



Sunday, January 6, 2018

A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

I. The WEALTH of the Believer (1:1-3:21)

- A. The Christian and His RICHES (1:3-23)
- B. The Christian and His RECONCILIATION (2:1-22)
 - 1. God brings about a SAVING UNION (1-10)

God reconciles the sinner to Himself bringing about a *saving union*. Paul reminds the believer about his *past* to help him appreciate what he has in the *present* so that he will seek to be more effective in pursuing his *purpose* of walking in *“good works.”*

- a. The Christian’s PAST PROBLEM—SIN (1-3)
- b. The Christian’s PRESENT—SALVATION (4-6)
- c. The Christian’s PURPOSE—SERVING (7-10)

The *present* state of the believer is far more than simply having a “ticket to heaven” as “fire insurance,” living as our own master in whatever way we please. Here in v. 7-10, Paul explains what our purpose, as servants of God, should look like.

i. He is to be a WITNESS of GOD’S WORTHINESS (7)

God desires the recipients of His grace to bear WITNESS of GOD’S WORTHINESS—His worth. **Live as a TROPHY of God’s IMMEASURABLE GRACE.**

ii. He is RESTING in GOD’S WORK (8-9)

God desires the objects of His grace REST in HIS WORK. **Enjoy TRANQUILITY because of God’s IMPECCABLE (perfect) GIFT.**

iii. He is to WALK in GOOD WORKS (10)

The believer being “*in Christ*” is a “*new creature*” (2 Corinthians 5:17) in whom God is “*working all things together for good*” (Romans 8:28) for the purpose of “*conforming [them] into the image of His Son*” (Romans 8:29). As we consider that Jesus, Who in His earthly ministry “*went about doing good [works]*” (Acts 10:38), we must understand that the believer has been regenerated and thus created to follow His example.

2 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.

a) HOW we are PREPARED

Cf. Ephesians 4:24

2 Timothy 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour [*value*], sanctified [*set apart*], and meet [*useful*] for the **Master's** use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

1) Through HIS WORD (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we **God** without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of **God** which ye heard of us, ye received *it not as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of **God**, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2) Through PRAYER (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Eph 3:20-21 Now unto **Him** that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the **Power** that worketh in us, **21** Unto **Him** *be* glory in the church by **Christ Jesus** throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

3) Through SUFFERING (1 Peter 1:6-7)

1 Peter 1:6-7 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: **7** That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of **Jesus Christ**:

b) **WHO** are we **PLEASING**? (Philippians 2:13)

Philippians 2:13 For it is **God** which worketh [*energizes*] in you both to will [*desire*] and [*the power*] to do of **His** good pleasure.

c) **WHAT** is our **PURPOSE**?

1) To **WALK**

Galatians 5:25 If [*Seeing that we*] we live in the **Spirit**, let us also walk in [*keep in step with*] the **Spirit**.

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as **Christ** also hath loved us, and hath given **Himself** for us an offering and a sacrifice to **God** for a sweetsmelling savour.

Colossians 2:6-7 As ye have therefore received **Christ Jesus** the **Lord**, *so* walk ye in **Him**: **7** Rooted and built up in **Him**, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

2) To **WORSHIP** (Matthew 5:16)

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your **Father** which is in heaven.

God desires the objects of His grace **WALK** in **GOOD WORKS**. **Walk as a TREASURE** of God's **INFINITE GOODNESS**.



Our **WORTHY WALK** contains an honest understanding of our **RECONCILIATION** to God. We were spiritually "*dead in our trespasses and sins*" and now have spiritual life being saved "*by grace through faith*" in the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. As God's "*workmanship*" we have been "*created in Christ Jesus.*" Live as a **TROPHY** of God's **IMMEASURABLE GRACE**, enjoying **TRANQUILITY** because of God's **IMPECCABLE GIFT**, walking as a **TREASURE** of God's **INFINITE GOODNESS**.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (***Put OFF SIN***)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (***Renew your mind***)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (***Put ON CHRIST***)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must I demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will I most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!