

New Life For New People

John 3:16-17 [New King James] *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”*

This is the main thrust of the Good News that Jesus Christ the Son of God brought from God the Father.

Romans 3:23 [New King James] *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

All humans have sinned and deserve only death, [Romans 6:23]. How are we saved from this eternal death?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 [New King James] *“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,”*

Jesus Christ became a sacrificial substitute for our sins, and raised from that death to be our living Saviour and High Priest.

Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24 [New King James] *“For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but **through the righteousness of faith.**” ... “Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all” ... “who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. **He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore ‘it was accounted to him for righteousness.’** Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. **It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,**”*

We receive imputed righteousness, that is become right with the Triune God, by faith in the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made.

1 John 1:8-9 [New King James] *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Our first move when we understand this good news is to confess our sins to God.

Romans 6:1-8 [New King James] *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, **knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.** For he who has died has been freed from sin. **Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,**”*

We then seek to sin no more and our old life is crucified, dies and buried.

Our baptism by total immersion is an outward sign of what has happened in our heart and mind.

We now start out on a new life with our Saviour Jesus Christ, [verse 8].

How do we do this?

Colossians 3:1-2 [New King James] *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”*

The focus of our new life is on spiritual things, not earthly concerns, [Matthew 6:24-33].

This change of mind and heart must be total, to show our gratitude to the Triune God for what He has done for all humanity through Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” which means the whole life, physical body, mind, heart and “*human*” spirit, [**Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11**].

The Holy Spirit will then re-educate us, [**Romans 12:2**] that the “*fruits*” of this union with the Holy Spirit will become ours, [**Galatians 5:22-25**] as long as we follow His lead.

This is what is meant by Colossians 3:1-2.

Paul then continues to explain what this new life will mean.

Colossians 3:5-9 [New King James] *“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,”*

We are to “put to death” all these things that are the result of the influence of Satan who has deceived the whole world, [Revelation 12:9] and blinded most people to the gospel message, the good news that Jesus Christ brought from God the Father, [2 Corinthians 4:4].

Colossians 3:12-14 [New King James] *“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”*

We are then to “put on” as if we are clothed with these characteristics, which are those of the Triune God.

How do we do this?

Colossians 3:16-17 [New King James] *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

Through study and meditation on the Word of God, and through giving thanks to God for what He has done for all humanity, [James 1:16-17].

Now we need to ask the question, “Does my behaviour reflect that Jesus Christ is totally influenced by the living example given to me by Jesus Christ during His earthly life?” [Colossians 3:1-2]