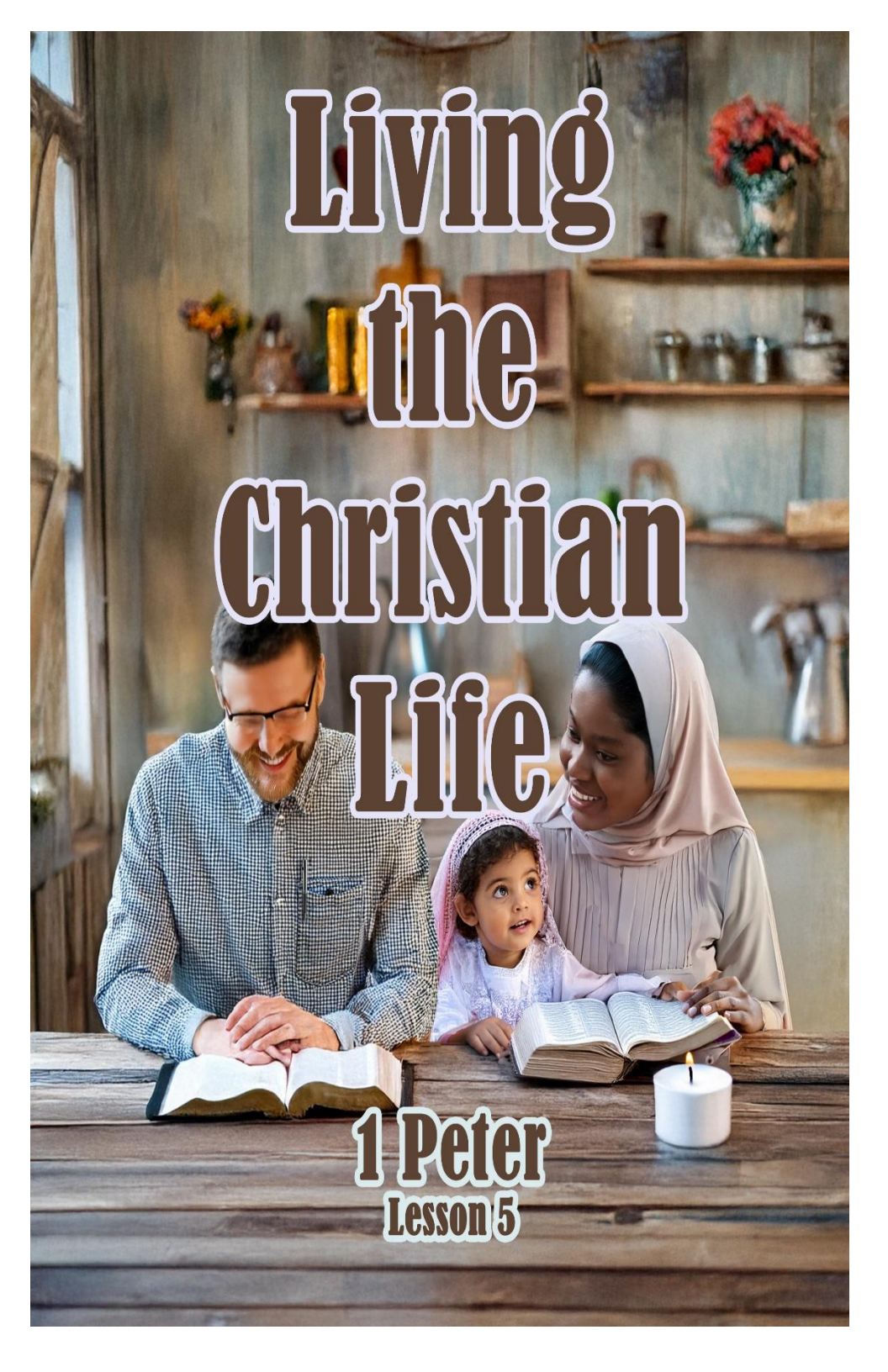


A photograph of a family of three—a man, a woman, and a young girl—sitting at a wooden table in a rustic kitchen. The man, on the left, has a beard and glasses and is wearing a blue and white checkered shirt. The woman, on the right, is wearing a light pink hijab and a matching long-sleeved top. The young girl, sitting between them, is wearing a pink headscarf and a white top with pink lace. They are all smiling and looking at an open Bible on the table. The man's hands are resting on the Bible. The woman's hands are also on the Bible. The girl is looking up at the woman. On the table, there is a lit white candle. In the background, there are wooden shelves with various items, including a vase of red flowers, a silver pitcher, and some jars. The walls are made of wood.

