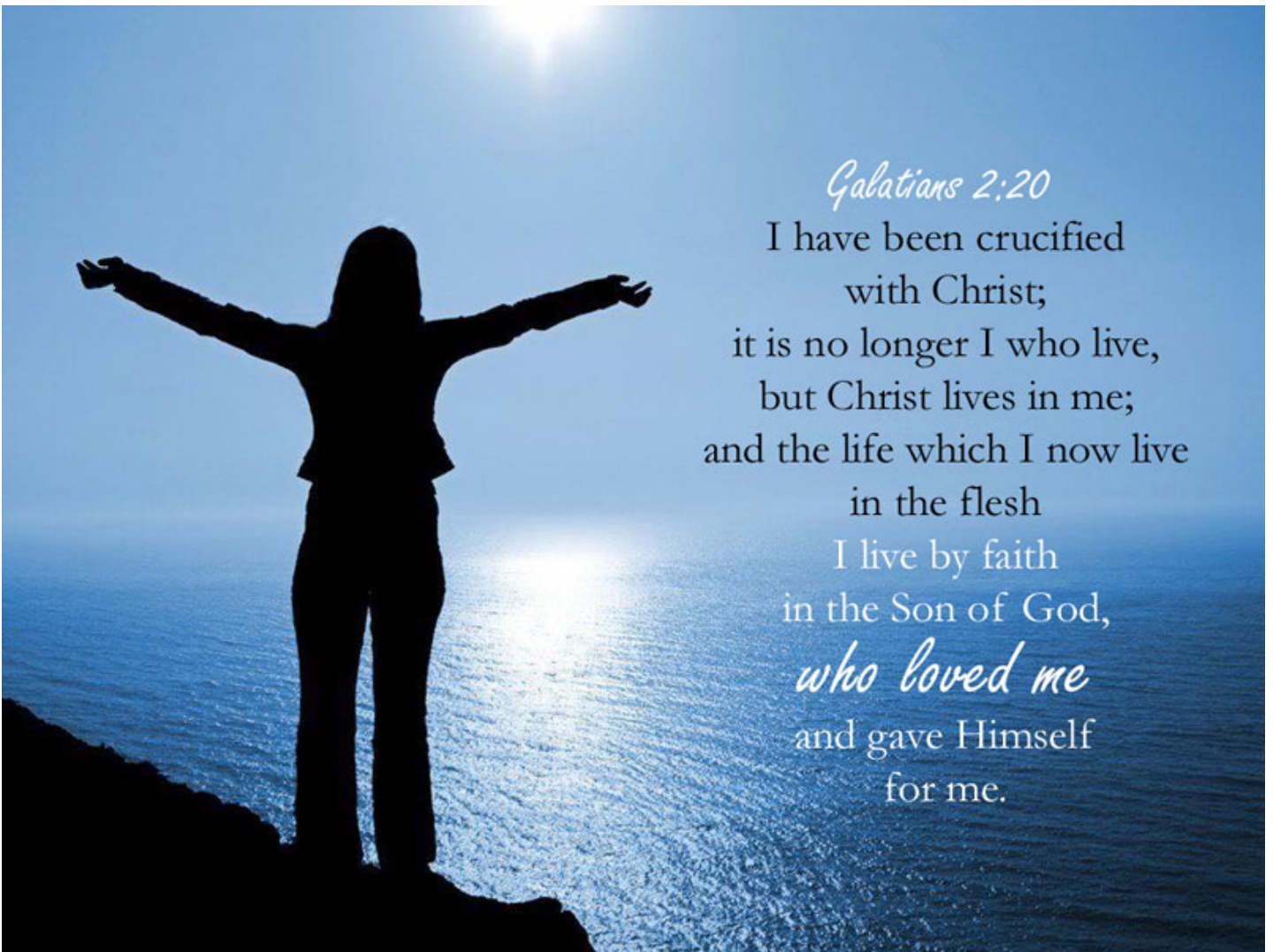


The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 93

Live Daily for Christ
and
Become More Like Him Every Day

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified
with Christ;
it is no longer I who live,
but Christ lives in me;
and the life which I now live
in the flesh
I live by faith
in the Son of God,
who loved me
and gave Himself
for me.



