



FREDERIKSTED BAPTIST CHURCH

Growing

THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP

Measuring up to the
full stature of Christ

Frederiksted Baptist Church

Discipleships Workbook

Now That You Believe: A Basic Discipleship Series for the New Christian

Purpose: Congratulations and welcome to the family of God! This series is for new believers (or for Christians not as familiar with the Bible as they would like to be), to provide you with a solid foundation in the one true faith.

Importance: There are two reasons why this study is so vital. The first is because of Satan's strategy and God's purpose. Satan's strategy is to deceive, distract, and destroy. He lives to keep the unsaved lost and believers ineffective in reaching the lost and ministering to each other. One of his major tactics in accomplishing this is to lure new believers into false doctrines or teachings. The second reason why this study is so vital is because of God's purpose. His purpose is that each new believer grows into a spiritually mature person. Grow to understand what God has done when you confess with your mouth and believed in heart (your mind) that God did raise Jesus from the dead (Romans 10:9-10).

It is important that you grow into a spiritual believer dying to the old sinful nature and walking in the new creation. This lesson is design to help you to understand all that the gift of God's grace did for you at salvation.

From our Pastor: I am glad that you have made a decision to accept the free gift of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-10), this lesson is design for you to grow from a new baby in Christ to a mature Christian. "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation," (1. Peter 2:2). This book will not have the answers in the back like most discipleship workbook, we want you to search the scriptures, read the verses find the answers and most of all hear the Holy Spirit in the Word of God.

May God bless you as you grow in a deep relationship with him, as you come to trust him with your life and you allow Him to work through you fulfilling the purpose He created you for.

Pastor John Gilbert

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Lesson I The Gospel

What is the gospel? Put simply, the gospel means "good news"- The gospel is good news because it is God-centered not people-centered. Salvation is a gift from God that is freely received purely by faith (Ephesians 2: 8-10). If our eternal life was achieved by good works or obeying some law, it wouldn't be good news at all! Why? Because that's like someone offering a gift, then asking you to pay for it. Also, if we tried to get into heaven by our own good deeds, we all would fall short. The gospel is the message of freedom and salvation.

The basis of the gospel is the cross of Jesus Christ. Without His death there would be no good news! God the Father poured out His wrath for all of mankind's sin on His own Son. When Jesus died, the penalty of death for your sin and mine was paid completely. He died in our place. This fact is the foundation of Christianity. Because He died we will never die! Because He rose from the dead we will live forever! The only requirement for receiving this eternal life is complete faith in Christ.

What the Bible says about the gospel.

Please look up these verses and answer the study questions below

1. Jesus Christ came to" _____ what was lost." Luke 19:10
2. What key root word is common in the following verses? John 3:16; Acts 13:39; First(1) John 5:13 _____
3. According to John 3:18 who is not condemned? _____
 - Who is condemned already? _____
 - Why is this man condemned? _____
4. What kind of life does John 6:47 say that we have? _____.
 - Based on the word "has", when does this eternal life begin? _____
5. You are all _____ by faith in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:26.
6. Read Romans 3:10-19 and briefly describe the condition of the human race:

7. II Corinthians 5:21 says that we are made the _____ of God in Him (Christ).

8. Name two qualities (attributes) of God found in Ephesians 2:4, _____, _____.

9. The Bible says that God views us as seated with Him in the heavenly realm _____. Ephesians 2:6.

10. Ephesians 2:8,9 stresses that salvation "is not of yourselves" and "not by works". What reason follows each of these phrases?

- _____
- _____

11. According to I John 5:10-13 those who believe on the name of the Son of God can _____ that they have eternal life. Ponder this thought!!! This is why the Gospel is good news!!!

Questions: if you have any questions ask the person assigned to work this discipleship book with you, but also trust the thought that comes to your mind. One of the function of the Holy Spirit is to guide you into all truth (Read John 16:13). Trusting that your thoughts will let you know that you hearing the voice of God (John 10: 1-5).

Below write some of your thoughts:

A verse to memorize! "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Lesson 2: Knowing You are Saved

You be sure you are saved?

It is interesting to note that it is not a certain prayer or putting your hand up at a certain time or during a certain meeting that saves you. It is not saying the right words or even doing the right things. Ephesians 2:8-9 is clear, it is by grace through faith we are saved, having nothing to do with us or what we do. John 3:16, Romans 3:22, Ephesians 1:13 and so many more verses clearly explain that salvation comes as we hear the truth—the gospel—and believe in Christ. But how do you know you believe? Jeremiah 17:9 makes it clear that “the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick; who can understand it?” So although we may think, feel or don’t feel we are saved, how do we know?

The Book of 1 John was written “to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Salvation **is knowing** (not a feeling) that when you confess Jesus with your mouth you also believe what you confess. (Romans 10:11)

Carefully examine yourself: “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

Ask yourself a series of question

1. Did I real believe what I said? Yes ☒ or ☐ No
2. Is Jesus Real to me? Yes ☐ or No ☐
3. I am Really willing to obey His Word? Yes ☐ or No ☐
4. Do I believe that the Holy Spirit Did come into? Yes ☐ or No ☐

There is only yes and no. If you find yourself with more no then yes stop the study. Call the person assign to you and talk with them, its ok, God is long suffering willing that no one go to hell. He loves you and want you to have the gift of salvation, it’s free. If you find that you have more yes then let’s look at the evidence that salvation will produce in your life.

#1. How we live

1 John 1:6 - Read

If we say we are saved but our style of life contradicts God and His Word, we are liars. If you are saved, your life will be becoming more and more like Christ's and will reflect who God is.

#2. Sensitive to sin

1 John 1:8 - Read

One of the greatest evidences that we are saved is that we are sensitive to sin in our life – continually led to repentance and confession of sin.

#3. Keep His commandments

1 John 2:3-5 - Read

- Way of living is obedience to God's Word and growth
- Style of life – desires, keen interest to know God's commands and obey them, growing in victory.

#4. Striving to walk as Jesus walked

1 John 2:6 – Read

Whoever says he abides in Christ (is saved) ought to walk like Christ. Do you want to be like the world, or to be like Jesus?

#5. Loves his brother

1 John 2:9-11 – Read

The terms "brothers/ sisters" is talking about fellow believers. If you say that you know God and do not love other believers in a practical way, then you lie. Do you love to be with people who love God? Are you willing to put yourself on the line for them? Extra verses 1 John 3:10-18 – 1 John 4:7-12

#6. Don't love the world

1 John 2:15-17 - Read

The evidence of a Christian here is that they do not love the things that the world does. They are willing and will give up things the world does that contradict God and His Word: off-colour jokes, music, clothes of the world, filthy language, filthy media...

