

Unpacking the Gospel

Class 8: New Life in Christ

August 23rd, 2023



Introduction: Why Do You Do the Things You Do as a Christian?

I. Union with Christ: Our Life

- A. *Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Cor 5:17*
- B. We have entered **a relationship** with the creator of the universe, who is a person.
- C. We cultivate this new relationship with God through:
 - 1. Knowledge – Growing in the knowledge of God is the most important thing you can do as a Christian because the knowledge of God is the foundation for everything else that we do as believers.
 - 2. Faith – Learn to trust and obey what God says.
 - 3. Loyalty – We live to glorify God alone.

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9-10)

that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:2-3)

II. Union with the church: Our new family

- A. Baptism, discipleship, and growth in community
- B. How God uses the church in our lives and in the world
 - 1. God uses the church in our lives to help us grow more and more into the image of Christ.
- C. 5 traits to pursue in your walk with Christ (2 Peter 1: 5 – 8):

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

- a) Virtue – moral goodness. (WD) Nothing more than voluntary obedience to truth.
- b) Knowledge – There is no knowledge apart from God.
- c) Temperance – Self-control.
- d) Patience – persevering in the face of difficulty or trials.

- e) Brotherly kindness –that temper or disposition which delights in contributing to the happiness of others.
- f) Charity (or Love) – do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

III. Reflecting the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world

- A. Sharing the gospel with others
 - 1. As we share the gospel with others, we are sharing the power of God. Rom 1:16
- B. Living life based on the gospel.
 - 1. Paul says, *“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.”* Gal 2:20
- C. Reminding ourselves of the gospel daily
 - 1. A pastor once said, “if you want to sanctify me, remind me of how Christ ascended Golgotha with the heavy cross upon his back. Remind me of the nails that were driven through his hands and feet for my sins. Remind me of the lashes he endured upon his back, the crown of thorns upon his head, and the cruel mocking he received... all for my sins.”