2016

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



LESSON

In our last lesson we learned the GOOD NEWS that when we were saved and placed in Christ, we were given His righteousness. Christ is now our righteousness. *1 Cor 1:30-31 "And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, **righteousness** and sanctification and redemption, (31) so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"*



Also in our last lesson we saw the wonders of our righteousness in Christ and the amazing work God did to get us in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit...just one of the Holy Spirit's ministries.

We have learned in past lesson that we are redeemed by Christ, in union with Him, loved by the Father, have the Spirit living inside our bodies and perfect in God the Father's eyes because of Christ.

SO HOW THEN SHOULD WE LIVE?



We will see that a huge work of the Holy Spirit's is to change us to the image and likeness of Christ. Yes, you must become just like Christ in this earthly life. WOW you say! I could never do that! TRUE, you cannot do that! Only God can do that and He does through the work of the Holy Spirit and His Word.

In fact lots and lots of God's Word in our New Testament letters are provided for just that purpose. It has all been provided for our building up and instruction in Christ by the Spirit through faith. It's ALL Good news!

When we study God's teaching in the New Testament letters, our souls fill up with God's divine way of thinking and causes us to be more and more like Jesus every day...thinking like Him. Jesus Christ is God and the Bible is the mind of Christ. *1 Cor 2:16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ (which is the Bible that teaches us)."*



We'll look at several New Testament passages in the Bible. There's a huge amount of information in all the Letters of the New Testament and we will look at some of them and see how they teach us to live to please God and be more like Christ.

You must remember that our great heavenly Teacher (God the Holy Spirit) will teach us everything we'll need to know to be just like Jesus. Also don't forget He gave us a spiritual gift to serve God and others. This is just part of our practical living for Jesus. You will exercise your spiritual gift at certain times in your church but every day you will be living for Christ as well.

VERY IMPORTANT...He wants you to NEVER to forget that we are God's beloved children. He says this over and over in many verses in the Bible as you will see below. He wants you to be secure in His love. Listen, read, learn and remember how much He loves you. God holds us as His beloved sons and daughters. That is so comforting, isn't it?

Knowing how beloved you are to God, try not to ever start drifting away from Him or His Word, His grace and His peace.



That's why Peter said that whatever you say, however you serve, you are to do it in the strength that I the Lord will provide...so you will never wander away but stick close to God and let Him pour in all you need to take that next step to becoming more like Jesus. God is saying to you, "You are MY beloved and you will always be MY beloved children." This gives us the courage to be loyal and stick with it.

From our salvation until we go home to be with the Lord at our death, we have a lot of work to do to obey and honor the Lord. Of course you know there is NO WORK in salvation but there IS work in living for Jesus after our salvation. Remember the Holy Spirit provides the energy to do this and God the Father provides the Bible...His Word and the mind of Christ...for us to learn so we can live for Jesus and become just like Him in our lifetimes.

Let's get into some of the verses in the New Testament that teaches us practical living so we can become more like Jesus and please Him.

Beloved – be Loyal

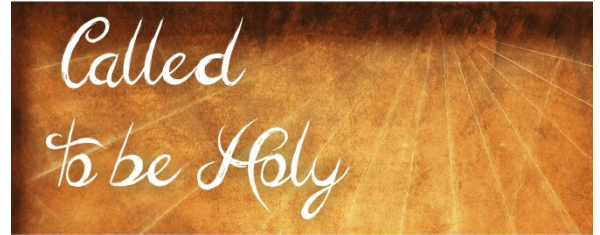
*1 Cor 15:58 "Therefore, my **beloved** brethren, be loyal, immovable, always abundantly doing the work of the Lord, knowing that your work is not useless to the Lord."*

2 Cor 7:1 "Therefore, having these promises, **beloved**, let us cleanse ourselves from all corruption of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness (do things pleasing to the Lord) in the fear (respect) of God."