#7. Practice righteousness – God's Word v.29

– 1 John 3:10

Do you want to obey God's Word? Is your life characterized by you obeying what you know of God's Word? If so, this is evidence you are saved.

Having Confidence You Are Saved Above, we have seen some verses that God had written in His Word so that we would be able to have confidence we are saved. If you are saved, God desires that you grow and bring glory to Him. If you are one of His children, He will grow you up and the above evidences will become part of your life. It doesn't happen all at once but slowly He changes you to become more like Him. It is not like you go home and just do the above things and you'll be fine— remember salvation is not by works, but as the Holy Spirit reveals areas you should change, be sensitive to that and change. This will bring the above evidence into your life. If you think you are saved and absolutely no evidence is a part of your life, then repent of your sin and ask Christ to forgive you. Put your belief in Him alone for the payment of your sin.

A verse to memories' "By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother." 1 John 3:10

Study Questions:

For each of the evidences give a real life example of how you are changing by the Holy Spirit.

[illegible]

Lesson 3 Eternal Security

What is eternal security?

It is eternal!

Eternal means forever. That means that there is no end to it. As soon as you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior eternal life begins. No matter what happens, the Bible says you will never lose it! This is another reason why the gospel is good news! If you could get it and then lose it again then you would constantly live under a cloud of fear, guilt, and confusion. But because it is eternal we can serve God out of love and gratitude, knowing that once we have eternal life it can never be lost! Praise God for His awesome gift of eternal life!!

It is security!

Because God gives us eternal life we have everlasting security in Him. Some base their security on how they feel about themselves. Others base it on how others think about them. But we as believers in Jesus Christ can base our security on how God thinks about us! God tells us that we are now His children (John 1:12). He will never ever cast us out or lose us (John 6:37-39). We are now His children! We can't be unborn from His family! This is the reason that we as believers should be the happiest people in the world!

It is quality as well as quantity!

Not only does eternal life deal with the length of life we have in Christ but also with the quality of life we have in Christ. John 17:3 tells us, "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." The quality of eternal life is based on our personal relationship with God the Father through Christ. We have direct access to God through what Jesus did on the cross. We have the privilege of knowing the King of Kings and Lord of Lords personally.

Why is an understanding of eternal security vital?

- It gives us confidence to live life joyfully! As we have already seen, because we know that we have eternal life we should be joyful and thankful in every aspect of our lives!!
- It gives us reasons to serve God willingly!

Some think that eternal security gives Christians a license to sin. But it does not. Just because we are God's children and can never get kicked out of his family doesn't mean that He will not discipline His disobedient children. Eternal life is a reason to serve God. If someone came up to you and freely gave you \$1,000,000 you wouldn't spit in his face would you? Of course not! You would be thankful! Your most natural response would be gratefulness! In the same way our most natural response to God's gift of eternal life is thankfulness and willing service.

A verse to memorize!

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."
John 10:28

Lesson

1. John 3:15,16 says that if we will believe, we will not _____ In your own words what does this mean?
2. When we believe, we have everlasting life, and pass from _____ unto _____ (John 5:24)
3. According to this same verse if a person believes will he ever be condemned?

4. John 6:35 clearly states that if we believe in Christ we will never _____ and never _____
5. Briefly study John 6:39,40 and make at least two observations about the "Father's will".
 1. a. _____
 2. b. _____
6. After reading John 10:28, 29, explain one good reason why we can know that we are saved forever:
7. The "Counselor" is God's Holy Spirit. How long did Christ say that the Counselor would abide with us? _____ (John 14:16).
8. According to Ephesians 1:13 "...Having believed, you were _____ in Him with the promised _____."
9. According to Ephesians 4:30 how long are we sealed for?

10. How many sacrifices did Christ make for the sins of the world? _____ (Hebrews 10:12).
11. When you believe in Christ how does God look at your sins? (Hebrews 10:17)

12. According to Hebrews 7:25 those who come to God Christ is able to save _____

Questions, thoughts or concerns

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook paper. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Lesson 4 The Trinity

Who is the God of the Bible? He is one God. Deuteronomy 6:4 tells us, "The LORD our God the LORD is one." This very simply means that God is indivisible. He cannot be subdivided into separate parts. He is eternally self-existent. When Moses asked God, "What shall I say that your name is?" God replied, "I AM WHO I AM...Tell them I AM has sent you." This conveys that God is self-sufficient. He needs nobody and nothing. In and of Himself He is 100% complete. He did not create man because He felt somehow insufficient. He created man to show him the wealth of His mercy and grace (Ephesians 2:4-7).

He has many attributes (characteristics). Here are just a few:

- He is omnipotent (All Powerful)...Genesis 18:14
- He is omniscient (All Knowing)...Romans 11:33
- He is omnipresent (Able to be anywhere and everywhere)...Ps. 139:7,8
- He is holy (Totally separate from sin). 1 Peter 1:16
- He is love (unconditional in His desire for what's best for mankind). 1 John 4:16
- He is immutable (He does not change His mind). 1 Samuel 15:29, Psalm 102:25-27
- He is perfect (incapable of sin). Matthew 5:48
- He is sovereign (ruling the universe and everything in it)...Psalm 135:6

What is the "Trinity?"

"Trinity" is a word used to describe the belief that although there is one God He exists in the form of three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each member is equally and fully God (Matthew 3:16,17; John 1:1,14; 10:30; 14:9).

So how do we explain this seeming "contradiction?" To be honest there is no explanation. The Trinity is a mystery that no mortal can understand. Finite (you and I) cannot drink in infinite (God.) As the famous theologian C.H. Spurgeon said it's like "a gnat attempting to drink in the ocean."

A verse to memorize!

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....The Word became flesh and made His dwelling place among us." John 1:1,14a

Lesson

1. The question posed in Genesis 18:14 asks, "Is there anything _____ for the _____?" Comment on how this applies to your life:

2. Since, according to 1 Peter 1:16, God is _____ what should we also be? _____ What do you feel that this means for you personally?

3. According to Psalm 135:6 God is absolutely sovereign. How should this effect the way we look at our personal trials and struggles?

4. John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was _____."

• According to vs. 14 who is the Word? _____.

