

Lesson # 10 - The Priorities Regarding the Daily Life»

Introduction

If any man come to Me, and hate not his father and mother and wife and children and brethren and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after Me, cannot be My disciple[™]. . . So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple. Luke 14:26,27,33

- A. This passage boldly and vividly presents to us the priorities of the Christian life.
 - 1. In v. 26 it states that our choice of the Lord Jesus must be so unconditional that when a clash of loyalty occurs - our actions in following Jesus Christ would appear as though we hated our loved ones.
 - 2. In v. 27 this commitment is made even more practical when we are told we must be willing to die the death of crucifixion for Him.
 - 3. In v. 33 the thought is taken one step further. The true disciple is one who inwardly has forsaken everything in life for Jesus Christ and is willing to do so outwardly.
- B. It is a drastic mistake to read these verses and feel sorry for ourselves in all that we must give up.
 - 1. The true disciple who renounces all for Jesus Christ has gained everything good and valuable in this life and then heaven itself. He belongs to Jesus Christ - what could be greater than that?
 - 2. The one who greedily and selfishly holds on to pleasures, possessions, and the spurious freedom of having his own way is simply forging the chains of his own slavery to the powers of sin and darkness. He lives here in bondage to what he cannot control and he reaps the eternal death and judgment which comes to all who demand their own way.
- C. Now we again see that the central thought in the question of priority has to do with the rule of God versus the rule of self.

I. Exposition: The Basis of This Priority.

- A. The basis of this priority in our salvation.
 - 1. The Christian, once unrighteous, is now righteous before God.

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. Rom. 3:10

Therefore being justified (declared righteous) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 5:1

2. The Christian, once guilty, is now forgiven before God.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23

. . . Having forgiven you all trespasses. Col. 2:13

3. The Christian, once blinded by Satan, has been given discernment by God.

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine unto them. II Cor. 4:4

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light. and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me. Acts 26:18

4. The Christian, once condemned, is now absolved before God.

He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the Only Begotten Son of God. John 3:18

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Rom. 8:1

5. The Christian, once alienated, is now reconciled to God.

And you, that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled. Col. 1:21

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Romans 5:10

6. The Christian, once enslaved to sin and Satan, is now freed by God.

And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of .the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. Eph. 2:1,2

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Hebrews 2:14,15

7. The Christian, once dead in sin, is now alive to God.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life . . . John 3:36

8. The Christian, once depra-red (totally disabled) by sin, is now empowered by God#

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:6

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16

Observation: These verses indicate the great reversal God has brought into our lives. We have been ministered unto in mercy, love and grace. Once this great work of salvation is understood it seems to be the height of ingratitude and irrationality for anyone not to give himself unreservedly to the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. The basis of this priority in our sanctification.

1. In relationship to God the Christian is an adopted child.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. Romans 8:15,16

2. In relationship to faith the Christian is a believer.

And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women. Acts 5:14

3. In relationship to character the Christian is a saint.

Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called saints. with all that in every place call upon the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's. I Cor. 1:2

4. In relationship to fellowship the Christian is a friend of God.

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth, but I have called you friends. for all things that I have heard of Hy Father I have made known unto you. John 15:15

5. In relationship to obedience the Christian is a servant.

Now with eyeservice, as menpleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Eph. 6:6

6. In relationship to progress the Christian is a pilgrim.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. I Peter 2:11

7. In relationship to culture the Christian is a stranger.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. I Peter 2:11

8. In relationship to influence the Christian is a light.

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Matt. 5:14

9. In relationship to responsibility the Christian is an ambassador.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us, we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. II Cor. 5:20

10. In relationship to warfare the Christian is a soldier.

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. II Tim. 2:3

11. In relationship to expectation the Christian is a heir.

And if children, then heirs ; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. Romans 8:17

Observation: All of these designations indicate the kind of a person we are by the grace of God. The priority of*commitment to Jesus Christ is in harmony with the very character and nature of the believer. Anything else than an unreserved surrender in attitude and action would be inconsistent.

II. Explanation: The Patterns of Life and this Priority.

A. Our past life was once patterned by sinful goals.

Wherein in time past ye walked (lived) according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air (Satan), the spirit that now worketh in. the children of die obedience. Among whom also we all had our conversation (daily life) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Eph. 2:2,3

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord., that ye henceforth walk (live) not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness. to work all uncleanness with greediness. Eph. 4:17-19

Observation: Due to the Fall of Man all of us are born into the world lost and with a sinful nature. How we live, the pattern for our attitudes and actions, and our daily goals, are all structured by this sinful nature. The very roots of our thoughts and values have their origin in that which is contrary to the person and will of God. We have been programmed by sin. We all have a built-in pattern of life which is primarily self-seeking. The Christian, if he is to be free, must recognize this pattern and cooperate with the Holy Spirit in breaking this pattern.

B. The believer has been redeemed from this sinful pattern of life.

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation (daily life) received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot. I Peter 1:18,19

For ye are bought with a price] therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. I Cor. 6:20

Observation: When Jesus Christ died on the cross He dealt with our sinful past life. He broke the power and patterns of sin and made it possible for the believer to be free. The Christian is one who has been delivered from sin. In order for this to be fully manifested in our lives we must understand the old patterns of sin, the new patterns of holiness and make the necessary choices. When we practice the truth we can be delivered.

III. Exhortation: The Obligation in the Light of this Priority.

A. We are to refuse to live according to our old patterns Of life, Eph. 4:22,23.

That ye put off concerning the former conversation (daily life) the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

B. We are to live our daily lives according to the pattern of the Gospel, Philipians 1:27.

Only let your conversation (daily life) be as it becometh the gospel of Christ, that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

C. We are to refuse covetousness, be content, and trust God, Hebrews 13:5.

Let your conversation (daily life) be without covetousness and be content with such things as ye have, for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

D. We are to be holy in all manner of daily life, I Peter 1:14,15.

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance, but as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (daily life).

Observation: These exhortations put the finger directly on the necessity of breaking the old sinful patterns of life. We must choose, by faith and love, to cooperate with God in this matter.

Conclusion: How to be Practical in Giving Jesus Christ His Rightful Place in My Life?

A. Be willing to change.

B. Be willing to change by asking the Holy Spirit to turn His searchlight on our attitudes and actions.

C. Be willing to change by correctly responding to God when a need is recognized. Confess the sin and make the following affirmation:

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I break that pattern of sin in my life which manifests itself in _____. I take charge of my life and choose to live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ as His disciple.

D. Be willing to change by praying down through the day before the day starts. All of us know when we are going to be tempted and how. We must break the pattern of sinful response by choosing to do what is right and living according to truth, love and holiness.