Living the Christian Life

1 Peter
Lesson 5

Living the Christian Life

Lesson 5 – I Peter 1:14-17



Read I Peter 1:14-17 before you continue reading. As you read, pay close attention to the sincere love of God and His people that radiates from Peter's writings!

REVIEW: I Peter 1:14-17

*“As obedient children,
not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.”*

Verse 14 *“As obedient children...”*

What should our attitude or way of thinking be that will cause us to be sober and have the faith to endure unto the end? How will we know that we will stand before Jesus on the day of judgment without being condemned? It is the attitude of our heart when we come to God *“As obedient children...”*

It helps if we understand our relationship to God as our Heavenly Father. When we know His love for us and the purpose for which He works in our lives, then we understand that we must be humble children in His presence. Listen to this description of our Heavenly Father in Psalm 103:13,

*“Like as a Father pitieth His children,
so the LORD pitieth them that fear Him.”*

God is such a perfect Heavenly Father to those whom He loves that He also chastens them for their own benefit. He desires that they serve Him; therefore, when they stray from Him or need correction, He lovingly chastens them as Proverbs 3:11-12 teaches us,

*“My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD;
neither be weary of His correction: For whom the LORD loveth He correcteth;
even as a Father the son in whom He delighteth.”*

Notice that God only chastens those whom He loves. This tells us that the chastening is for our benefit. Those who are sneaking and doing wrong, but are never chastened by God will be in some serious trouble with Him. Any father that loves his children corrects them for their benefit. God in His love for His children chastens us, so we might serve Him faithfully. Those whom God corrects should be happy that God loves them according to Job 5:17,

*“Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth:
therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty.”*

Hebrews 12:9-11 teaches us the thinking of God towards His obedient children that may need a little chastening or correction to keep them walking with Him.

*“Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us,
and we gave them reverence:
shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?
For they [our fathers] verily for a few days chastened us after their own
pleasure; but He [Our Heavenly Father] for our profit,
that we might be **PARTAKERS OF HIS HOLINESS.**”*

You can definitely see that God’s hand of chastening is for our “profit” spiritually. Without being partakers of His holiness, we will not be with Him eternally! Without holiness shall no man see the LORD! Though the chastening at the present time is not “joyous”, afterward we receive the blessings of God as we yield to His will as verse 11 teaches us,

*“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous:
nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the
PEACEABLE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
unto them which are exercised thereby.”*

God’s chastening hand of love helps us produce fruit unto perfection. It helps us to mature in our faith as we learn what is most important in this world, which is to be right with God at all times. Those who stray and love to wander need the chastening of God, but God will only chasten those who desire to serve Him faithfully. What a wonderful and loving Heavenly Father we have Who does what is best for His children, because He desires that we obey Him!

There is a difference between obedience and sacrifice. Obedience is doing God’s will for your life according to His will. Sacrifice is doing something nice or good according to your own way of thinking. Those who sacrifice in place of obedience are not obedient. Sacrifice can never replace obedience to the Lord and His will as I Samuel 15:22-23 tells us,

*“...Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**,
and to hearken than the fat of rams.
For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”*

Foolish children try to play games with their authority by doing outwardly nice things that are not the will of their authority. God has a perfect plan for you, and His plan will never cause you to sin. If you must sin, lie, cheat, sneak, or deceive, then what you are doing is not the will of God. There is a huge difference between obedience and sacrifice, for God will never ask you to disobey His commandments. Humble yourself as an obedient child as Matthew 18:3 tells us,

*“Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children,
ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*