5. Deuteronomy 6:4 proves that God is one. What does Matt. 3:16, 17 show us about the Trinity?

6. In your own words explain the Trinity as best as you can: _____

Lesson 5 True Spirituality

The Key to Growth

Three essential truths

True Spirituality is very important to growing strong in the Christian life. So many Christians struggle for years in their walk with Christ because they haven't learned this essential truth. Put simply it is the fact that a Christian's growth is based on three essential truths of Scripture:

1. The Death of Christ (Romans 6)

It is easy to put the cross away, at least in our thinking, after we come to Christ for salvation. Once we have eternal life we often no longer see the need for Christ's cross. It has served its purpose completely...or has it? You see, the death of Christ on the cross did three things: It paid the PENALTY of sin. According to scripture we all deserve death and hell because we are sinners. Christ's death paid that penalty that we all owed. This took place in the past. This aspect of Christ's crucifixion is what actually enables us to be delivered from sin and its penalty, which is hell. It will eradicate the PRESENCE of sin. This will take place in the future. When our bodies die our ability to sin will die with it. Because of the cross we are guaranteed someday to be free from the enslavement of sin forever. It breaks the POWER of sin. This takes place in the present. Guess what? Sin has no more power over you! The cross of Christ defeated sin and its power completely! Because Christ died FOR sin we are dead TO sin.

2. The Resurrection of Christ (Romans 6)

While the death of Christ guaranteed our death to sin the resurrection of Christ guarantees our life to God. Here's the way Romans 6:11 puts it, "In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus." When we trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior we are identified with Him. We are identified with His death, burial and resurrection. It is as though we have died, been buried and risen with Christ so that, "we too may live a new life" (Romans 6:4). A very important aspect of the Christian life is understanding this and living it out on a daily basis. We need to "Practice our Position" in Christ. We need to fully believe that Christ's death, burial and resurrection guarantee us victory over sin. Then we must live it out!!

3. The Spirit of Christ (Romans 8)

As we begin to understand these basic truths we must realize that Christ dwells in us through His Holy Spirit to enable us to live the victory that is already ours. Romans 8:12 & 13 puts it this way, "Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation - but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; BUT IF BY THE SPIRIT YOU PUT TO DEATH THE MISDEEDS OF THE BODY you will live." In other words, the power of the Holy Spirit is in us to give us systematic victory over sin. This victory is based on Christ's death, burial and resurrection. This victory is guaranteed to each and every Christian. All we must do is believe in it and act upon it.

One Basic Definition

True Spirituality takes place when we understand our identification with Christ's death, burial and resurrection and then live out our victory in Christ by allowing the Holy Spirit to take full control of our lives.

Some helpful hints.

1. **Read Romans 6-8.** These three chapters explain in detail our position in Christ and our victory over sin.

Chapter 6 explains our POSITION IN CHRIST. Chapter 7 reveals our CONDITION APART FROM CHRIST. Chapter 8 reveals our VICTORY THROUGH THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST.

- o These passages will be a tremendous help to you as a new believer. They give us insights into the Apostle Paul's secret of victorious living. They also show us that Paul still struggled with living out this victory over sin (7:14-25). So take courage fellow believer! Though you may struggle with sin God has given you the victory! Live in it!!!

2. **Practice these truths on a daily basis.**

- o All of us, no matter how spiritual or mature we may seem to be, will fall and fail in our Christian walk. But it is very important that as soon as you do fall, get right back up and start again. Proverbs tells us, "The wise man falls seven times yet rises again." Stay persistent! The Christian life is not a 100-yard dash. It is a lifelong marathon!

3. **Dedicate yourself to rededicate yourself on a daily basis!**

- o This means that everyday is a new opportunity to serve God. The Christian life is not a one-time dedication but a day by day, moment by moment decision.

A verse to memorize!

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20

Lesson

1. According to Ephesians 1:13 when does the Holy Spirit come to live inside us?

2. What does the Holy Spirit give us according to Acts 1:8? _____

3. II Peter 1:3 promises us that "His _____ has given us everything we need for _____ and _____"

In your own words try to explain what this means:

[illegible]

4. In John 15:5 Jesus tells us that He is the _____ and that we are the _____. Then He tells us that apart from Him we _____.

Using Jesus' example of the vine and the branches explain our need for Christ if we are truly going to bear fruit for His glory: (But first read John 15:1-8.)

[illegible]

5. What does Romans 6:2 tell us about our new relationship to sin?

6. Colossians 1:29 tells us about Paul's personal power source, "To this end I labor, struggling with all _____, which so powerfully _____ in me." What was Paul's power source?

source?

7. We have learned that the cross of Christ, the resurrection of Christ and the Spirit of Christ all guarantee us spiritual victory. What are some ways that you can put these three principles into practice on a daily basis?

Remember that if have any questions stop and call the person that is working with you.

Lesson 6 The walk of the Believer

A life please to God

Ephesians 4: 17-32

Most people are familiar with the expression "practice what you preach." This is a very convenient cliché to use, but it proves to be a shallow saying when the rubber of life hits the road. The truth is this: doing what we should is always more difficult than saying what we should do.

What can you do to match your walk with your talk? What makes a Christian believer distinctive from the non-believer? A non-believer seldom gets involved in someone else's life unless there is something in it for him. But the Christian believer does not learn about Christ in that way. The challenge for each of us is to put off the old and put on the new. This session will teach us how to enhance our walk with Christ.

This lesson contains an astounding truth—believers are neither Gentiles nor Jews; they are a third race of people. Therefore, they are not to walk like men (natural, ungodly men); they are to walk like Christ.

I. THE BELIEVER IS NOT TO WALK AFTER THE GENTILES, THAT IS, AFTER UNGODLY MEN

Read Ephesians 4:17-19

This is very significant. Remember: Paul is writing to Gentiles. The church at Ephesus was a Gentile church. Now note the verse. In the authorized version (King James) believers are told to no longer walk as "other Gentiles" walk, as though they were still classified as Gentiles. But the word "other" is not in the best and oldest manuscripts. Thus, the exhortation is to "no longer walk as Gentiles walk." That is, believers are set off and set apart from Gentiles. They are no longer classified as Gentiles or Jews (cp. 1 Cor. 10:32). Who then are believers? The point being made is that they are a third race on earth. They are the new creation; the creation of a new body of people, a new nation, a new race. They are the children of God who are to inhabit the new heavens and earth.

The point is this: believers are not to walk as other men walk. Why? Because believers are new creatures in Christ Jesus, and the walk of other men does not please God. What is it that other men do that does not please God? This passage gives five traits about unbelievers that displease God. Remember: believers are to have nothing to do with any of these. They are never to return to the paths of their former life.

- I. Unbelievers walk in the vanity of their mind (Ephes. 4:17). The mind includes the ability to will and to do the truth as well as know the truth; it includes morality as well as reasoning and understanding. The word "vain" means empty, futile, senseless, aimless, unsuccessful, worthless.

