

# **“To Keep Myself Physically Strong, Mentally Awake, and Morally Straight”**

Scouts Working February 1, 2009  
Psalm 111

## **Introduction:**

It's good, again, to have the Scouts who are working on their God and Church Award with us. Last week was a learning experience. I really enjoyed our time together in the classroom setting. Monday night I was privileged to be with the Cub Scouts who are working on their God and Family Awards, and will be with us next Sunday. Today is about service. As you have observed our Boy Scouts are deeply involved in today's service.

In last week's sermon I gave a background on Lord Baden Powell and the Christian values upon which he laid the foundation of the Scouting movement.

Today, I want to continue with a deeper examination of the Scout Law and parallel connections with Christianity. In

## **Today's Lessons**

We heard several verses speak to the life of faith that Lord Baden-Powell understood and sought to make part of Scouting.

In the Psalm, verse 10, we heard these words: *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”*. This is not a dreaded fear, but a deep, abiding respect for who

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God is.

In St. Paul's letter to the church in Corinth he informed us of a deep spiritual truth: *"there are many gods and many lords – yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist."* Paul also says that *anyone who loves God is known by Him."*

Baden-Powell wanted Scouting to be a vehicle that taught boys skills they could use their entire lives, get them into the out-of-doors, and give them opportunities to develop as future leaders. But, as I quoted to you last week, the primary *"... objective in the Scouting movement is to give such help as we can in bringing about God's Kingdom on earth by including among youth the spirit and the daily practice in their lives of unselfish goodwill and cooperation."*

Therefore, let's take another look at

### **The Scout Law.**

**The Scout Law** is a teaching of 12 specific moral values, or checkpoints that will help you follow your compass in doing your best for your God and your country. The twelve checkpoints are values that shape you internally as well as your external actions toward

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others.

They teach you to be:

**TRUSTWORTHY** – The simple meaning is to be honest, always! Religiously, the concept of trust is central to the issue of faith. God is calling us to believe, to trust, to put our faith in Him; to acknowledge that God is and that Jesus is His only Son, and if we trust Him he will get us from here to Heaven. Trust is central to all relationships.

**LOYAL** – to your family, Scout leaders, friends, school, and nation. God also wants us to be loyal to the values and purposes of the Kingdom of God. We are to love the lord our God with our entire heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as our self.

**HELPFUL** – helping others without pay or reward. It is having a servant's heart like Jesus has for us. Jesus said He came to serve, not to be served. You are practicing that today. Service is the way of the Cross.

**FRIENDLY** – to all people. Jesus said to "love others like you love your self." Jesus even said we are to love our enemies; and turn the other cheek to people who hate us. This lifestyle is not easy. It is Godly. It is not for wimps.

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**COURTEOUS** - to everyone regardless of age or position. Jesus modeled this during his ministry. He never acted like he was above other people. He treated all people with the courtesy they deserved as a child of God.

**KIND** - A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. Kindness, or gentleness is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is acting with the intentionality of Christ Himself. It is Jesus' Golden Rule: *"Doing unto others as you would have them do unto you"*.

**OBEDIENT** - A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop; the laws of his community and country. He also seeks to learn and follow God's rules for successful living. Obedience is big with God. If God is really God then God deserves to be obeyed. God sees the big picture and we can trust His orders.

**CHEERFUL**

A Scout looks for the bright side of things. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy. Jesus was a cheerful person. Life is serious but it shouldn't be lived with a sour expression. The Bible says that Jesus even found joy in going to the Cross because he knew what a benefit it would be for us. It is an attitude that allows you to see the glass is half full

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instead of half empty.

### **THRIFTY**

A Scout carefully uses resources, time and property. God will provide all the resources you need to do the will of your Heavenly Father. At the same time God doesn't want us to waste our resources. In our materialistic culture you will always be fighting this.

### **BRAVE**

A Scout can face danger even when he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at or threaten him. It took great personal courage for Jesus to suffer on our behalf. He is the model we look to for moral and physical courage. Courage sets you apart from the crowd. Jesus was brave and wants to also be able to overcome our fears.

### **CLEAN**

A Scout keeps his body and mind and environment fit and clean. It is controlling what you allow into your mind and body. Garbage in – garbage out. That is why God wants us to read the Bible, getting God's thoughts and images into our minds. God wants us to meditate on God's Word and God wants us to pray about all our decisions and options.

### **REVERENT**

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A Scout is reverent towards God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

If keeping this Scout Law was easy everyone would be doing it. Because it is hard to do the right thing, live the right way, take right actions is precisely why God encourages you to do the same. Jesus said: "Broad is the road that leads to destruction. Narrow is the way that leads to everlasting life." The choice is yours.

Our Gospel lesson has this statement in it:

*"They were astonished at Jesus' teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes".* We can trust the teachings of Jesus Christ. He has authority in this world because he is God; he came from Heaven to show us how humans can live lives pleasing to God. He would never lie to us because his nature is one of complete integrity.

The greatest act of trust you can make in this life is to place your faith in Jesus. Lord Baden-Powell envisioned that Scouts would understand this and be brave enough to do it.