Those who are the children of God must learn to humble themselves to His perfect will for their lives. Many will tell you that there is a “permissive” will of God, but they are liars. God will never justify or allow anyone to do wrong without some form of judgment for that sin. Satan is the liar that tells you to do “God’s work” your way! David wrote of how he humbled himself before God as a little child in Psalm 131:1-2,

*“LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty:
neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me.
Surely I have behaved and quieted myself,
as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.”*

Though we are to humble ourselves as children before God, we are not to be as simple as a child when it comes to understanding God’s will for our lives. We are to be men in understanding how to please God. In sin and the knowledge of it, we are to be children or simple as Paul explains in I Corinthians 14:20,

*“Brethren, be not children in understanding:
howbeit in malice [bitterness; hatred] be ye children,
but in understanding be men.”*

We are to be children and very innocent regarding the sin that damns the world and keeps us from God. Yet, why do those who call themselves followers of Christ love the knowledge of good and evil found on the internet? Why do they love to learn about the sinful things of this world? Listen as Paul explains in Romans 16:19,

*“For your obedience is come abroad unto all men.
I am glad therefore on your behalf:
but yet I WOULD HAVE YOU WISE UNTO THAT WHICH IS GOOD,
and SIMPLE CONCERNING EVIL.”*

Little children are very trusting until they are corrupted by the influence of sin. Children depend completely upon their parents for food, protection, and guidance. God desires that you obey and trust Him in all things. Unless you come to God “poor in spirit” as little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter described the desire of those newly converted or those who have been “hungering and thirsting” for righteous teaching from the Scriptures in I Peter 2:2,

*“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word,
that ye may grow thereby.”*

This is the attitude that we must have “as obedient children” to our Heavenly Father. Jesus promised us in Matthew 5:6,

*“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:
for THEY SHALL BE FILLED.”*

The exact opposite of this verse is also true... for those who hunger and thirst for the world shall be filled with it as Paul explained in Romans 1:28-29,

*“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge,
God gave them over to a reprobate mind...”*

*BEING FILLED WITH ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS,
fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder,
debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers...”*

Unfortunately, this list of sins is being practiced in the churches that are not “called out” from the world! They only retain God according to their thinking and lusts. They are filled with sin, for they love to learn the way of the heathen. God warned us in Jeremiah 10:2-3 not to learn the way of the heathen.

*“Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen,
and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven;
for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain...”*

As we learned above, we are to be simple concerning evil. God knows that what we learn, we will eventually practice daily! The false teachers love to teach their lies, so that you can practice sin. They love the “wages of unrighteousness”, having sold their eternal soul for the pleasures of this world. They are ashamed to stand upon the truth, because they desire to be popular and praised by men. This is the same sin that Balaam practiced before God brought judgment upon Him as II Peter 2:15 teaches us.

*“Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray,
following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor,
who loved the wages of unrighteousness.”*

I cannot wait to get to the lessons in II Peter chapter 2, because the teaching about the false teachers of today found in this chapter is so eye-opening! It completely outlines why pastors compromise with others about sin! What a blessing that God foretold these truths 2,000 years ago to warn His children today!

Verse 14 - Continued *“...not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance...”*

Peter warned the “obedient children” not to pattern their lives upon their old or carnal desires as before. There is something wrong with a professed Christian who claims to be “saved”, yet continues in the world as if nothing happened. Salvation brings deliverance from sin and conviction as the new Christian is “born again” as Jesus taught (John 3:3); or as Paul taught us in II Corinthians 5:17,

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**:
old things are passed away; behold, **ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW.**”*

Your former desires caused death spiritually, so why would you pattern your Christian life after your former cravings? Romans 8:6-8 states,

*“For to be carnally minded is death;
but to be spiritually minded 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.”*

It is impossible for you to please God in your former thinking and desires. There is no way that you can understand God’s nature or commandments as a non-repentant person. You do not have the Holy Spirit of God, if you continue in sin as I Corinthians 2:14 explains,

*“But the **natural** [fleshly] man receiveth [understands]
not the things of the Spirit of God:
for they [the things of the Spirit] **are foolishness** unto him:
neither **CAN** he know [understand] them [the things of the Spirit],
because they [the things of the Spirit] *are spiritually* [by the Holy Spirit of God]
discerned [understood].”*

You must possess the Holy Spirit in order to understand the things of the Spirit of God. Since the Spirit of God leads you to live for the things of eternal life, a person without the Spirit of God within them CANNOT understand the “Christian Life”! Perhaps this is why most who claim to be “Christians” do not understand the need to turn from sin. They cannot understand God’s will or plan for their life.