When men push God out of their minds, their minds are void and empty of God and of His truth and morality. God is not in their thoughts. Their minds are ready to be filled with some other god or supremacy, that is, with the things of the world.

Lesson

1. Paul told the Ephesians 4: 17-19 how not to walk (live). So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer _____ as the _____ do, in the futility of their _____.
2. They are darkened in their _____ and _____ because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.
3. Having lost all _____, they have given themselves over to _____ so as to _____ in every kind of _____, and they are full of greed.

2. Unbelievers walk with their understanding darkened (Ephes. 4:18). To understand means to grasp, comprehend, perceive. To be darkened means to be blinded and unable to see. The unbeliever does not grasp or understand God; his understanding is darkened and blinded and unable to see God. He often understands this world and the things of this world, and he gives his life over to the things of this world. But he is not able to understand God and His eternal plan for the world through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The believer is not to allow his understanding to become darkened. He is not to return to the world of the spiritually blind, the world of those who walk with darkened understanding.

3. Unbelievers walk alienated from the life of God. Unbelievers are spiritually dead and doomed to eternal death. "Alienated" means to be estranged, separated, cut off, detached. There are always unfriendly or hostile feelings involved in alienation. The unbeliever is alienated from the life of God. He is...

- estranged from God with unfriendly or hostile feelings.
- separated from God with unfriendly or hostile feelings.
- cut off from God with unfriendly or hostile feelings.
- detached from God with unfriendly or hostile feelings.

Your witness makes a big difference as you walk with Christ in this world. It is important to guard yourself from the "old man" who wants to represent you. Don't be discouraged! Your Christian life lived out makes an impact on those who are watching you. Listen closely to this story and apply it to your walk:

"An old man, walking the beach at dawn, noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Catching up with the youth, he asked what he was doing. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left until the morning sun.

'But the beach goes on for miles, and there are millions of starfish,' countered the old man. 'How can your effort make a difference?' The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves. 'It makes a difference to this one,' he said."

QUESTIONS:

1. What draws a Christian to walk like a Gentile (the way of the world)?

3. How does a heart become hardened?

4.

3. What thoughts come to your mind when you hear the word "vanity"?

4. What happens when Christians walk like unbelievers? Who is affected?

THE BELIEVER IS TO WALK AFTER CHRIST (v. 20-24).

He is not to walk as men walk. The reason is clearly stated: believers did not learn such a sinful life from Christ. Christ did not live a sinful life, and He has not taught us to live a sinful life as other men live. If a man has heard Christ and been taught by Christ, then he has heard and been taught *the truth*.

Note that the Teacher is Christ Himself, not the minister nor the lay teacher. By the Holy Spirit, Christ uses the body and voice of the minister and teacher to teach people how they are to live. If a person has really heard Christ speaking to their hearts, then what they heard was not the kind of life lived by unbelievers. The true walk is a walk in Christ, and a walk in Christ involves three actions.

(Because of their importance and length, the three actions are covered under the heading "A CLOSER LOOK.")

1. The believer is to put off the _____ Ephes. 4:22.
2. The believer is to be _____ in the spirit of his mind Ephes. 4:23.
3. The believer is to put on the _____ Ephes. 4:24.

A CLOSER LOOK:

Old Man: the "old man" refers to what a man is *before he accepts Christ*. It is the very *nature of man*, the *natural*, corruptible seed which is passed on from generation to generation and leads to death. It is what is called the nature of Adam.

Three things are taught about the old man in the Scriptures.

1. The believer's *old man* has already been put to death. It was crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6). When the believer received Christ, God began immediately to count him buried with Christ and united with Christ in the very likeness of His death. This is the meaning symbolized in baptism.
2. The deeds of the old man have been *put off* from the believer (Col. 3:9). The power of evil deeds has been broken, and the believer is no longer in bondage to them.
3. In this passage, the believer himself is exhorted to *put off the old man*. He is told to exercise his own will in putting off the *old man*. He so wills by realizing and acting upon three truths.
 - a. The old man, from God's perspective, is counted dead. Therefore, the believer *counts* his old man as already being dead.

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:11).

b. The old man is recognized as being very much alive. The old man is tempted to *look, taste, feel, think*—to *experience sin*. But the believer rejects the temptation. He refuses to participate in sin. He puts off the old man as he walks day by day.

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:12-13).

c. The old man (including all creation) is seen aging and dying day by day. The believer realizes that this world and all that is within it, including his old man, is in a constant process of dying. He knows that all is dying because the evil desires of nature are deceitful, and deceit disturbs and destroys relationships—the very nature of things (Ephes. 4:22).

Such destruction deteriorates and corrupts; it eats away at life and at the balance of things until all things become nothing but decayed matter. Therefore, the believer puts off the old man and puts on the new man—by faith in the love of God. When a person believes in the love of God, God responds by loving him so much that He makes a permanent man out of him, a new man who is to live eternally and become a citizen of the new heavens and earth.

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:6).

"But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins" (2 Peter 1:9)

QUESTIONS:

1. According to Scripture, is this "old man" still alive in you? _____

2. What instructions is the Christian given in dealing with the "old man"?

3. Give some examples of how the "old man" acts when he doesn't get his way?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

Renewing of the mind

the believers mind is to be renewed (*ananeousthai*), which means to be made new, readjusted, changed, turned around, and regenerated.

a. The mind of man has been affected by sin. It desperately needs to be renewed. The mind is far from perfect. It is *basically worldly*, that is...

- selfish
- self-centered
- self-seeking
- centered on this world
- centered on the flesh
- centered on this life

Scripture is clear about the corruption of man's mind. The human mind has just been tragically corrupted by man's selfishness and sin. Man's mind...

- has become *vain*, empty, and futile in its *imagination*s.

Lesson

The mind must be renewed

Romans 1:21

Because that, when they _____ God, they glorified him not as _____, neither were thankful; but became _____ their _____, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Romans 1:28

And even as they did not like to _____ God in their _____, God gave them over to a reprobate _____, to do those things which are not convenient.

Romans 8:7

Because the _____ is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the _____ of God, neither indeed can be.

2 Cor. 4:4

In whom the god of this world hath _____ the _____ of them which believe not, lest the light of the _____ of _____, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Ephes. 4:17

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth _____ not as other Gentiles walk, in the _____ of the _____.

Col. 1:21

_____, that were sometime _____ and enemies in your _____ by wicked works, yet now hath he _____.

Col. 2:18

Let no man _____ you of your _____ in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.

Titus 1:15

Unto the _____ all things are pure: but unto them that are _____ and _____ is nothing pure; but even their _____ and conscience is defiled.

