

The Christian Life – Designed For Success

Introduction

- A. God has designed the Christian life so His people will succeed.
- B. However, success with its freedom, only comes in knowing and practicing the truth, John 8:32.
- C. It is not enough to want the will of God. The Christian must know the content of Biblical Christianity, he must know how to practice the Christian life and he must consistently obey God in faith and love.
- D. It is important for the believer to stop accepting his feelings and circumstances as authoritative. We must believe God and respond to Him!

I. The Christian Life Revolves Around a Person – Jesus Christ.

- A. The Biblical Plan: That in all things Jesus Christ might have the preeminence. Colossians 1:18.
- B. The Biblical Evidence:
 - 1. Matthew 11:28 -- ". . . come unto Me"
 - 2. John 1:12 -- "But as many as received Him "
 - 3. John 8:12 -- "Then spake Jesus . . . I am the Light of the world"
 - 4. John 14:6 -- ". . . I am the Way, the truth, and the life"
- C. The Doctrinal Evidence:
 - 1. Cf. faith – God is its object, Acts 16:31.
 - 2. Cf. sin – a transgression against God, Psalm 51:1.
 - 3. Cf. salvation – we are complete in Him, Col. 2:10.
 - 4. Cf. sanctification – He is our holiness, I Cor. 1:30.
- D. Observation: The Christian life and even Christianity is often perverted by substituting the church, or Christian service, or Christian experience, or a list of rules, or even the Bible for the person of Jesus Christ. He must have the central place and all other facets of Christianity must grow out of our belief in and obedience to Him.

II. The Christian Life is Related to the Historical Atonement of Jesus Christ.

<u>The Divine Provision</u>	<u>The Divine Promise</u>	<u>The Divine Command</u>
The Crucifixion Romans 6:6	Continual cleansing from the Old Nature	Put off the Old Man Ephesians 4:22
The Resurrection Romans 6:4	Continuous enablement to live virtuously	Put on the New Man Ephesians 4:24
The Ascension Eph. 1:19-23	Continual freedom from Satan	Give no place to the Devil Ephesians 4:27
The Day of Pentecost Acts 1:8 I Cor. 2:12	Continual anointing to live for and serve God	Be filled with the Spirit Ephesians 5:18

III. The Christian life is a Response to God as Defined by the Scripture.

A. The Biblical Principles When we obey God works!

John 1:14,16,17; Romans 6:16-18; Phil. 2:12,13; I Peter 1:22

B. The Biblical Explanation: Obedience is a response of faith and love.

Gal. 5:6; I Thess. 1:3; 5:8; I Tim. 1:14; II Tim. 1:13; Hebrews 11:6

C. The Biblical Pattern: The response of faith - love is a decision. It is a decision to trust God - give Him His rightful place - and obey Him by putting His Word into practice.

Romans 6:11-14; Hebrews 11:24-28

D. Observation: The believer is faced with two very subtle and powerful dangers: pretense and passivity!

IV. The Christian Life is a Redemptive, Transforming Experience of the Grace of God.

A. It is an experience which finds its origin in that cleansing work of God called the new birth.

John 3:3-5; I Cor. 6:9-11; Titus 3:4-6; I Peter 1:3-5; I John 5:9-13.

B. It is an experience of enjoyable fellowship with God.

John 15:11; 16:29-24; 17:13; Rom. 14:17; 15:13; Gal. 5:22,23; I John 1:4

C. It is an experience of progressive deliverance from the power of sin and Satan.

Matt. 1:21; Rom. 6:16-18; Gal. 1:4; Eph. 6:10-18; Col. 2:15; II Peter 1:3,4

D. It is an experience of progressive enablement to live a holy life of love and be an effective witness.

John 15:26,27; Acts 1:8; Romans 12:1,2; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12-16; Eph. 4:1-16

E. Observation: Living this kind of life will keep us from yielding to temptation; it will motivate us to read the Bible, pray and serve God; it will deliver us from pretense; and it will cause people to understand that we are genuine believers in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion.

A. Now we must make a decision: Confess, repent, choose, surrender, obey.

B. The basic issue: The place of Jesus Christ in our daily practice.

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