is the scary lecture you give your kid before he/she takes the car out for the first time after getting a driver's license.** We may agree that they have the head knowledge, having successfully passed a test and driving a state employee



around for a few minutes to convince that he/she knows how and where to stop a car. Someone we didn't know said our children knew



THE LECTURE

enough to get a driver's license, and now they want the car. If we could, we'd take the next 5 hours and quiz them ourselves on everything in the driver's manual, and maybe only then let them take the car out, but we'd have to be with them, preferring



to drive.

- b. We give the lecture hoping to reinforce, to motivate the young person to always do the right thing when driving. We don't want to nag, but we are deeply concerned. We see dangers they may not. We know things from practical driving experience they may not be as aware of. We know about things like speed, pot holes, dangerous driving conditions, distracted driving, etc. We only hope they do as we give them the "lecture" about safe driving.
- c. We have their future in view, and we hope they do too. Even though in the lecture we have nothing new to say, we still want to incorporate into their lives the truth, the self-discipline, the attentiveness to truth that will keep them safe.

2. ***This lecture is about sexuality, adultery and marriage. It's an adult discussion with a child who is acting like an adult, and for all purposes, anatomically equipped to act like an adult.*** From memories of previous behavior problems, we still aren't sure that the young adult grasps all this. ***Thus, the lecture.***

a. Proverbs 6:20-28 My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. 21 Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. 22 When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. 23 For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life, 24 keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife. 25 Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her

captivate you with her eyes, 26 for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life. 27 Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? 28 Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?

- b. Imagine this: the whole thing of sexuality becomes reduced to like buying a loaf of bread. How disgraceful!
- Gone** is the wonderful sense of romance; **gone** is the concept of this whole relationship of sexuality as a good thing from God; **gone** is the idea that this is a God honoring relationship. 
Gone is the hope that there is anything other than an immoral act for which one is paid, like the buying of a loaf of bread.
 - There's nothing honorable, nothing of which to be proud, nothing from which one can build a future.*
 - It's a complete opposite of what's right, holy and pure.*
- c. To enhance the concept of the dangers of all this, **verses 27, 28** build the illustration of trying to hold hot coals to one's chest without getting burned. Impossible.
- The list of impossible things is not exaggerated. Impossible* that this is a fulfilling relationship for a young person.
 **Impossible** is the idea that this whole scenario of illicit sexual activities honors God. **Impossible** is the idea that this is foundational to the building of a family. **Impossible** is the future, the wonderful things for which one yet hopes to reach.
 - All because of sexuality misplaced, misused, abused.
- d. *There is a very interesting study note that I want to just make us aware of. It's a bit technical, so please stay with me as I share this.*

- i. The Hebrew word for “fire” is only 2 letters. 2 of the 3 letters used for the word for fire are also the same 2 letters used for man and woman. (in the same order too). {the Hebrew word for fire is esh, the Hebrew word for man is ish and the word for woman is ishah}. There are 2 letters from God’s name that make up the words for man and woman. If those 2 letters are removed from the word for man or the word for woman, what’s left is the word for fire, or in this case fire of passion. **Essentially without God, sexuality is only meaningless passion.**

Ish = Man	Sheen	Yod	Aleph
	ש	י	א
Ishah = Woman	Hey	Sheen	Aleph
	ה	ש	א
Yah = LORD	Hey	Yod	
	ה	י	

- ii. **The impossibility of being able to hold fire in one’s chest without being burned is the same kind of absurdity that one must have to enter a sexual relationship of which God does not approve.**

absurd

- iii. As **verse 28 says, Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet getting scorched?”** The answer is **no**.
- e. And an interesting note here. In our culture today, studies have been done which demonstrate just how true this is.
- i. There is a trend today among teenage girls, and even women of most any age to have sexual relationships with men as a way to begin a relationship, hoping it will then develop into a loving and lasting relationship. (Studies in Australia among Jr Hi girls have revealed that some girls believe they have to have sex with a boy before he will like her. In other words, to have a meaningful relationship, they must first have a sexual encounter). Boys will enter a sexual relationship unconcerned about a long and lasting relationship, preferring to more of what’s known as a “one night stand,” or the more prevalent concept of “friends with benefits.” (The same Australian study

revealed that boys feel unashamed in asking for nude photos of girls before they will consider “going out” with them. For the boys in this study, they would only consider a relationship if the girls sent them nude pictures, or at least that was the promise).