The mind is renewed by the presence of Christ in the life of the believer. When a person receives the Lord Jesus Christ as His Lord, the man is *spiritually*...

- born again (John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:23).
- made into a new man (Ephes. 4:24; Col. 3:10).
- made into a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17).
- given the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16; cp. 1 Cor. 2:9-15).

What this means is a most wonderful truth, and it is easily seen. When a person receives Jesus Christ into his life, he receives the mind of Christ as well. Christ places His mind into the believer's mind; that is, Christ changes the believer's mind to focus upon God.

Whereas the believer's mind used to be centered upon the world, it is now centered upon spiritual matters. The believer's mind is renewed, changed, turned around, and regenerated to focus upon God. However, it is critical to remember that only Christ can renew the human mind. Only Christ can implant *the mind of Christ* within a person. Only Christ can give a person His thoughts and the spirit to *live out* His thoughts.

The believer is to live a transformed life; that is, he is to walk day by day *renewing his mind more and more*. He is to allow the Spirit of Christ (the Holy Spirit) to focus his mind more and more upon God and spiritual things.

Lesson

Keep your mind on Christ

The believer is to love the Lord with all his mind. **Matthew 22:37**

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt _____ the Lord thy God with all thy _____, and with all thy _____, and with all thy _____.

The believer is to keep his mind upon spiritual things, not carnal things. **Romans 8:5-6**

For they that are after the _____ do _____ the things of the flesh; but they that are after the _____ the things of the _____. For to be _____ minded is death; but to be spiritually _____ is life and peace.

The believer is to cast down imaginations and every thought that interrupts his knowledge of God and to captivate every thought for Christ. **2 Cor. 10:3-5**

For though we live in the _____, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but _____ through God to the pulling down of _____; casting down _____, and every high thing that _____ itself _____ the _____ of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

The believer is not to let his mind be corrupted. **2 Cor. 11:3**

But I fear, lest by any means, as the _____ Eve through his subtlety, so your _____ should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The believer is not to fulfill the desires of the flesh and of the mind. **Eph. 2:3**

Among whom also we all had our _____ in times past in the lusts of our _____, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the _____; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

The believer is not to walk as the world walks, in the vanity of their mind.

Eph. 4:17

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth _____ as other Gentiles walk, in the _____ of their _____.

The believer is to be renewed in the spirit of his mind. **Eph. 4:23**

And be _____ in the spirit of your mind.

The believer is to let the mind of Christ be in him by walking humbly before God and men. **Phil. 2:5**

Let this _____ be in you, which was also in _____.

The believer is to think only upon the things of praise and virtue. **Phil 4:8**

Finally, brethren, whatsoever _____ are _____, whatsoever _____ are _____, whatsoever _____ are _____, whatsoever _____ are _____, whatsoever _____ are _____; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, _____ on these things.

The believer is to live by the laws of God which God has put into his mind.
Hebrews 8:10

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my _____ into their _____, and write them in their _____; and I will be to them a _____, and they shall be to me a _____.

The believer is to arm himself with the same mind as Christ in bearing suffering. **I Peter 4:1**

Forasmuch then as _____ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves _____ with the same _____; for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from _____.

Thoughts/ Questions

Lesson 7 The Believer is to Walk Putting Off the Garments of the Old Man, Eph. 4:25-32

Introduction: this is a most practical passage. When a person clothes himself, he wants to be sure to put on the right clothes. If he *dresses improperly* and puts on clothes that clash and are unacceptable, he is unacceptable and rejected by most people. Most people avoid the person who is improperly dressed, for he embarrasses them. So it is with God. There are things that we are to put on and things that we are not to put on; things that are to clothe our lives and things that are not to clothe our lives. The present passage discusses the things that are to be stripped off. The believer is to put off the garments of the old man.

1. The garment of lying (v.25).
2. The garment of anger (v.26-27).
3. The garment of stealing (v.28).
4. The garment of worthless talk (v.29).
5. The garment of being contrary (v.30).
6. The garments of unkindness (v.31).
7. The garments of the new man (v.32).

A. the believer is to strip away the garment of lying. The word lying means that which is false. It is untruthfulness, deception, misrepresentation, exaggeration.

- I. A lie does at least three things.
 - a. Lying misrepresents the truth. It camouflages and hides the truth. The person lied to does not know the truth; therefore, he has to act or live upon a lie. If the lie is serious, it can be very damaging:
 - ⇒ A lie about a business deal can cost money and cause terrible loss.
 - ⇒ A lie about the salvation of the gospel can cost a person the hope of eternal life. ⇒ A lie about loving someone can stir emotions that lead to destruction.
 - b. Lying deceives a person. It leads a person astray. A person deceives...
 - to get what he wants.
 - to seduce someone.
 - to cover up or hide something.
 - to cause harm or hurt.

The point to see is that lying is a deception, and deception eventually causes misunderstanding, disappointment, bewilderment, helplessness, and emotional upheaval.

- c. Lying builds a wrong relationship, a relationship built upon sinking sand. Two people cannot possibly be friends or live together if the relationship is based upon lies. Lying destroys...
 - confidence • love
 - assurance • trust
 - security • hope

2. Scripture gives one strong reason for believers to speak only the truth: they are members of one another. Every believer is a member of the great body of people which God is building, the body of Christ, that is, the church. William Barclay has an excellent description of this point. *"We can only live in safety because the senses and the nerves pass true messages to the brain. If in fact the senses and the nerves took to passing false messages to the brain, if, for instance, they told the brain that something was cool and touchable when in fact it was hot and burning, life would very soon come to an end. A body can only function accurately and healthily when each part of it passes true messages to the brain and to the other parts. If then we are all bound into one body, that body can only function when we speak the truth. All deception impairs the working of the body of Christ."* (*The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians*, p.184.)

3. The believer is to be altogether what he says. There is to be nothing covered, nothing hid, no shame, no pretense. He is to be exactly the same before men that he is in private and the same in private that he is before men. His life is not to be a lie.

Lesson

Lying or bearing false witness is one of the Ten Commandments. **Exodus 20:16**

Thou shalt not _____ witness against thy neighbor.

Lying is one the gross sins that defile men. **Matthew 15:19**

For out of the _____ proceed _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____,
_____.

Lying takes its stand with the father of lies, the devil. **John 8:44**

Ye are of your _____ the devil and the _____ of your father ye _____ do. He was a _____ from the beginning, and _____ not in the _____, because there is no _____ in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Lying is closely associated with idolatry. It causes a person to profess something other than the truth. **Rev. 21-27**

And there shall in no wise enter into it _____ that _____, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or _____ a _____: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Read Revelations 22:15; For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and _____ a lie.

