

December 20, 2020

**"ALL" By Faith Alone in Christ Alone!**  
**"The righteous shall live by faith; how does it happen?" "Abiding in Christ!"**  
**John 15:1-17**

**All Scripture English Standard Version unless noted!**

**John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.**

We have clearly seen that salvation is by "faith alone"

We have seen that the offer of salvation is to "all" men without distinction

In these and other texts we see that "faith alone in Christ alone" leads to sanctification and the living a life of faith

We have looked at; "what does that look like"?

We looked at how "the righteous shall live by faith, how does it happen?"

Today, the part that we play, abiding in Christ

1. The Word of God will play a key role, John 8:31
  - a. Obedience to God's Word will become a priority, John 14:23
  - b. Love for God's Word, love for obedience to God's Word, love for His church, His people and for others will be a defining characteristic, 1 John 4:7
2. We will be engaged in the home spiritually and in the local church advancing God's kingdom, Genesis 18:19
3. There will be an all out effort to produce fruit of

holiness and righteousness in our lives, Hebrews 12:14

4. We will be people of scheduled and constant prayer, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**John 15:1-17** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you

that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. **17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.**

***Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."***

***Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

***Today "the righteous shall live by faith"***

How do we go from having no interest in the things of God?

How do we go from it all being all about me to it being all about Christ and others, (especially our spouses, children and church members)?

How do we go from not being a person of the Book to making this "the" Book? (Hearing, reading, doing and teaching)

How do we go from having no interest in church to making the church the hub in which we and our families live their lives and raise their kids?

How does it happen?

We have looked closely at this question beginning with the miracle and mystery of regeneration!

We looked at our state prior to regeneration

We saw that mankind was dead, disobedient, demonic, and destined for destruction

We looked at this state being the product of the fall

We looked closely at the good news of the gospel  
We looked at the "new covenant" spoken of in the  
OT

A new covenant not like the old

That God would put His law in our minds and write it  
on our hearts

That He "would be" our God and we would be His  
people

That God would make us willing and able to do what  
He asks us to do

The NT calls this miracle being born again,  
regeneration

We looked at the part the Word of God has to play in  
our regeneration

We looked at man's responsibility to repent and  
believe

Today we will take up abiding in Christ

**John 8:31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed  
him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my  
disciples".**

**John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is  
truth.**

Today I want to show you clearly what this abiding in  
Christ will look like!

***Back to John 15:1-17***

Abide-strong 3306 meno-

Definition: to stay, abide, remain, stay, wait, tarry  
even till death

## ***How do we abide?* "ABIDES"**

- a-acknowledge, attach, adore (admit that we are a sinner in need of a savior and Christ as that Savior)
- b-the Bible will become our most important book
- i-the instruction of the Lord, instruction of the elders, instruction of ourselves, instruction of our families will have a place of priority in our lives
- d-desire and discipline in the ways of the Lord will lead to our delighting in Him and His ways
- e-enduring to the end in the pursuit of righteousness and holiness will be our goal
- s-supplication and seeking for self and others will be the key

**1 John 4:4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**

**1 John 5:1-5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**

**Matthew 7:7-8 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.**

**James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.**

***How do we pray?***

The Lord's prayer, Matthew 6:9-15

ACTS in prayer

A-acknowledge and adore God daily

C-confess sins when God reveals them to us

T-thank God for all things, all circumstances

S-seek for self and others especially in spiritual matters

**2 Peter 1:3-11 ESV His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an**

**entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

**2 Peter 3:10-18 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.**

**11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

**14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. 15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.**

***Some closing thoughts for us to consider!***

So how does the follower of Jesus live the life of holiness and righteousness?

**1 John 4:4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**

**1 John 5:4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.**

**John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.**

**Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**

**Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**

**Matthew 7:7-8 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.**

The sure conclusion of a godless life! (Henry Law, "The Gospel in Deuteronomy" 1858)

***"They always heap up their sins to the limit!  
The wrath of God has come upon them at last!"  
1 Thessalonians 2:16***

All men are born spiritually dead.

SIN entered with murderous hand.

It planted deep its dagger in the heart.

Knowledge of God,  
love of His name,  
delight in holy communion,  
sweet fellowship with Heaven,  
the happy worship of unsullied praise,  
the blissful gaze on the Creator's smile,  
and all the circle of pure joy  
--were buried in a deep grave!

The soul became . . .  
a total wreck,  
a withered tree,  
a dried up stream,  
a wilderness of weeds,  
a starless night,  
a chaos of beclouded thought,  
a rebel's camp,  
the shattered home of misery,

the region in which death reigned.  
The eyes were dim and saw not God.  
The face was turned away.  
Each step led downward.  
The hands were lifted in defiance.  
The mouth was opened to blaspheme.  
Man was a dying body holding a dead soul.  
He moved as an unmixed evil--as a sin-spreading pest.  
All this is sad--but there are sadder things yet!  
This is tremendous woe--but deeper woe comes on!  
This is dark night--but darker shades will deepen yet.  
This is full wretchedness--but still the cup may hold more drops.  
This fleeting scene must end!  
The earthly home must be left!  
DEATH comes!

It drives poor sinners to their final home.

And what is that?

Reader, shrink not!

Withdraw the darksome veil.

Look down into the dread abode.

Ponder the lost in their low cells.

HELL is their everlasting doom!

Think not, that hell is the mere phantom of brain-sick  
thought.

It is no fable fondly framed to scare weak minds.

It is a dreadful reality!

It is a gigantic certainty!

It is the sure conclusion of a godless life!

*It is the gulf, to which transgressing streams rush  
hopelessly.*

And it is not far away!

It gapes before the feet!

Another step may plunge the ruined into this abyss!

But hearken!

There is a Savior, who delivers from this death.

There is a friend, who bestows heavenly life.

Jesus appears, and on the cross endures the death and  
by His righteousness, brings in new life.

Thanks be to "Jesus, who rescues us from the coming  
wrath!" 1 Thessalonians 1:10