Seek the Lord with all your heart and come to Him “poor in spirit” [broken and humble] in repentance for your sins. Why would you ever want to pattern your life after your old thinking that leads to death and spiritual destruction? New Life in Christ completely changes your thinking, actions, and desires through the power of the Holy Spirit within you!

What God has promised to us, He will fulfil if we serve Him with all our heart. If we do not understand His will, perhaps it is because we have not yielded all to Him, for He will not lie as Numbers 23:19 teaches us.

*“God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man,
that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken,
and shall He not make it good?”*

Jesus promised us that we would be filled, if we hunger and thirst after righteousness. He will fill all with His Holy Spirit who seek Him with all their heart! If you do not yield to His Holy Spirit each day, you will not receive of His grace as Lamentations 3:22-23 promises you.

*“It is of the LORD’s mercies [grace] that we are not consumed,
because His compassions fail not.
They are new every morning: **great is Thy faithfulness.**”*

You cannot be “conformed” to the “old man” that you served in your “ignorance” or lack of knowledge of the truth. You must strive to change to be “conformed” or made like the image or likeness of Jesus Christ, Who is the “never changing” perfect example of keeping the righteous law of God. He has faithfully given us the “gift” of His Spirit to guide us as James 1:17 teaches,

*“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness,
neither shadow of turning.”*

Verse 15-16 “But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in ALL MANNER of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

The Old Testament tells us some things about God that we must set up as a foundation before we can discuss His holiness and His desire for us.

First, Malachi 3:6 tells us,

“For I am the LORD, I change not...”

God does not change His opinion of sin or His dealings with man. How He feels about sin will never change as you see His judgment upon man’s wickedness in the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, the captivities of Israel, and in the New Testament His judgment upon Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5! As you turn to the New Testament, you find the same God punishing sin, yet people are fooled to think that God has changed to the point that His grace means that He condones, overlooks, and “allows” sin without any judgment.

If you understand that God does not change, you must also remember that God is no respecter of persons. In other words, He does not prefer one nationality over another. This can be confusing, since God made a promise to Abraham that He would bless his seed because of Abraham’s faithfulness to God. God blessed all of Abraham’s seed, both Jews and Gentiles, who possessed the same faith of Abraham. Read this explained in Romans 9:6-7,

“Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect.

For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:

*Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children [of God]:
but, in Isaac shall thy seed be called.”*

Isaac’s “seed” from Abraham was Jesus Christ as Galatians 3:16 says,

*“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not,
And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, WHICH IS CHRIST.”*

ALL OF ABRAHAM'S SEED, INCLUDING THE GENTILES, WERE DELIVERED THROUGH THE SEED OF ABRAHAM WHICH WAS JESUS CHRIST! Read Acts 10:34-35,

*"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said,
Of a truth I perceive that God IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS:
But in EVERY NATION he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness,
is accepted with Him."*

Every man from the beginning of the world has been delivered from the wrath of God by their obedient faith! Not one person has been saved "simply" by keeping the law. Those who are of faith will strive to keep the law, but the law only teaches us what pleases God! God did not give the Jews a "different" set of "rules" than the Gentiles for the salvation of their souls as Paul explains in Romans 10:12,

*"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek:
for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him."*

Satan, the deceiver, has twisted the Word of God in the mouths of the false prophets that teach his lies. They are creating "chaos" and confusion in the hearts of man as if there are two forms of deliverance from sin based upon the nationality of the person. NO! Every man from the beginning of time has been saved by their obedient faith shown by their actions! Read Galatians 3:28-29,

*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free,
there is neither male nor female: for YE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.
And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed,
and HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE."*

We now understand what Paul teaches in Ephesians 4:4-6, which is so very important in a day of "prosperity preachers" and doctrines of devils.