Lying or deceiving men is to be a characteristic of the antichrist. **2 Thess. 2:9**

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and _____

As you grow in Christ Jesus you will strip off lying and live in the truth of God's word.

B. the believer is to strip away the garment of anger. Men do become angry: note that Scripture recognizes this. There are times when anger is called for, but we are to guard against sinning when we become angry. Anger causes us to either react, lash out and hurt others, or else it motivates us to right wrongs and correct injustices.

- I. There is wrong anger or what may be called unjustified or selfish anger.
 - a. There is the anger that broods, that is selfish. It harbors malice; it will not forget; it lingers; it broods; it wills revenge and sometimes seeks revenge.
 - b. There is the anger that holds contempt (*raca*). It despises; it ridicules; it arrogantly exalts self and calls another person empty and useless. This is an anger that is full of malice. It despises and scorns (*raca*). It arises from pride—a proud wrath (Proverbs 21:24). Such feelings or anger walk over and trample a person. It says that whatever ill comes upon a person is deserved.
 - c. There is the anger that curses. It seeks to destroy a man and his reputation morally, intellectually, and spiritually.

2. There is right anger or what may be called justified anger.

The believer must be an angry person—angry with those who sin and do wrong and who are unjust and selfish in their behavior. However, a justified anger is always disciplined and controlled; it is always limited to those who do wrong either against God or against others. The distinguishing mark between justified and unjustified anger is that a justified anger is never selfish; it is never shown because of what has happened to oneself. It is an anger that is purposeful. The believer knows that he is angry for a legitimate reason, and he seeks to correct the situation in the most peaceful way possible.

Lesson

1. Be ye _____, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your _____ Ephes. 4:26.
2. If it be possible, as much as _____ in you, live _____ with all men" Romans 12:18.

3. And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: and when he had made a _____ of small _____, he _____ them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and _____ out the changer's money, and _____ the tables John 2:13-16.
4. But now ye also put off all these; _____, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth" (Col. 3:8).
5. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to _____ (James 1:19).
6. Whosoever _____ his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (1 John 3:15).
7. Cease from anger, and forsake _____: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil" (Psalms 37:8).
8. He that is soon _____ foolishly; and a man of wicked devices is hated" (Proverbs 14:17).
9. He that is slow to _____ is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city" (Proverbs 16:32).
10. The discretion of a man deferreth his _____; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression" (Proverbs 19:11).
11. Be not hasty in thy _____ to be _____: for _____ resteth in the bosom of fools" (Eccles. 7:9).

As the believer is to strip away lying he/she is to strip away anger, learn to control his/her anger.

c. the believer is to strip away the garment of stealing. The word "steal" means to cheat, to take wrongfully from another person, *either legally or illegally*. Note that the laws of men are not the determining rule governing whether a person is stealing or not. This is what is so often misunderstood about stealing.

- ⇒ Men can sometimes use the law to steal.
- ⇒ Men can take from others without ever breaking a law.
- ⇒ Men can secure too much of something, well beyond what they need; and when they hoard, they are taking something that by nature belongs to others.

Very simply stated, the Bible teaches that stealing is the taking of anything that *rightfully or by nature* belongs to others.

1. A person steals by taking something which is *actually possessed or personally owned* by another person. If a person owns it and we take it, then we are guilty of stealing. It may be something as simple as a pencil from the office or an answer to a test from a fellow student, or it may be something as complex as embezzlement of funds through bookkeeping procedures. If we take it, we have broken God's commandment and stand guilty as thieves.

1. Not purloining _____, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things (Titus 2:10).

2. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a _____ (1 Peter 4:15).

3. A _____ is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight" (Proverbs 11:1).

4. It is _____, it is _____, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth" (Proverbs 20:14).

5. The getting of treasures by a _____ is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death (Proverbs 21:6).

6. He is a merchant, the _____ of _____ are in his hand: he loveth to oppress (Hosea 12:7).

d. the believer is to strip away filthy and foul talk. The word "corrupt" means rotten, foul, putrid and polluting. Corrupt talk, of course, would include cursing and unholy talk and even the worthless conversation that is so often carried on by people. The Amplified New Testament has a good description.

"Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word, nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth" (Ephes. 4:29).

Scripture says that a man with a foul mouth has a mouth that is "an open sepulchre [grave]" (Romans 3:13). An open grave is foul, and it is a symbol of corruption. So is a man with a sinful mouth. His mouth is...

- foul • polluted
- dirty • filthy
- obscene • detestable
- profane • offensive
- dishonorable

The obscene mouth may range from off-colored humor to dirty jokes, from immoral suggestions to outright propositions for sex. But no matter, a man with a foul mouth stinks just like an open grave; his filthiness causes corruption, the decay of character. The filth from his mouth eats and eats away at his character and at the character of his listeners—so much so that he becomes as

offensive as that of a decayed corpse. The foul, filthy mouth kills character, its attractiveness, trust, faithfulness, morality, honor, and godliness.

1. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the _____ of the _____ the mouth _____ (Matthew 12:34).
2. And the _____ is a _____, a world of iniquity: so is the _____ among our members, that it _____ the whole _____, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell (James 3:6).
3. For their heart studieth destruction, and the _____ talk of mischief (Proverbs 24:2).
The believer is to speak only that which is good and which will edify or build up people. Speech is for the purpose...
 - of sharing good things.
 - of building up and strengthening people.
 - of ministering grace (favor, blessings) and helping each other as we plow through life.
1. And they said one to another, Did not our _____ within us, while he _____ with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? (Luke 24:32).
2. _____ to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord (Ephes. 5:19).
3. How forcible are right _____! But what doth your arguing reprove? (Job 6:25).
4. Set a watch, O lord, before my _____; keep the door of my _____ (Psalms 141:3).
5. They shall _____ of the glory of thy kingdom, and _____ of thy power (Psalms 145:11).
6. _____ are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones (Proverbs 16:24).
7. A _____ fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver (Proverbs 25:11).
8. The _____ of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the _____ of a fool will swallow up himself" (Eccles. 10:12).
9. The Lord God hath given me the _____ of the learned, that I should know how to _____ a _____ in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned (Isaiah 50:4).

10. Then they that feared the lord _____ often one to another: and the lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the lord, and that thought upon his name (Malachi 3:16).

e. the believer is to strip away the garment of being contrary or of grieving the Holy Spirit. "Grieving" means to pain; to offend; to vex; to sadden the Holy Spirit. When a child acts contrary to the counsel of his parents, he hurts and grieves them. So when a person acts contrary to the counsel of the Holy Spirit, he hurts and grieves Him. Note three points.

