

Lesson Seven

Memory Verse – Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Most believers have a desire to live the Christian life.

Rom. 7:22 “For I _____ in the law of God after the _____ man.”

This law of God that the inward man hungers for is found in Rom. 8:2 “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

The law or principle that now operates in the believer is the “life in Christ” principle. Life in Christ was our only hope when we were dead in our sins and it is what continues to operate in us in the details of our lives.

Gal. 2:20 “I am _____ with Christ: nevertheless I _____; yet not I, but _____ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the _____ of the _____ of _____, who loved _____, and gave himself for _____.”

Col. 3:4 “When _____ who is our _____, shall appear, then shall we also appear with him in glory.”

Our inward man delights after this life of Christ.

The inward man never finds the Christian life: boring, a drag, difficult, impossible, dull, unimportant or irrelevant. That’s what the “old man” tells you. Who have you been listening to???

I get great delight (pleasure, joy) in lots of things: my husband, children, grandchildren, a sunset, flowers, music, tennis, etc. I pray my greatest delight is in my “life in Christ”.

Why don’t you list 5 things below that you are crazy about. Then ask yourself “Do I delight in my Christian life as much as I do in the things listed.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Let’s just say we do because in our inward man “We Do”.

How do we accomplish or realize the “life of Christ” in our individual lives?

God has a pattern for the Christian life. A pattern is something we follow, trace or copy. Where or who is our pattern? As you will see, this question needs to be answered for us in order to live the Christian life as God has planned it for us.

Lesson Seven Continued

We are going to go through some verses, then you tell me who or what God wants us to follow.

I Tim. 1:15, 16 "...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom _____ (Paul) am _____. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in _____ (Paul) first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering for a _____ to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."

I Cor. 4:15, 16 "...I (Paul) have begotten you through the gospel vs. 16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye _____ of me."

I Cor. 11:1 "Be ye _____ of me (Paul) even as I also am of Christ."

Phil. 3:17 "'Brethren, be _____ together of me (Paul), and mark them which _____ so as ye have us for an _____."

I Thes. 1:6 "And ye became _____ of us (Paul and his fellow ministers), and of the Lord..."

I Cor. 14:37 "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or _____, let him acknowledge that the _____ I (Paul) write unto you are the _____ of the _____."

Gal. 1:8 "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than which _____ (Paul) have preached let hem be accursed."

Rom. 11:13 "For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I (Paul) am the _____ of the _____, I magnify my office."

I Tim. 6:3 "If any man teach _____, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our _____, and to the _____ which is according to _____;" godliness is life of Christ, that which our inward man delights in.

Col. 1:25 "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is _____ to me (Paul) _____ you, to fulfil the word of God."

God has made it crystal clear that the apostle _____ is to be followed in the age of grace in which we live!

Does this mean that we don't follow Christ? God Forbid! In following Paul we follow Christ! Look back at I Cor. 11:1 "Be ye followers of _____, even as I also am of _____."

Just as Christ instructed Israel to follow Moses, Luke 5:14 "...and offer for thy cleansing, according as _____ commanded,..." so Christ instructs us to follow Paul. Paul is the believer's pattern in the age of grace in which you live.

Lesson Seven Continued

I know many believers who say “I’m going to just follow Jesus.” They are referring to our Lord’s earthly ministry to Israel recorded in the four gospels.

“Rom. 15:8 “Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the _____ (Jews) for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers (Jews):”

Rom. 15:16 “That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the _____, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the _____ might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.”

If Israel refused to obey Moses (and they did) they were in direct rebellion to God.

Ex. 16:8 “And Moses said...the LORD heareth your _____ which ye murmur against _____: and what are we? Your murmurings are not against _____, but against the _____.”

John 13:20 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that _____ whomsoever I send _____ me;”

Christ has sent Paul to be the pattern and example to the Body of Christ. We follow God’s pattern and example to us when we follow Paul. When we do this, the “life of Christ” will be on display in each of us. More on this next time. This may be new to some of you, so please, as God tells us in Acts 17:11, be like the Bereans, “searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so.” Review our verses and let God’s word be the authority in your life rather than majority opinion or what man teaches.

Lesson 7 Comments

Delight	walk	me
Inward	ensample	Christ
Crucified	followers	Moses
Live	spiritual	circumcision
Christ	things	Gentiles
Faith	commandments	Gentiles
Son	Lord	murmurings
God	we	him
Me	apostles	us
Me	Gentiles	LORD
Christ	otherwise	receiveth
Life	Lord	receiveth
I	Jesus	
Chief	Christ	
Me	doctrine	
Pattern	godliness	
Followers	given	
Followers	for	
Followers	Paul	

There is no doubt that the true pattern for the believer is the apostle Paul. One of the beauties of a pattern is that it is the same whenever it is reproduced.

I always find it amazing that if ten women are asked to bring the same dessert and all are provided with the same recipe it never fails that a few of them are different. When asked about the dessert they almost always say “Well, I decided to add a little of this or that.” The idea of a pattern runs counter to the teaching that is so prevalent in Christianity that God is customizing the Christian life for each of his children. When “preachers” tell us that God has a “plan for our lives” we should agree that He does and it is to “follow the pattern He gave us in Paul”. All believers are to follow the same pattern.

So often believers are guilty of adding or subtracting “a little of this or that” in their Christian life. As we study through the next six areas of I Tim. 4:12, we want to all follow Paul’s pattern exactly so we can be correct examples of the believer.