

Subject: *Marks of a Normal Christian Life – Part 1*

Scripture: *Psalm 119:1-8*

When will things get back to normal? Will they ever get back to normal? These are questions that people are asking. We often speak of the “new normal,” as if things will never return to the way they were before this pandemic.

What is the normal Christian life? What does it look like? How would you describe a normal Christian life? In the Bible we find what we might call “marks of a normal Christian life.” We are so used to being subnormal that just being normal is now considered abnormal.

The first mark of a normal Christian life is... *A Serious Commitment to Scripture*

We see this all through Psalm 119. Verses 1-8 set the tone for the whole chapter. Here’s what a serious commitment to Scripture looks like.

1. A life that is separated by Scripture

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way.” This describes a life of holiness (see vs. 3). The main idea of holiness is separation. A normal Christian life is separated from sin and separated unto God. How can a person live a holy life in a sinful world? Only by knowing and applying God’s Word.

Psalms 119:9 *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

John 17:17 *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

D. L. Moody said, “The Bible will keep you from sin and sin will keep you from the Bible.”

2. A life that is regulated by Scripture

“Who walk in the law of the LORD.” In the Reformation, believers were committed to the principle of *Sola Scriptura*, also known as “the regulatory principle.” Everything in the church and the believer’s life must be regulated by Scripture.

Walk refers to the believer’s lifestyle and conduct, his everyday life. To walk in the law of the Lord is to follow God’s guidance and His will. Before we were saved we walked out of God’s will and had no desire for God’s Word to guide our steps.

Ephesians 2:1-2 ¹ *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;* ² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.*

But when we are saved, God changes our direction and our desires to line up with Him.

We no longer walk in darkness, but we walk in the light.
We no longer walk after the flesh, but we walk after the Spirit.
We no longer walk in sin, but we walk in truth, in humility and love.
We no longer walk like the world, but we walk as Christ walked.

We walk in obedience, in faith, in wisdom, and in good works. We walk worthy of our calling. We walk to please God.

Psalms 119:35 *Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.*

Psalms 119:105 *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

3. A life that is motivated by Scripture

Notice that the believer is determined to keep (obey) God's Word (vs. 2, 4, 5, 8, 19, 20).

John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

1 John 5:2-3 ² *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.* ³ *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

This is obedience from the heart (vs. 2, seek him with the whole heart). The psalmist refers to his whole heart several times in this psalm (vs. 10, 34, 58, 69, 145). The whole heart refers to complete commitment. The heart refers to the mind, will, and emotion, or the inner person. So the whole heart means full commitment of our mind, will, and emotion to the Word of God. Half-hearted commitment leads to half-way obedience.

4. A life that is captivated by Scripture

The psalmist has a passion to learn the truth and live the truth (vs. 5, 6, 7). He prays for understanding (vs. 18). The psalmist often refers to his deep desire for God to teach him (vs. 12, 26, 27, 33, 64, 66, 68, 71, 73, 102, 108, 124, 135).

As you read through this great psalm you might think the writer is a priest, prophet, a preacher, a teacher, or a missionary. There is no mention of that or any official religious duties. Whoever wrote this is just a normal believer who loved God and His Word.

He has found the greatest treasure (vs. 14, 72, 127, 162). Scripture is more valuable than money, and more satisfying too (vs. 103).

Psalms 19:10 *More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

Does this describe your life? Is your life marked by a serious commitment to Scripture?