

Things that matter most part 3 Our New Life in Christ

Series aim: After a we as sinners come to Christ we are faced the responsibility of living our new life in Christ. We literally become a new "species."¹ As such, life cannot continue as it did before, whereas we had our sin nature as a taskmaster and lived according to the passions and wishes of our sin nature, we now have a new Master, Christ. Life now is completely different - Paul the apostle says that we should live as dear children of God.² These issues of behaving as God's beloved children now become most important in our lives. As we can see from the outline below, this will be an ongoing topic covering more than a few classes and will probably not be a continuous series.

This probably will be framed in the context of a discipleship series rather than a technical approach with the view of challenging the mature to pass along these "important matters" to others including our children or grandchildren. To the young in Christ, this will hopefully be an opportunity to be challenged to mature in Him. Here is the series outline as I see it now. I reserve the right to change the outline as the Spirit leads.

- Important assets we have been given after we receive Christ as Lord and Savior.
 - New life in Christ (A study of *Romans 6* and select passages).
 - A regenerate mind (Many but not all of these select passages; *Isaiah 1:16-17; Isaiah 1:25; Isaiah 4:4; Isaiah 12:3; Isaiah 26:12; Isaiah 29:23; Isaiah 32:3-4; Isaiah 32:15; Isaiah 32:17; Isaiah 35:5-6; Isaiah 42:16; Isaiah 43:7; Isaiah 44:3-5; Isaiah 49:9; Isaiah 55:1-3; Jeremiah 13:23; Jeremiah 17:13-14; Jeremiah 24:7; Jeremiah 31:3; Jeremiah 31:33-34; Jeremiah 32:38-40; Jeremiah 33:6; Ezekiel 11:19-20; Ezekiel 16:9; Ezekiel 18:31; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Ezekiel 36:29; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Ezekiel 44:7; Ezekiel 44:9; Romans 8:9; Romans 8:13-16; Romans 12:2; Romans 15:16; 1 Cor. 1:9; 1 Cor. 1:24; 1 Cor. 1:30; 1 Cor. 2:12; 1 Cor. 2:14-16; 1 Cor. 3:6-7; 1 Cor. 3:9; 1 Cor. 6:11; 1 Cor. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:13; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 2 Cor. 3:3; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Cor. 4:6; 2 Cor. 5:5; 2 Cor. 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Galatians 4:29; Galatians 6:15; Ephes. 2:1; Ephes. 2:5-6; Ephes. 2:8; Ephes. 2:10; Ephes. 4:7-8; Ephes. 4:16; Ephes. 4:21-24; Ephes. 5:14; Philip 1:6; Col. 2:11-13; Col. 3:9-10; 2 Thes. 2:13; Titus 3:5-6; Hebrews 4:1-12; Hebrews 8:10-11; Hebrews 10:16-17; Hebrews 10:22-23; James 1:18; James 5:19-20; 1 Peter 1:2-3; 1 Peter 1:22-23; 1*

¹ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Cor. 5:17, KJV. NIV has it "Creation" literally "Species."

² Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; [2] And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. Ephes. 5:1-2, KJV.

Peter 2:3; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 1:3-4; 1 John 2:27; 1 John 2:29; 1 John 3:9; 1 John 3:14; 1 John 4:7; 1 John 5:1; 1 John 5:4-5; 1 John 5:11-12; 1 John 5:18).

- Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (A study of *Ephesians 5*).
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ and the operation of Spiritual Gifts (A study of *1 Corinthians 12*).
- God's word (Select passages including *2 Tim. 2:15; Philip 2:16; James 1:18 - 25; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12*).
- Forgiveness of our sins. (Select passages including *Lev. 16:7 - 10 [Study of the Scapegoat]; Psalm 103:10 - 17; Jer 31:34; 36:3; Matt 6:12 - 14; 9:6; 18:21, 35; Acts 5:31; 26:18; 2 Cor. 2:7 - 10; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; 1 John 1:9*).
- Removal of our guilt. (A study of Christ's becoming Sin for us - select passages).
- Important Issues we must deal with as God's children.
 - Dealing with immaturity.
 - Dealing with Daily personal sins.
 - Dealing with Daily spiritual growth.
 - Daily intake of God's Word.
 - FTX's (Dealing with "Field Training Exercises.")
 - Dealing with Human viewpoint versus Divine viewpoint.
 - Setting our focus and goals.
- Important Issues we must deal with as Christ's Friends.
 - The importance of Christ calling us His brothers.
- Important Issues we must deal with as God's Servants.
 - We are either servants to sin or righteousness.
 - Various word pictures of our servant-hood.
 - Bond slave.
 - Why did Paul call himself a Bond slave of Christ?
 - What was a Bond slave?
 - What are our responsibilities as Bond slaves of Christ today?
 - Ministers. (May include an overview of the Levites,)
 - Ambassadors.

Final comments: Casting a shadow with our lives in Christ. This comes from our

study in Ecclesiastes³ where Solomon said of the godless that their lives would not cast a shadow. The word picture here is that of a long, sunny day where, at the end, long shadows are cast. Our lives should cast a shadow for Christ. Here is an excerpt from a previous lesson in the Ecclesiastes series:

"The shadow of our lives. Verse 13 uses a common experience from every day life - the shadow. Consider the paradox - in verse 12 wicked men sometime live to an old age seemingly without being punished by God - *yet they cast no shadow*. The implication is that the righteous do cast a shadow - make that a full and rewarding life. We should consider our legacies when at the end of our lives. We must ask the question - what has been my shadow - my legacy - have I lived a life that has counted for Christ? Has my life cast a shadow over the lives of others? It looked as though Paul, the apostle, was going to come to the end of his life - a criminal in the eyes of Roman law and yet he was able to say **"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."** (2 Tim. 4:7). His life had been dedicated to the preaching of the Gospel and the preparation of young men to carry on the good fight of faith and he offered no regrets for that life - Paul had cast a long shadow over the lives of other - he was the means of bringing many to Christ and was the leader of the defense of the Gospel in a cosmopolitan age of diversity of religions. Can we say the same thing - that our shadow have a long ones of influence in the lives of others for Christ?"

³ Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow. Eccles. 8:13, NIV