



**SERIES: LOOKING BACK – MOVING FORWARD**

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**Thursday, September 1, 2022**

**Scripture: Philippians 1:10-11**

**TITLE: Netflix Or Pureflix?**

My wife was at a women's Bible study, where the topic of reading books came up. Unfortunately, some of the women said how much they've enjoyed reading the *Fifty Shades of Grey* books - how much they enjoy the sexual fantasy it creates. My wife challenged them by saying, "You shouldn't be reading that kind of junk. It distorts your mind and is not pleasing to God." She was dismissed as "old-fashioned" and not enjoying the grace of God.

This sentiment is tragic, but far too common. Many professing Christians are notional Christians. They believe in certain notions of Christ, but they act like non-believers. But can a Christian function as an atheist and remain a Christian? Let's listen to Paul's words in Philippians 1 beginning in verse 10:

For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God. Philippians 1: 10-11, NLT

Paul's words bring a lot of clarity to a confused Christian Church. There's this false teaching of cheap grace. God's grace is not cheap. Yes, it is free for those He chooses, but it comes at a price. Remember, Paul begins his letter by referring to himself as a bondservant – a slave - of Christ. Slaves are not free to do as they want, but rather to do the will of their master.

Paul encourages the Philippian church and us today to understand what really matters or, as the ESV rightly translates it, "so that you may approve what is excellent." We, as Christians, are not to approve of what God disapproves. We should not call something good that God says is bad. But too many people do this subtly and boldly.

What you watch, listen to, and do is a direct reflection of what you truly believe. God says you are called to pursue and endorse what is right, pure, blameless, and good. Why? So we might be formed by it. We are called to live lives that are pure and blameless. Does this mean perfection? Well, we know we won't do it perfectly, but we should aim for that blameless life. That's the fruit of our Salvation: a soul saved, and a life changed—a life displaying Christ in us.

So here's my challenge for you today: purge. What is it in your life that you've affirmed or consumed that is contrary to God's best? We all compromise from time to time. Is it the shows you are watching on Netflix or Prime? Is it the books you're listening to or reading? Is it the

video games you watch? Is it the videos you watch when you're alone? We all are just a click away from something destructive and ungodly. The question is, will we consume it? Will we be shaped by it? Paul says, "Pursue godliness. Pursue God's best." When we live pure and blameless lives, we will win the day.