These relationships are doomed!

- ii. The absurdity of those relationships doing anything positive are obvious, yet like those who think they will keep doing the same thing and at some time there will be different results, only craziness and futility emerge as the results.

3. The counsel about no more lies.

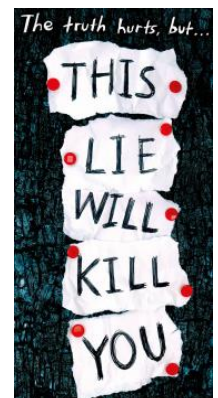
- a. **No more lies. The truth is that sexuality which is not godly cannot achieve God's blessings or reflect His approval.** It is a lie to believe that sexuality outside of marriage (God's design) will ever produce or contains the idea of godly intimacy.
- b. **No more lies! Lust does not equal love.** Lust is not what is needed to build a relationship, nor will it hold a marriage relationship together. People cannot pretend to be married and assume the sexual relationship is a trial thing that will determine if the relationship will work out.
- c. **No more lies! Neither party gains from the immoral encounter and there are no such things as innocent sin, as if it bothers no one else.** There are no innocent parties, and there are several people in the wake of what's thought to be a private concern.



No More Lies, Giving into Sexual Temptation Can kill You!

Proverbs 7

- 1. As we begin this last chapter, perhaps you may be wondering why so much is said about sexuality in Proverbs. Maybe you are wondering why, Solomon, the wisest man in all the earth failed to take his own counsel. Maybe you are wondering why the very



things of which he is noted for in his wisdom seem to be the greatest area of his downfall. I can't answer for Solomon, but I can answer for our culture today. It's still the same problem today as it was thousands of years ago.

- a. ***This thing of sexuality has been exploited in almost every culture.***

Even today, we see it all around us. Our society has failed to address this in a positive way, and rather than see God's way as right and pure, our society has been just as reckless as previous generations.

- b. Our problem today is ***moral ambiguity (the lack of certainty that something is right or wrong)***. This is our world.

MORAL AMBIGUITY

- c. Some of the cliché statements that are also used to make up our context of sexuality:

- i. How can it be wrong when it feels so right?
- ii. I'm not hurting anyone else.
- iii. It's my body, I can do what I want.
- iv. Go for it, you only go round once.
- v. Philosophically, my morality is my conscience. I'm still evolving.
- vi. What might be right for you may not be right for me.
- vii. I am an individual with freedom.

- d. These are just some of the sayings that dominate the context of sexuality, and why Solomon devoted as much space to it as he did. ***It was as much a problem for his world as it is ours. God's word is clear.***

2. A few Bible study notes. ***Proverbs 7:1-4 My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. 2 Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. 3 Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your kinsman;***

- a. The wisdom of God still matters as the way to peace.
- b. Note this: One is called to ***associate*** with ***the wisdom of God***, the ***knowledge of God's word***, the ***applications of God's word***, and one's ***familiarity with God's word as if it were part of the family.*** (***4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your kinsman;***)

FAMILY RULES


- i. In our families we all have our rules and ways. For example in our home, we have the unwritten rule that one never leave his/her shoes out in the open where others could trip on them; if your plate has something really messy on it, clean it off before putting it in the dishwasher. Never eat the last piece of pizza without asking if someone else wants it first. Don't overstuff the garbage can. We all have rules, family rules and we hold to those firmly.
- ii. *This chapter of Proverbs encourages one to take these words of God, take them to heart and hold them as close as one would the family rules of home.*
3. Another Bible study note: *Proverbs 7:22-27 All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a snare 23 till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life. 24 Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say. 25 Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. 26 Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. 27 Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.*
- a. *Here's where we get to the serious part of how giving into sexual temptation can kill you. Remembering that stern lecture given before giving the car keys to the child comes this last reminder of just how serious this all is.*
- b. Just like a car, weighing maybe 1500-2500 pounds, travelling down the road at 65 mph can be a rolling death machine killing or seriously wounding all in its path, *so too the sexual relationship that is wrong can be just as dangerous.*
- c. Even though our culture tends to **minimize the dangers** of illicit sexual activity, the damage done is huge. When considering just the damage to one's heart, that's huge all by itself, but beyond



that are the physical scars, the physical trauma, the diseases, the guilt, the terrible things.

