

The Love of God

Six articles discussing God's love for us, and the loving response that He wants from us.

We are simply Christians

We are trying to serve God in the same way as Christians did in the first century, using Bible authority for all that we teach and practice. You may contact us at any time:

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Foreword

The purpose of this booklet is to aid you in your search for God and in the study of His Word. Feel free to make additional copies to give to others who may be interested or who are also searching to learn the Will of God. It is my earnest prayer that we will all strive to learn what the Will of God is for our lives and what He desires for us to do to be saved.

All scripture is taken from the New King James Version (NKJV).

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Six articles discussing God's love for us, and the loving response that He wants from us.

- 1. The Love of God**
- 2. Our Need for a Savior**
- 3. How to Become a Christian**
- 4. The Purpose of Baptism**
- 5. The Church That Belongs to Christ**
- 6. Walking in the Newness of Life**

1. The Love of God

One of the greatest doctrines taught in the New Testament is the Love of God. There are many scriptures that affirm the love that our Father and His Son have for all of mankind, and especially for those who seek Him and strive to serve Him. Let's consider some of these verses for a few minutes.

One of the best-known passages in the whole Bible states:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **John 3:16**

This very important verse tells us that God's love is not merely some abstract emotion, but that His love motivates Him to do something for those whom He loves. God loves us so much that He set in motion a plan that would enable sinful humans to be redeemed and spend eternity with Him. Because of His love for mankind, He has extended His grace and has mercy on those He has created, so that we can come to Him and live with Him eternally. This promise of eternal life is open to all who believe — that is, those who have faith in Jesus and are willing to obey Him:

He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. **Hebrews 5:9**

In his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul is inspired to say:

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8**

Once again, as in our previous verse, the Lord states that His love for us moved Him to action on our behalf. Following God's example, if we say we love others we will allow that love to move us to action. We cannot truly love others and refuse to help someone who is in need:

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18

Likewise, we cannot honestly claim to love Jesus without doing everything that He commands us to do.

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. ... He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone

loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me." **John 14:15, 21-24**

Jesus has given us the greatest example of His love, for He willingly laid down His perfect life for us, so that we can be in a saved relationship with His Father.

"Therefore, My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." **John 10:17-18**

John writes:

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God. **1 John 3:1**

The love our Creator has for us allows us to be united with Him through the sacrifice of His Son on the cross. And it is the love of God that makes union with Christ possible.

For you are all sons (children) of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **Galatians 3:26-27**

It is being united with Christ that makes it possible for us to be a child of God, and that is the heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Christ's love for us is so vast, so deep, so wide and so powerful that at times it seems that it is beyond our comprehension.

... you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. **Ephesians 3:17-19**

We should be ever thankful that God's Word explains His love with such detail and such vivid illustrations. The best picture of the love of God is found in the Gospel message of the death, burial, and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. We should give our lives to our God who loves us so much that He gave His Son to die for us. Go to His Word, learn of His amazing love, give your life to Him, and then serve Him for the rest of your life. You can have the peace of knowing that when this life is over you will meet your loving Savior, and that He will accept you into His eternal kingdom of peace and joy forever.

2. Our Need for a Savior

... all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God. Romans 3:23

The Bible and human experience both confirm that mankind has a rebellious streak when it comes to submitting to God's will and following His Word. It pleased the Lord to make us with free will — that is, the ability to choose for ourselves if we will serve Him or not. By giving us free will, God did not create us to be blindly obedient to Him, but He does want us to serve Him out of love.

The record of humanity's rebellion against God begins immediately after the creation and is recorded in Genesis 3. Adam and Eve transgressed God's will and ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. From that time to the present, Satan has been the archenemy of humanity. 1 Peter 5:8 says He "walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour." He uses our own desires to allure us, to entice us to sin, to tempt us to transgress God's clearly stated will, and to rebel against our God's authority and sovereignty.

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. James 1:13-14

Satan wants us to forget that God is our Ruler, our Master, and our Loving Father. So, he takes desires that God has given us, that are in themselves holy and pure, and twists them by enticing us to fulfill those God-given desires in selfish, unrighteous, and ungodly ways. This has been the history of humanity and our struggle against the devil since the beginning of the world.

This picture looks very bleak and extremely discouraging. However, it does reveal to us the central theme of this article. As human beings, who have been alienated from our Heavenly Father by our own sin, we have a desperate need for a Savior! We need someone to redeem us and cleanse us from the defilement of sin. The Bible says that Jesus came, as God's Only Begotten Son, to save humanity from sin.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:14-18

Because of the love of Almighty God, He sent His Son, so that we can be reunited with Him and live with Him in eternity. Jesus said He came into the world to save sinners.

*For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them. **Luke 9:56***

*... for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. **Luke 19:10***

This is the heart and core of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Good News.

John calls our Lord and Master the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). The same inspired writer many years later calls Jesus our “propitiation” (1 John 2:2). That means that Jesus is the sacrifice for our sins. By His sacrificial death on the cross He has made atonement for our sins, paying the price for our souls to be brought back into fellowship with the Creator. He carried our sins in His body to the cross, and by His blood we can receive the remission of sins.