1. The command is forceful, very forceful. This is seen in the name of the Holy Spirit. He is not only called the Holy Spirit here, He is called both the Holy Spirit and "the Spirit of God"—a double reference.

2. There are at least four ways the Holy Spirit can be grieved.

a. He is grieved when believers allow impure things to penetrate their life or thoughts.

For they that are after the flesh do _____ the things of the flesh; but they that are after the _____ the things of the _____. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be _____ is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be (Romans 8:5-7).

b. He is grieved when believers behave immorally.

"Therefore, brethren, we are _____, not to the _____, to live after the _____. For if ye live after the _____, ye shall _____: but if ye through the _____ do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live" (Romans 8:12-13).

c. He is grieved when believers act unjustly.

"But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to _____ to the _____, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou _____ this thing in thine heart? thou hast not _____ unto men, but unto _____" (Acts 5:3-4).

d. He is *grieved* when believers participate in anything contrary to the nature of the Holy Spirit. Note the context of this passage: the command to "grieve not the Spirit" is surrounded by a series of negative commands.

"So then they that are in the flesh cannot _____. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the _____, if so be that the _____ of _____ in you. Now if any man have not the _____ of _____, he is none of _____. And if Christ be in you, the _____ is _____ because of _____; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness" (Romans 8:8-10).

3. The reason we should not grieve the Spirit of God is because of His great ministry to us: He has sealed us until the day of redemption Holy Spirit, Seal—Ephes. 1:13-14.

f. the believer is to strip off the garment of unkindness.

1. There is "bitterness": resentment, harshness. A man who is bitter is often...

- Sharp • cold
- resentful • harsh
- cynical • stressful
- intense • distasteful
- relentless • unpleasant

Any expression involving any of these is sin to God. God desires men to be filled with love and joy and peace and to express such. Anything less than the expression of these is sin.

2. There is "wrath"—Galatians 5:19-21.

3. There is "anger"—Ephes. 4:26-27.

4. There is "clamor"rguing, fussing, quarrelling, brawling. It means insulting, boistrous behavior, and loud talking.

5. There is "evil speaking" slander, evil speaking, blasphemy, malicious talk, to speak against God, to insult. It is hurtful, injurious speech.

6. There is "malice" slander, hurtful, injurious speech.

g. the believer is to put on the garments of the new man. Frankly, this verse speaks for itself more forcefully than any commentary ever could.

1. The word "kind" means to be gentle, caring, helpful, courteous, good, useful, giving, and showering favors upon people. It is the opposite of being neglectful, harsh, sharp, bitter, and resentful. Lehman Strauss points out that kindness comes from such words as *kin* and *kindred* which means that it treats a person as one's own kin. Believers are brothers in the Lord.

Be _____ affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in _____ preferring one another (Romans 12:10).

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, _____ and _____, _____ of _____,
 _____, _____ of _____, _____, _____
 (Col. 3:12).

2. The word "tenderhearted" means to show compassion, mercy, understanding, love, tenderness, and warmth. It means to *be aware* of a person's hurts and sufferings, problems and difficulties, emotions and mental state, physical and spiritual condition. It means to be tenderhearted toward them.

"Blessed are the _____: for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7).

"Be ye therefore _____, as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have _____ one to _____
 (John 13:35).

"Let _____ be without _____ [hypocrisy]. _____ that which is evil;
 _____ to that which is good (Romans 12:9).

"And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you" (1 Thes. 3:12).

"Seeing ye have _____ your _____ in _____ the truth through the Spirit unto
 _____ love of the brethren, see that ye _____ one _____ with a pure heart
 fervently" (1 Peter 1:22).

3. The word "forgiving" means to be gracious to a person, to pardon him for some wrong done. Note that the person has done wrong; he has hurt and caused us pain. But the command is to still forgive him.

4. The reason we should forgive each other is because God has forgiven us. No matter how much a person has done against us, it does not come close to what we have done against God. Yet, God has forgiven us. Why? For Christ's sake. Jesus Christ died for us—died for our sins so that we could be forgiven. Therefore, God forgives us. No matter what we have done, God forgives us when we want forgiveness. He forgives us despite our having rejected, cursed, ignored, neglected, and rebelled against Him.
 The point is this: because of what Christ has done for us, we should forgive others no matter what they have done.

At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the _____ and _____, and hast revealed them unto _____ (Matthew 11:25).

Ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the _____ and to the _____. Be ye therefore _____, as your Father also is merciful (Luke 6:35-36).

And if he _____ against thee _____ times in a day, and _____ times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt _____ him (Luke 17:4).

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, _____ one another, even as _____ for Christ's sake hath _____ you (Ephes. 4:32).

"Forbearing one another, and _____ one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (Col. 3:13).

Lesson 8 THE BELIEVER AND HIS DAILY BEHAVIOR

Romans 12: 1-4

Introduction: the believer is to be devoted to God. Everything he is and has is to be dedicated to the worship and service of God. Anything less than total devotion is short of God's glory: it is sin. Therefore, when discussing the believer's relationship to God, Scripture is strong in its exhortation. Without equivocation, Scripture urges total devotion.

1. Devotion urged (v.1).
2. Present your bodies to God (v.1).
3. Be not conformed to this world (v.2).
4. Be transformed (v.2).

1. (12:1) Dedication— Commitment: devotion is strongly urged. The word "therefore" launches a new subject for discussion. It connects what is about to be said to what has been said. What has been said is this:

- ⇒ The world desperately needs to get right with God (Romans 1:18-3:20).
- ⇒ The way for the world to get right with God is now clearly revealed through God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The way is *justification*: believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and having God *count* one's faith as righteousness (Romans 3:21-5:21).
- ⇒ The believer in Christ can now be *sanctified*, that is, set apart to God and set free from sin to life eternal by the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-8:39).

2. (12:1) Body— Dedication: the believer is to present his body to God. The importance of the human body cannot be overstated. The one thing upon earth that is abused more than anything else is man's body. Man abuses, neglects, and ignores his body...

- by overeating
- by partaking of
- by becoming harmful substances inactive
- by caring for the
- by being too active external abusing
- by cursing, fighting, the internal and killing
- by getting too much or too little rest

The list could go on and on, but just the mention of these few *sins* clearly strikes the point home. If there is an exhortation in Scripture that must be heeded by Christian believers, it is the exhortation of these two verses.