- d. ***Guilt, disgrace, physical pain, physical loss, trauma, emotional pain, are just a few of the self-destructive things that emerge from illicit sexual activities.*** Just as dangerous is the car with a driver not paying attention texting, distracted or intoxicated is the person who disregards the dangers of sexual activities of which God does not approve.

4. The counsel about no more lies:

- a. **No more lies.** People are propped up to believe they can handle all this and there will be no damage. Television shows like Seinfeld will openly promote wrongful sexual activities as normal, and as if no one is hurt.  That's a tv show, and it's made to appear as if it's not a big deal. **Stop the lies. It is! You can't handle this.** One has no idea the full realm of damage and destruction of this kind of flippant decision about sex.
 - i. The ironic thing about all this is (from **verse 7**) one thinks he may be full of knowledge, but Proverbs will call him a **simpleton, naïve.**
- b. **No more lies. Consent doesn't mean ok.** The whole popular idea of consent has emerged out of the talk about sexual rights...and absent from that argument is the idea of what sexuality means outside of marriage. **It's as if "consent" is the only issue. It's not!** In this regard, immoral sexuality is something that can kill you. **No more lies.**
- c. **No more lies! Relationships matter.** Ask those who have been divorced and have to share their kids with an ex-spouse. Ask those who've had sexual partners believing that would develop into marriage. Ask those who've been tossed aside when the sex became boring. Those failed relationships are forever etched on one's heart. And, sometimes, they are more than just etched on one's heart

because the product of that relationships runs around calling one mom and the other dad.

- i. We are told to try and make things work the best one can.
Attend classes, learn how to be a part time parent.

- ii. *The pain won't go away, will it?*

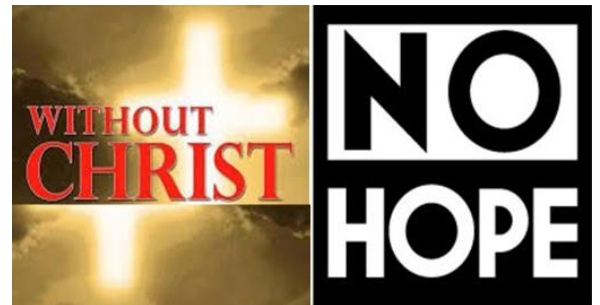
- d. *No more lies! Sex outside the marriage context creates problems, problems enough to kill you.*

- i. One considers him/herself as damaged goods and will spend the rest of life trying to compensate for what that means.

5. *Without Christ, one has no hope, only another empty relationship, with all the empty promises. Without Christ, there is no confession of sin, no repentance, no forgiveness, no restoration of who one is as a child of God, redeemed, forgiven.*

6. Without Christ a calloused heart only gets hurt more. Sexuality comes to mean less and less, and things only get worse. As I said, giving into sexual temptation can kill you.

7. Thus, the Godly warnings!



Conclusion:

Several years ago I knew a lady who had become a widow late in life. She had moved into a senior living center. One of the times I was there to visit with her, she pointed out to me something which validates everything I'm saying. She told me that there was one man who was taking turns living with the women in the building. He would offer to stay in her apartment if she would fix him food and be sexual with him. In return, he would do odd jobs around the apartment, like putting up a new curtain, painting, etc. This went on for quite some time until he would get tired of her, her demands which became nags or he saw someone else who interested him more. He'd then move on to another widow living in the complex. I do not

know if the people running the facility ever found out this was going on. Many of the women living in that senior housing complex were so starved for relationships that they thought sex and food was the way to begin that relationship. Foolishly, even after living a lifetime, they discovered they were wrong, as the old man would just move on to someone else who would offer something more than where he was currently staying.

In reflection, the issues at the senior complex are the same issue which Proverbs addressed. There's this futile believe that sexuality allows one access to things which are only reserved for marriage. Lies, lies, lies. It's time to stop the lies. No more lies!

Questions:

1. As terrible as it is being lied to, what lies about sexuality do we need to stop believing, affirming, and acting as if God doesn't care? Remember, our testimony of who God is in our lives matters, even in the area of sexuality.
2. Who are the people in your world that need the truth about God's plan for sexuality, and will you affirm God's plan?
3. The amazing thing about God is that He stands ready to forgive if we will repent and seek Him. What things about sexuality need to be confessed, or seek His counsel and direction?
4. What do we need to do because Jesus is Lord?