*"There is ONE BODY, and ONE SPIRIT,
even as ye are called in ONE HOPE of your calling;
ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE GOD and FATHER OF ALL,
Who is above all, and through all, and IN YOU ALL."*

There is only one way of salvation, which is through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ALL MUST deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Jesus. They must walk in His steps as He walked, for He was the perfect example of fulfilling the law of God. He came and finished giving the law of God perfectly, that all might inherit eternal life through Him!

Next, God is everlasting as Psalm 90:2 says,

*"Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world,
even FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING, Thou art God."*

In other words, God has been God before the world, and He will always be the same God with the same thinking. He does not change the rules, nor does He ever overlook unconfessed sin as Deuteronomy 7:9 teaches us,

“Know therefore that the LORD thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS to a THOUSAND GENERATIONS.”

How long is a “thousand generations”? That is approximately 70,000 years! Since the world is not even 6,000 years old yet, that means that God has 64,000 more years to continue being faithful to us! This tells us that since this world will not last 70,000 years... God will always be faithful to us!

Notice that God is only “faithful” in keeping covenant and mercy or grace with those who KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS! Is God faithful to the wicked? Yes, He faithfully punishes the wicked for their wickedness and He will never “acquit” or justify their sins as He promised in Nahum 1:3,

“The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked...”

Only if the wicked man turns from his wickedness, God will be merciful. The wicked man will then receive of His grace. This is explained in Ezekiel 33:19,

“But if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and DO THAT WHICH IS LAWFUL AND RIGHT, he shall LIVE thereby.”

God, Who never changes, is no respecter of persons, and is everlasting has commanded you to be holy as He is holy! What does holy mean? To be holy is “to be physically pure, morally blameless in God’s sight”. This is only possible as you yield to Him through the power of the Holy Spirit of God. We must “strive” to be holy by denial of self, taking up our cross, and following Jesus’ perfect example of keeping the law. This is also commanded in Leviticus 11:44&45,

*“For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy...”
...ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*

Read what else God has to say about His command for His people to be holy:

*“Speak... and say unto them, Ye shall be holy:
for I the LORD your God am holy.”*
Leviticus 19:2

*“Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy:
for I am the LORD your God.”*
Leviticus 20:7

*“And ye shall be holy unto Me: for I the LORD am holy,
and have severed you from other people, that ye should be Mine.”*
Leviticus 20:26

Of course, there are those who would throw the Old Testament away saying that it is useless or not for today; yet those people must remember that God does not change. God made sure that He had Peter quote these verses again in the New Testament as we are reading here in I Peter 1:15.

Paul also quoted this in I Thessalonians 4:7,

“For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.”

Jesus, Himself, quoted these verses in the gospel in Matthew 5:48.

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”

This holiness is a direct result of what He has done in your heart, which shows itself in your actions. It takes effort and surrender on your part to “put to death the deeds of the flesh”, just as the gospel teaches you in Luke 9:23; 14:27; Matthew 16:24; and Mark 8:34,

*“...If any man will come after Me, let him **deny himself**,
and **take up his cross daily**, and **follow Me**.”*

How important is holiness in the life of those who claim to walk with God? Without holiness, you will not walk with God; nor will He hear your prayers and answer them; nor will He reward you with eternal life!

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”
Psalm 66:18

You are only deceiving yourself into thinking that God is walking with you, if you walk in your sinful flesh! You lie to yourself if you think that you have the “righteousness of Christ”, because He died on the cross for you! Walking in the Spirit is salvation and is a daily choice that you make, since Christ has redeemed us to God! God’s children must strive to be holy as Hebrews 12:14-15 teaches,

*“Follow peace with all men, and **holiness**,
without which NO MAN SHALL SEE THE LORD:
Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God...”*

Without holiness, you “fail” [fall short] from the mercy [grace] of God that He has extended to you! Your continuance in sin [without holiness] rejects the grace or mercy of God! Listen to Paul’s warning in Hebrews 3:12-13,

*“Take heed, brethren, lest there be **in any of you** an **evil heart of unbelief**,
in **departing** from the living God.
But exhort one another **daily**, while it is called To day;
lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”*

False teachers came to the new Gentile converts to tell them that they had to “proselytize” and be circumcised. They rejected the gospel of Jesus and His grace, for they taught “circumcision” as the “eternal security” that would “guarantee” the salvation of the Gentiles.