I. The believer is to present his body as a *living sacrifice* to God. Note three facts.

- a. God demands the *believer's body*. God is not only interested in man's spirit; He is vitally interested in man's body. His interest could not be any stronger nor made any clearer. This is clearly seen by contrasting the world's view of the body with God's view
- b. The believer is to present his body to God. The dedication...
 - is not to be made to *self*: living as one wishes; doing one's own thing.
 - is not to be made to *others*: living for family, wife, husband, child, parent, mistress, companion, sexual partner, or employer.
 - is not to be to *something else*: houses, lands, property, money, cars, possessions, profession, recreation, retirement, luxury, power, recognition, fame.

The body is to be offered to God and to God alone. God demands the body, demands that it be presented to Him. God wants the body to be sacrificially living for Him.

- c. The believer is to present his body to God as a *living sacrifice*. Note the believer's offering of his body is to be *sacrificial*. This is the picture of Old Testament believers taking animals and offering them to God as sacrifices. The believer is to make the same kind of sacrificial offering to God, but note the profound difference. The believer's offering is not to be the sacrifice of an animal's flesh and blood. The offering and sacrifice of the believer is to be his body: he is to offer his body as a *living sacrifice*.

Lesson

- I. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (1 Cor. 6:20).
2. Wherefore we labour, that whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him" (2 Cor. 5:9).

3. (12:2) **Conformed— World— Worldliness**: the believer is not to be conformed to this world.

1. The word "conformed" comes from the root word *schema* which means fashion, the outward form, the appearance of a man. It is the appearance of a person that changes from day to day and year to year. A man dresses differently for work than he does for an evening out. A man looks different as a young man than he does as an older man. His schema, his fashion, his outward appearance differs.

The fashion of this world passeth away" (1 Cor. 7:31).

Read the verse and fill in the answer

"While we look not at the _____ which are _____, but at the _____ which are not _____; for the _____ which are _____ are _____; but the _____ which are not _____ are _____" (2 Cor. 4:18).

Read 2 Peter 3:10-14; cp. 2 Peter 3:3-14 and in own your words what do you hear the verses saying.

And the world _____, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God _____ forever (1 John 2:17).

And I saw a new _____ and a new _____: for the first heaven and the first earth were _____; and there was no more sea (Rev. 21:1).

The earth _____ and _____ away, the world languisheth and _____ away, the haughty people of the earth do languish (Isaiah 24:4).

And as it is _____ unto men once to _____, but after this the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

But the rich, in that he is made _____: because as the _____ of the _____ he shall _____ (James 1:10).

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the _____. For what is your _____? It is even a _____, that _____ for a little time, and then vanisheth away (James 4:14).

Answer the question that is asked by James, what is your life? _____

For all _____ is as _____, and all the _____ of man as the flower of grass. The _____, and the flower thereof _____ away (1 Peter 1:24).

Here are more scriptures that points to the fact that we are passing from this life, and reasons why we are not to be conformed to the world. The goal is to keep our mind on what God wants from us as believers. Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth." Choosing to think about what matters to God is an important part of walking in the Spirit. We will never attain sinless perfection in this lifetime. But with the right mindset, we can experience consistent spiritual victory.

For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding (1 Chron. 29:15).

"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope" (Job 7:6).

"Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good" (Job 9:25).

"Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity" (Psalm 39:5).

"Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish" (Psalm 49:12).

"For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again" (Psalm 78:39).

4. (12:2) Transformed—Mind: the believer is to be transformed. The Greek root of the word is *morphe*. *Morphe* means the real being of a man. It is the very nature and essence, the inseparable part, the unchanging shape of a man. The man in evening clothes looks different than he does in work clothes, but he is still the same man inwardly. The elderly man is the same man inwardly that he was as a young man.

What the Bible is saying is clearly evident: the believer must undergo a radical change within his inner being in order to escape the world and its doom. The believer must be transformed and changed inwardly. His real self—his very nature, essence, personality, inner being, his inner man—must be changed.

How is a man transformed within his inner person? The Bible declares as simply as can be stated, "by the renewing of your mind." The believer's mind is to be renewed, which means to be made new, readjusted, changed, turned around, and regenerated.

Lesson

The believer is to love the Lord with all his mind.

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy _____, and with all thy _____, and with all thy _____ (Matthew 22:37).

The believer is to keep his mind upon spiritual things, not carnal things.

For they that are after the flesh do _____ the things of the _____; but they that are after the _____ the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally _____ is death; but to be spiritually _____ is life and peace (Romans 8:5-6).

The believer is to cast down imaginations and every thought that interrupts his knowledge of God and to captivate every thought for Christ.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down _____, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity _____ to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

The believer is not to let his mind be corrupted.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your _____ should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ (2 Cor. 11:3).

The believer is not to fulfill the desires of the flesh and of the mind.

"Among whom also we all had our _____ in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the _____; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others" (Ephes. 2:3).

The believer is not to walk as the world walks, in the vanity of their mind.

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth _____ not as other Gentiles walk, in the _____ (Ephes. 4:17).

The believer is to be renewed in the spirit of his mind.

And be _____ in the spirit of your _____ (Ephes. 4:23).

The believer is to let the mind of Christ be in him by walking humbly before God and men.

Let this _____ be in you, which was also in _____ (Phil. 2:5).

The believer is to think only upon the things of praise and virtue.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are _____; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, _____ on these things (Phil. 4:8).

The believer is to live by the laws of God which God has put into his mind.

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my _____ into their _____, and write them in their _____; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people (Hebrews 8:10).

The believer is to arm himself with the same mind as Christ in bearing suffering.

Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, _____ yourselves likewise with the same _____: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin" (1 Peter 4:1).

The reason why the believer is to be transformed is extremely significant. The believer must prove the will of God. The word "prove" means both to *find* and to *follow* God's will. This is certainly understandable. If a person's mind is not renewed and focused upon God.

- how can the person ever find or discover or know the will of God?
- how can the person ever follow or obey or do the will of God?

The only conceivable way a person can ever *find* and *follow* God's will is to focus and keep his mind upon God and upon the things of God. Note also how the will of God is described.

Meditating upon the threefold description stirs a person to crave after God's will. God's will is said to be.

- good: beneficial, rich, bountiful, suitable, moral.
- acceptable: pleasing, satisfactory, welcomed.
- perfect: without error or mistake, flawless, complete, absolute, free from any need, short of nothing, completely fulfilled.

In summary, victory over the world is gained by the believer renewing his mind more and more. The believer must focus his mind upon God and the things of God. He must.

- focus His mind upon living and moving and having his being in God.
- learn to concentrate upon God and the things of God.
- mentally practice the presence of God.

Very practically, the believer must do exactly what Scripture says. Note the clarity and lifechanging instructions in these passages. What an enormous impact is made upon lives when they actually follow the Word of God in these instructions!