



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

October 2023

No. 454

POSITIVE CHRISTIAN LIVING (Part II)

We have heard it said, "I did my best" or "I just can't be perfect." God doesn't expect that we will be perfect, neither does He expect us to do or be anything other than the best that we can. How is it possible? Here is the Good News! Jesus Christ makes us the BEST through His blood and imputed righteousness. The challenge we face, however, is to faithfully live our lives in subjection to His will: to mold our minds into his mind.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

THE HARVESTER
141 County Road 474
Woodland, AL 36280
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Php. 2:5-8)

We must want to live in harmony with what He has commanded. It is in this context that we should want to be and do the best for God. Paul noted two qualities to success. One of these qualities is positive thinking.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (Rom. 8:31)

The other quality is self-confidence.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Php. 4:13)

Man through his own power, try as he may, can't handle the burdens and pressures of life. He needs a power stronger than himself. He needs power outside of himself. There is a power that will help.

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (2 Pet. 1:3)

Through the power of God and Jesus then we have a way to master life, or self-control. It is important to know that a person must want to master his life.

I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. (Rom. 7:25)

To do this we must be led by the Spirit.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (Rom. 8:14)

We must believe that Christ is “...*able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.*” (Eph. 3:20)

Christ is the power that aids us in mastering life.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
(Col. 3:3)

Christ is our life and as long as we stay in Him we have power, His power, to master our life.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: (Eph. 1:3)

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

The mind is the seat of all man’s problems which he can’t deal with. Jesus made it clear that it was not what went into man’s body that caused the problem.

There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. (Mark 7:15)

He continued later in the chapter with this thought.

And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. (Mark 7:20-23)

God’s plan of repentance is what purifies our mind; it changes our attitude, our way of life, and our peace of mind. Your mind then is the seat of positive Christian living.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it

were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. (John 14:1-18)

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my

peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:26-27)

A major problem in this country today is worry. This is the seat of all anxiety, the start of all negativisms. Worry is an interesting word. The term “worry” comes from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning “to choke” or “strangle.” The Greek word is *merimnao* which means “to be full of anxiety which divides up and distracts the mind; to be full of cares; anxious.” Worry then is an emotional state of mind which chokes us physically and spiritually. It impairs our judgment and leaves us void of ability to make sound decisions. Worry causes our imagination to run wild; it sees things out of proportion.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Php. 4:6-7)

How do we overcome worry? Look on the brighter side of life. This is a remark that I have used before. “I used to worry and fret because I had no shoes to wear until I saw a boy who had no feet.” A story is told of a preacher after he had been robbed. “Let me be thankful first because I was never robbed before. Second, although they took my money, they did not take my life. Third, because although they took my all, it was not much. Fourth, because it was I who was robbed, and not I who robbed.” There is always a brighter side to everything that can happen to us. There is always someone who is in worse shape than us.

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. (Jas. 1:2-3)

“A habit,” wrote Horace Mann, “is a cable; we weave a thread of it each day, and at last we cannot break it.” If we desire to be successful, we must develop positive habits. Positive habits

bring happiness. Positive habits help us look on the brighter side. First, we must develop the positive habit of positive thinking.

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: (Pro. 23:7)

Second, we must develop the habit of prayer.

Pray without ceasing. (1 The. 5:17)

Think before we act or speak, pray before we think!

To become a positive person, we need, as I was told once, to “step back and look at yourself as others see you.” Then follow the commands of your heart to obey the truths in the Bible. Get God on your side, He will help. Trust Him. Love Him. Let Him come into your life today.

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
(1 Pet. 5:7)

Adapted from a sermon by KENT DICKINSON
(Deceased)

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

(Galatians 5:22-23)

Love – Charity, Affection, Benevolence

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

Joy – Cheerfulness, Gladness, Calm Delight

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide

in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. (John 15:10-11)

Peace – Quietness, Rest

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Php. 4:6-7)

Longsuffering – Patience, Forbearance, Fortitude

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Eph. 4:1-3)

Gentleness – Kindness, Moral Excellence

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Eph. 4:32)

Goodness – Virtue

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. (Rom. 12:21)

Faith – Assurance, Belief

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1)

Meekness – Gentleness, Humility

To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. (Tit. 3:2)

Temperance – Self-control

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. (1 Cor. 9:25a)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
October 14 - 16	Ashlock Congregation Near Celina, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What did God breathe into Adam's nostrils?
2. Who was Bathsheba's first husband?
3. Who told Joseph that Jesus would save his people from their sins?
4. What did John the Baptist say when he saw Jesus?
5. What was the name of James' and John's father?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. How long did Solomon reign over Israel?
FORTY YEARS (1 Kings 11:42)
2. Who slept under a juniper tree after fleeing for his life?
ELIJAH (1 Kings 19:1-5)
3. Which angel told Daniel the meaning of his vision of the ram and the goat? GABRIEL (Dan. 8:15-16)
4. Who will the "least person in the Kingdom of God" be greater than? JOHN THE BAPTIST (Luke 7:28)
5. What was Timothy advised to take to help with his illnesses? WINE (1 Tim. 5:23)

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

The Harvester

141 County Road 474 * Woodland, AL 36280

Phone: (256) 449-9221* Email: theharvesteronline@gmail.com

Web Page: www.churches-of-christ.org