False teachers today teach this same false “eternal security” based upon “head knowledge” and false claims. It is sin that keeps man from God; therefore, we are warned in the above verse not to allow the deceitfulness of sin to cause you to depart from God.

These false teachers cared nothing for holiness or the righteous commandments of God, nor for their relationship with God! They taught the “works of the law”, which was circumcision and proselytizing [becoming a Jew]! They only cared for the flesh and the outward prideful sign of religiousness! Raising themselves up above others, these self-willed false teachers didn’t understand the redemption of the soul of man, nor did they care for them. Paul warned the Gentile believers in Galatians 5:4-6,

*“Christ is become of no effect unto you,
whosoever of you are justified by the law; **ye are fallen from grace.**
For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.
For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision;
but faith which worketh by love.”*

You can see that Paul explains this false teaching very well, for he uses the term “justified by the law” and then explains “...neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision...” Faith which worketh by love is shown daily by your actions of obedience to God’s command of holiness or as Jesus said, “...by their fruits ye shall know them...”

Outward deeds of the law of Moses, the feasts, circumcision, and sacrifices, which prophesied of Christ were fulfilled by the sacrificial death of Christ as He showed His grace or mercy to the entire world and forgave the sinner of their sins. Titus 2:11-12 says,

*“For **the grace of God** that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts,
we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”*

The grace of God teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. It teaches us to live soberly, righteously, and godly as “pilgrims and strangers” in this world. Do not allow false teachers to deceive you into thinking that it would be much easier to give in to the flesh, than it would be to surrender to the Spirit. Yielding to the Spirit gives you the ability to put to death the deeds of the flesh. This is what Paul was constantly talking about when he spoke of the warfare with the flesh as Romans 6:13 commands us,

*“Neither yield [give up] ye your members [parts of your body]
as instruments [tools] of unrighteousness unto sin:
but yield [give up] yourselves unto God [holiness],
as those that are alive from the dead,
and your members as instruments [tools] of righteousness unto God.”*

Romans 8:13 tells how to live and how to cause death eternally in the flesh.

*“For if ye live after [according to] the flesh [its lusts],
ye shall die [both spiritually and physically]:
but **IF** ye through the Spirit do mortify [put to death]
the deeds [actions] of the body, **ye shall live.**”*

Paul warns of the wrong decisions made when walking after the flesh and the consequences received. When you walk in the flesh, you please the fleshly desires that always bring death either spiritually or physically. If we use immorality as an example of spiritual and physical death, you can see that no immoral person will inherit eternal life, which is spiritual death. Immorality may also cause diseases of the flesh or jealousy that may lead to murder, which would be physical death.

You do not have a spiritual walk with God when practicing sin, and the wages of sin is death! If you deny yourself and take up your cross daily to follow the Lord, put to death your flesh and walk in the Spirit; you will receive the reward of obedience, which is eternal life! Isn't it amazing what the results of doing wrong brings upon the physical life of those who disobey God?

Verse 17 *“And if ye call on the Father, Who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:”*

God is no respecter of persons as we have already learned. He has hated sin and rebellion from the beginning, and He has never justified the wicked or condemned the just; no matter who they are! He will judge all men according to every man's works, thus we are encouraged, *“...pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.”*

Knowing now that God commands holiness in the lives of His people, Peter tells how to live in victory over the flesh. Knowing that you will be judged for your disobedience causes you to yield to the Holy Spirit of God to receive victory over your flesh. If you are busy in the service of God, you are less likely to practice sin as I Corinthians 15:58 teaches,

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable,
ALWAYS ABOUNDING in the work of the Lord,
forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*

