I. The Problem: Self-love
   A. Three most characteristic marks of contemporary culture (2 Tim. 3:1–5)
      1. Lovers of themselves
      2. Lovers of money
      3. Lovers of pleasure
   B. Marks of people who love themselves
      1. Boredom
      2. Never satisfied
      3. Blame others for their problems

II. The Remedy: Deny Yourself (Matt. 16:24) Initial Decision—Ongoing Process
   A. Life and discipline in the family
      1. Learn unselfishness
      2. Develop “natural affection” (2 Tim. 3:3)
   B. Life and discipline in committed fellowship
      1. Serve one another in love (Gal. 5:13)
      2. Avoid corporate self-love

III. The Outcome
   Attitude: “I am a Debtor” Rom. 1:14–15
   Action: “Hold out the Word of life” Phil. 2:14–16
   Two circles of indebtedness
   A. The whole Body of Christ (i.e., “Whatever God gives me, I owe to the whole
      Body of Christ.”)
      1. Wrong way: “We have more than you do”—leads to a denomination.
      2. Right way: “Can I serve you? Is there a way I can help you?”—humble
         attitude.
   B. The whole world. Look at two significant “last words”

IV. The Hope
   A. The New Testament Church lived in excited anticipation of the Lord’s return.
   B. Consider the following:
      1. 1 Cor. 1:7–8; 11:26
      2. 1 Thess. 3:13; 4:5; 5:23
      3. 1 Tim. 6:13–14
      4. 2 Tim. 4:1–2, 8
      5. Titus 2:11–13
      6. James 5:7–8
      7. 1 Pet. 1:5–7, 13
      8. 1 John 2:28

V. The New Lifestyle—Bring Your Entire Life Into Accordance With This
   Understanding
   A. Main motivation: to reach the ends of the earth
   B. Main expectation: the return of Christ

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