

The Christian Life

Introduction

- A. It is very important that we do not accept an explanation of the Christian life or try to explain our own life from the viewpoint of our emotions or circumstances.
- B. The authority for the Christian is found in the revelation of God the Bible. How we are to live, what we are to do, what we should expect, and how we should pray – is all given to us as a blueprint in the Scriptures.

I. The Christian life is not one of Condemnation but Peace, Romans 5:1.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*

Observation: The Christian is justified (declared righteous by God) and therefore has been brought into a right relationship with God. The description of this relationship is designated as one of "peace." While peace is an emotion or feeling it is that only in a secondary way. The feeling of peace is based upon the fact or truth of the saving relationship that is due to receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

II. The Christian Life is not one of Separation but Access, Romans 5:2.

By Whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Observation: The words "access ... into this grace" designate how God has made Himself and His divine favor available to us. Note that this is "by faith" as we also have in the former verse. This does not refer to our holiness or merit but teaches us that the grace of God can only be received. It is God's gift and all Christians are able to receive God's grace.

III. The Christian Life is not one of Stagnation but Progression, Romans 5:3,4.

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope.

Observation: Once a person receives Jesus Christ as Savior he is introduced into an enjoyable process of growing in God's grace. Sometimes this growing process includes facets of life which can only be called "tribulation." When we look back we can "glory in the tribulations" because we see how God has used them for His glory.

IV. The Christian life is not one of Shame but Confidence, Romans 5:5.

And hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.

Observation: Even though we do not understand these "tribulation" areas of our daily life – we can be confident and filled with hope concerning them. We know that God loves us.

V. The Christian Life is not one of Weakness but Provision, Romans 5:6,7.

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

Observation: In our unsaved state man is "without strength". That is not true for the Christian, however. What we could not do to atone for our sins – Jesus Christ did for us in His death. He died for us. The word "for" designates Him as our Representative and Substitute. He bore the penalty of our sin and died our death.

VI. The Christian life is not one of Rejection but Love, Romans 5:8.

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Observation: As sinners we were rejected by God in that our sins stood between Him and ourselves. Even so, God bridged that gulf of separation with His love and sent Jesus Christ, His Son, to suffer our death. While the Christian may at times feel rejected – the feeling is not correct – we have in Christ the acceptance of love.

VII. The Christian Life is not one of Judgment but Justification, Romans 5:9.

Much more than, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Observation: The statement here "justified by His blood" designates and explains the basis of our acceptance by God – it is the death of Jesus Christ Who paid our price and suffered our penalty. Because the debt is paid we have the promise "we shall be saved from wrath (hell) through Him."

VIII. The Christian Life is not one of Enmity but Reconciliation, Romans 5:10.

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.

Observation: Although we were once the enemies of God we are now reconciled. The enmity has been wiped away. The reconciliation is a final state that is a permanent possession. We are kept in that position by the daily intercessory work of Jesus Christ. "We are (kept) saved by His life (of intercession)." Hebrews 7:25

IX. The Christian Life is not one of Sorrow but Joy, Romans 5:11.

And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom we have now received the atonement.

Observation: The daily result of all these benefits of divine grace is the joy of the Lord. This is also an emotion but based upon an enduring relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ. It is a joy that is not dependent on circumstances. It is a deepseated sense of happiness and security. There is no substitute for the joy of the Lord.

Conclusion: The fact of these benefits depend on Jesus Christ (Col. 2:10) while the enjoyment and power of these depend on the Christian (Col. 2:6).