

HOW THEN SHOULD WE LIVE?

A Bible Study for the Newly Saved

Jesus' last words on the cross were, "It is finished." What Jesus came to do, He did. He completed the job; it is finished. Do you know that what Jesus accomplished through His death and resurrection was so much more than our ticket to heaven? For the believer, life on earth is intended to be dramatically different as well. How are we to live now that we are being changed to become like Christ?

If you have a Bible, take the time to look up each Scripture. This is important so that you can see the parts before and after the passage that help determine its meaning. If you don't have a Bible, verses are printed in the right column so that you can still answer the questions. If there is not enough room to write your answers on this sheet, use a separate piece of paper. The left column lists additional Scripture references that apply to the topic being discussed. Look those up if you want more information. Scriptures provided are from the New International Version (NIV).

Always pray before reading the Word, ask God to show you things about Himself and about yourself.

Matthew 20:28	<p>First, let's look at exactly what was finished. In the following verses, look for the reason Jesus came. Remember, it has already been accomplished, and think of each of these as personal victories for your own life.</p> <p>1 Timothy 1:15</p>	<p>1 Timothy 1:15 (Paul speaking) Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.</p>
Luke 4:18-19	<p>1 John 3:5</p>	<p>1 John 3:5 But you know that he (Jesus) appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.</p>
Luke 19:10	<p>John 3:16</p>	<p>John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.</p>
Colossians 2:13-15	<p>John 10:10</p>	<p>John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.</p>
1 John 4:9	<p>1 John 3:8</p> <p>Romans 6:3-5 tells us if we believe in Jesus, then we also identify with his death. In other words, we too have died, and just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too may live a new life. All that Jesus accomplished through the cross is ours.</p>	<p>1 John 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.</p>
2 Corinthians 5:14	<p>Read Romans 6:6. What happened to your old self and why?</p>	
Galatians 2:20	<p>What is a slave?</p>	
Galatians	<p>What does it mean to be a slave to sin?</p>	

<p>5:25</p> <p>1 Peter 2:24</p> <p>Romans 8:2</p> <p>Psalm 119:104</p> <p>1 Peter 1:14-16</p> <p>Ezekiel 11:19</p> <p>Ezekiel 36:26</p> <p>John 5:30</p> <p>2 Corinthians 5:17</p> <p>Galatians 5:1</p> <p>Galatians 5:16-26</p> <p>Ephesians 1:20-23</p> <p>Ephesians 2:1-6</p>	<p>According to Romans 6:7, are you in bondage to sin?</p> <p>Romans 6, makes it clear that believers have been set free from sin. Yet, so many Christians have real struggles <i>living</i> as if they are free from sin. Why? The writer of Romans asks the same question in verse 2, “We died to sin, how can we live in it any longer?” Right after he asks the question, he offers an answer. <i>Read Romans 6:2-3</i></p> <p>Some of us are not free from the pattern of sin in our lives, even though we are born again, because we <u>do not know</u> that we have been baptized into Christ’s death—that our old selves have died.</p> <p>The New Testament was originally written in the Greek language. The phrase “don’t you know” in the Greek dictionary means that those who continue to act as slaves to sin are either: ignorant of the fact that we have died with Christ; don’t understand the implications of sin; or have wrong thinking about sin. <i>Do any of these definitions apply to you and the way you view sin in your life?</i></p> <p>Look at Galatians 2:20. What is it that we live by?</p> <p>To be free from sin, <i>you must first believe</i> the work Christ did on the cross was complete, that your old man no longer lives and sin no longer holds any power over you. It is finished. Your old man isn’t just sleeping or taking a vacation. Your old nature isn’t “mostly dead.” You are dead to sin and it is Christ who now lives in you.</p> <p>How? In real life—in this human body with all its difficult human circumstances—how do I actually live this way? Read Romans 6:10-13. There are several instructions given to the believer who wants to live for God. What are they?</p> <p>Verse 11</p> <p>Verse 12</p>	<p>Romans 6:6-7</p> <p>6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—</p> <p>7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.</p> <p>Romans 6:2-3</p> <p>2 We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?</p> <p>3 Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?</p> <p>Galatians 2:20</p> <p>I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.</p> <p>Romans 6:10-13</p> <p>10 The death he (Jesus) died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.</p> <p>11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.</p> <p>13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.</p> <p>Colossians 3:1-3, 5-10</p> <p>1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.</p> <p>2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.</p> <p>3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.</p> <p>5 Put to death, therefore,</p>
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Ephesians
4:21-30

Verse 13

1)

2)

3)

Colossians 3 gives practical help in living out this new life for God. Look carefully for any instructions given and list them. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you do these things.