God's people should be faithfully abounding in the work of the Lord, realizing that we are only pilgrims or sojourners living in the fear of the judgment or sentence passing of God. If this world is not our home, which it is not; then we must look at the world through the eyes of God or in light of eternity. The short time that we live on this earth is not worth missing the eternal blessings promised. We must make sure that we understand the worthlessness of this world as II Peter 3:11-12 teaches,

*“Seeing [knowing; understanding] then that all these things shall be dissolved,
what manner [type] of persons ought [must]
ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,
LOOKING FOR and HASTING UNTO THE COMING of the day OF GOD,
wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved,
and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”*

You show your faith by your works. James 2:17-20 explains that faith, if it has not works is dead being alone. This dead faith is useless, since it is unproductive and unfruitful.

*“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works:
shew me thy faith without thy works,
and I will shew thee my faith **BY MY WORKS.**”*

Belief without works is the same kind of faith that the devils have. They tremble, because they know the consequences of their rebellion. You claim that you want God's blessings (or at least that is what you say), but do you believe that God brings judgment upon those who disobey Him?

*“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well:
the devils also believe, and tremble.”
But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

I Corinthians 11:28-30 talks about this judgment in some detail as it explains the importance of partaking of the meal at the times of fellowship.

*“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread,
and drink of that cup.
For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily [unrepentant],
eateth and drinketh damnation to himself,
not discerning [valuing] the Lord's body [the church].
For **this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.**”*

While partaking of the daily remembrance of the Lord's death that unites us together as one, the faithful must make sure his heart is right with God lest he eat damnation to himself. If you do not confess and forsake your sin, you bring God's judgment upon yourself as you do not recognize the importance of the Lord's body [the church, called out of the world]. Joining in fellowship with God's people while practicing sin contradicts the purpose for which Christ died!

Paul says that God brings judgment upon those who make a mockery of the fellowship of righteousness. Is this the cause of the weakness, sickness, and death of those who are not steadfastly obeying God in the fellowship of believers?

Read the above Scripture again and understand the severe warning given for those who “profess” to walk with God and His people, but they continue in their sins! Does God still judge sin? Ask Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:3&5!

*“But Peter said, Ananias,
why hath satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost,
and to keep back part of the price of the land?...
And Ananias hearing these words fell down; and gave up the ghost:
and great fear came on all them that heard these things.”*

What is meant in I Corinthians 5:5?

*“To deliver such an one unto satan for the destruction of the flesh,
that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”*

Would God really allow judgment to come upon Christians because of their sin? This is what is meant by *“pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.”* It is the fear of God, Who is very merciful, but judges sin impartially! His judgments are not always able to be seen right away. He can also judge by lifting His hand of protection from the wayward or rebellious person. This was the punishment that He brought upon the children of Israel for their lack of faith as Numbers 32:13 tells us,

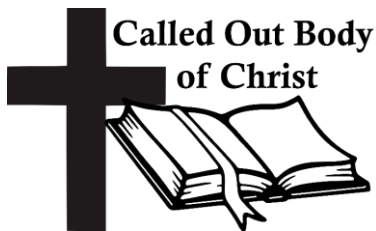
*“And the LORD’S anger was kindled against Israel,
and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation,
that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.”*

The worst punishment that God could place upon you is leaving you alone to wander in the wilderness of this life and be damned for eternity. Unfortunately, this is more common than not! This punishment explains the fear that a Christian should have of God. Imagine living your life in this world wandering in the wilderness and not doing anything for the Lord!

Psalms 106:15 explains that sometimes you get what you want from God, but you lose His blessings upon your life.

“And He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.”

Live your life in the fear of God, knowing that He judges and punishes sin. Look at this world as it really is temporal and worthless! Don’t wander around attending church, carrying your Bible, and going by man-made rules! Walk with God and love His holy commandments! Remember, that all that is in this world will be “dissolved”; so there is nothing else to do but strive to walk with God in the fear of God and in complete obedience to His Holy Spirit. God is faithful... will you be faithful to Him?



**Called Out Body
of Christ**

1 (219) 883-5475

truth@calledoutbodyofchrist.com

www.calledoutbodyofchrist.com