Beloved – be Holy

Eph 5:1-2 "Therefore be imitators of God, **as beloved children**; (2) and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma (pleasing to God)."

1 Pet 1:15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,



Beloved – be Imitators of Jesus

Phil 2:12-13 "So then, **my beloved**, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; (13) for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

Phil 4:1 "Therefore, **my beloved brethren** whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, **my beloved**."

Beloved – be Loving



Col 3:12-14 "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and **beloved**, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; (13) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. (14) Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

1 Thess 1:2-4 " We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; (3) constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and **labor of love** and loyalty of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, (4) knowing, **brethren beloved by God**, His choice of you..."

2 Thess 2:13-14 "But we should always give thanks to God for you, **brethren beloved by the Lord**, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. (14) To this He called you through our Gospel so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Tim 6:1-2 "All who are under the burden as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against. (2) Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and **beloved**. Teach and preach these principles."

Heb 6:9-12 "But, **beloved**, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. (10) For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the **love** which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints (believers). (11) And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full guarantee of hope until the end, (12) so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

Beloved – be Persistent

James 1:19-22 "This you know, **my beloved brethren**. But everyone must be **quick to hear**, slow to speak and slow to anger; (20) for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. (21) Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility **receive the word implanted (in your souls)**, which is able to save your souls. (22) But prove yourselves **doers** of the word (**use it, act on it**), and not merely hearers who deceive themselves."



Jude 17-25 "But you, **beloved**, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, (18) that they were saying to you, 'In the end times there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts. (19) These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit. (20) But you, **beloved**, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, (21) keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. (22) And have mercy on some, who are doubting; (23) save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh. (24) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, (25) to the only wise God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

Beloved – be Doers



2 Peter 3:1-2 "This is now, **beloved**, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, (2) that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles."

Beloved – be Building

2 Peter 3:14-18 "Therefore, **beloved**, since you look for these things, persevere to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, (15) and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also **our beloved brother Paul**, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, (16) as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. (17) You therefore, **beloved**, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own loyalty (to Christ), (18) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."



Jude 24 "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, (25) to the only wise God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

Now you've seen just a few of the verses that teach us how to live and what kind of attitude we need to have to be like Jesus. At this point we have this picture of the wonders of being Christ and this picture has us doing an excellent job obeying the commands, the urgings, and the commands of the New Testament letters in our manner of living.

There is actually a lot of material in the New Testament about what takes place in between these two milestones of our life in Christ.

Keep in mind that we are meant to be under the ruling power of Jesus Christ...

And an enemy exists who will pull out all the stops to prevent us from fully entering into and under that ruling power.

What God is commanding us to do is really a spiritual exercise, though it clearly plays out in our everyday lives, with real people, real problems, real suffering, and real setbacks to mention a few.

The Bible says that glory for the Christian is none other than becoming like Christ. 2 Cor 3:18 "But we all, with unveiled faces, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory (Salvation) to glory (At the Rapture when we receive our resurrection bodies), just as from the Lord, the Spirit."



The LORD sent the Spirit for just this purpose...to teach us so we can become like Christ and knowing God the way Jesus does. In fact the Bible actually defines eternal life this way: *John 17: 3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*

So say to yourself as you progress in life: am I growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ? It may be winter, it may be summer. You may be producing fruit (serving the Lord in your spiritual gift) or you may be under testing from God.

Regardless of your circumstances....are you growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ?

If you are going through tough times or being blessed with wonderful things that happen along the way, ask yourself...am I growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ? Am I living for the Lord and serving Him?

Beloved, be...

Loyal
 Holy
 Imitators
 Loving
 Persistent
 Doers
 Building
 Everything Christ wants you to be!



Close in prayer.

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 1-8-2014
 Lighthouse Bible Church
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