I know without an understanding and a strong belief that God has indeed made you free from sin, these instructions sound impossible. But God has made you free from sin; *will you dare to believe it?*

Psalms
32:5

1 John
1:9

Does this mean that a true Christian never sins? Let's look at two Scriptures before coming to a conclusion concerning this question.

1 John 3:6

1 John 2:1

At first it seems the author of 1 John cannot make up his mind—is one who commits sin a friend of Christ or not? However, if you look closely at the words, you will see a difference in the sin mentioned in these two verses. The sin spoken of in 3:6 is a continuous or repeated action, a lifestyle of sin. The sin in 2:1 is an isolated action. The person in 2:1 might make a wrong choice that leads to sin, but he quickly turns to Christ for forgiveness.

Jesus said you will have trials and temptations in your life. There is a spiritual battle going on, but it is important for you to understand whom the fight is against. *According to Ephesians 6:12, if you are struggling with sin, is it a fight with your own flesh? Against what is the battle?*

Romans
8:28-29

What is the good news concerning this

whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

1 John 3:6

No one who lives in him (Jesus Christ) keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

1 John 2:1

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

John 16:33 (Jesus speaking)

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

1 John 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is

James 1:12-15	<p>spiritual battle according to John 16:33 and 1 John 4:4?</p>	<p>greater than the one who is in the world.</p> <p>2 Peter 1:3-4</p> <p>3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.</p> <p>4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.</p>
Psalm 50:15	<p>More good news is that you don't have to walk this holy life alone nor in your own strength. We've already learned in lesson one that we have been given the Holy Spirit, who is living in us, as our constant companion teaching us God's ways and helping us to walk rightly. <i>Read 2 Peter 1:3-4. What else have you been given? Where does it come from?</i></p>	
James 4:7	<p>According to verse 4, what do God's promises enable you to do?</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 10:13</p> <p>No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful, he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.</p>
Psalm 103:13-14	<p>What promises are made to you in 1 Corinthians 10:13?</p>	
Lamentations 3:21-23	<p>According to James 1:2-4, why would God allow you to be tempted in the first place?</p>	
Titus 2:11-12		<p>James 1:2-4</p> <p>2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,</p> <p>3 Because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.</p> <p>4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.</p>
Romans 8:38-39	<p>Every time you choose right in the face of temptation (and trust in the Holy Spirit to help you follow through on that choice), you are becoming more like Jesus. Though God is not the tempter, He causes these difficult situations to work for your good by providing opportunities for you to grow in Christ. And, He rewards those who hold fast to their faith with a crown of life.</p>	
	<p>If you do find yourself in a struggle with sin, what does Hebrews 4:16 say you can do about it?</p> <p>Mercy is God's kindness toward the afflicted combined with His desire to help them. Grace is God exerting His holy influence upon our hearts, turning them to Christ.</p>	<p>Hebrews 4:15-16</p> <p>15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.</p> <p>16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with</p>

	<p>Through grace, God divinely kindles our hearts to exercise faith and good choices.</p> <p>I want you to see one more important promise God has made to you in His Word. As you read Philippians 1:6, let the Holy Spirit burn it into your heart and mind so you will know though there may be trials, the outcome of your walk with Christ need never be uncertain.</p>	<p>confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.</p> <p>Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.</p>
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As we end this series of studies, let me speak over you the words of Philippians 1:3-6: “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Friend in Christ, if we never have the opportunity to meet this side of heaven, I look forward to hearing your victorious testimony of the saving power of Jesus when we get there.

Compiled by and © R. McCollam, member of the Community Prison Choir

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