*... who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed. **1 Peter 2:24***

*... In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ... **Ephesians 1:7***

It is only through Christ that we can have our sins pardoned and our transgressions forgiven:

*But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. **Romans 3:21-26***

Praise the Lord for His **AMAZING GRACE!**

Do you love God and want to be forgiven of your sins? Then do exactly what the Lord taught all His disciples. Our Lord says,

*He who believes and is baptized will be saved, He who believes not will be condemned. **Mark 16:16***

No simpler statement of the will of Almighty God can be found anywhere in the scriptures. Obey Jesus, keep His commandments and you shall be saved by His grace. Our Lord and Master said:

*If you love Me, keep My commandments. **John 14:15***

3. How to Become a Christian

What does God require for a person to become a Christian? What must I do to become a disciple of Jesus Christ and be saved? We want to answer these questions in this article.

One good way to learn about salvation is to go to the book of Acts and study the many stories of individuals who decided to follow Jesus Christ in the first century. By doing this, you let the Holy Spirit, who gave the Word, teach the “Plan of Salvation” to you directly. This prevents reaching wrong conclusions because of our own preconceived ideas or because of doctrines that we may have learned that have no real basis in the scripture.

Acts 2:36-47

Jews on the day of Pentecost

Let’s begin with the story of the conversion of 3,000 Jews on the day of Pentecost. From that story we learn that faith in Christ is necessary because the Jews in that story had to believe in Jesus as the Christ when they heard the preaching of Peter. We also see that repentance is mandatory because those saved that day repented of their disbelief in the Son of God and of having put Him to death. Baptism is essential, as soon as a person believes in Jesus, because we see the Apostles take the time to baptize all 3,000 who believed that same day, as soon as they repented and desired to become disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. We also learn that faith alone does not save, because Peter told them to believe *and* be baptized, that is, immersed into Christ.

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

Acts 8:4-13

Samaritans

In the story of the Samaritans, we again see faith in Jesus resulting in believers being baptized into Christ (see also **Galatians 3:26-27** and **Romans 6:1-6**).

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Acts 8:12

Acts 8:26-39

Ethiopian Eunuch

In that same great chapter, the story of the Ethiopian eunuch teaches us that both faith and baptism are necessary. In verses 38- 39, we see the important fact that immersion in water is the method of baptism used by followers of Jesus Christ — both Philip and the eunuch go down into the water, and both come up out of the water (see also **1 Peter 3:18-22**).

Acts 9:10-18—Saul (Paul the Apostle)

Here we see the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, who becomes the Apostle Paul. We learn that faith alone is not enough, for Saul was already a true believer because of the miracle of seeing the risen Lord. He no doubt had even repented of having been a persecutor of the Lord's people, but he still needed to be baptized for the remission of his sins — the Lord sends a faithful servant to immerse him into Christ, and he arose and was baptized.

Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he [Paul] arose and was baptized. Acts 9:18

Acts 10

Cornelius

In the very next chapter, we find the story of the conversion of the first Gentile, a man by the name of Cornelius. He is saved only when he acts on his love for God and based on faith in the message that the Christ has come, by being immersed in obedience to the Lord's command (Acts 10:34-48).

"Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Acts 10:47-48

Acts 16:9-15

Lydia

Here we read about the conversion of a Jewish woman by the name of Lydia, when she and several others are immersed after Paul preached Jesus to them.

Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us. Acts 16:14-15

Acts 16:16-34

Philippian Jailer

Later in the same chapter, we see the story of the salvation of a prison guard and his family after Paul and Silas teach them about the Lord. Based upon their faith in Jesus Christ, the guard and his whole household are baptized into Christ.

And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Acts 16:33

There are other similar examples in the book of Acts. You can use Acts as your guide to understand the Lord's will for you, and what He requires of you so that you can be saved. To become a member of His Family, the Household of God, and a disciple of Jesus Christ, you simply must hear the Gospel, believe that Jesus is the Son of God, confess faith in Him, repent of your past sins, determine to live for God in the future, and be baptized in water for the remission of your sins. We beg you to give your life to Christ today by obeying the Gospel of Jesus Christ and living daily for Him.

4. The Purpose of Baptism

One of the most important religious questions that can be asked today is, “Must I be baptized in order to be saved?” What did Jesus teach while He was on earth during His personal ministry and preaching to the Jews? What does the Bible tell us that the Apostles taught by inspiration in the first century? Does God say that everyone must be baptized to be in a saved relationship with Him? As with all religious questions, we must let the Bible speak for itself. We must not answer these questions based on our own preconceived ideas and the doctrine of men, but with the Mind of Christ.

Jesus said, “*He who believes and is baptized will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned.*” **Mark 16:16**

In this verse, our Master is giving the last Great Commission to His faithful Apostles. He is instructing them that their work is to make disciples by baptizing believers. He says that all such people will be saved based upon their faith in Him and because they have done what He commands — that is, believe and be baptized. During His earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus taught the Jews that they needed to be baptized, and the Apostles immersed those who heard and believed their Lord’s teaching.

Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. **John 4:1-3**

Matthew tells us that the Lord’s last charge to the Apostles was:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 28:18**

If anyone desires to follow the Savior today — that is, if anyone wants to be a true follower of Jesus Christ — he or she must obey the Master and be baptized (immersed) based on their faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

We must also determine what the Apostles taught after the Lord ascended to the Father, after He was raised from the dead. What did they teach the world and the church about baptism? When Jews, who had just weeks before crucified Jesus, asked what they needed to do to be saved, they were told by Peter:

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:38**

They wanted to be forgiven of the worst crime ever committed: killing the Only Begotten Son of God. To be saved and have their sins washed away, they needed to repent, believe that Jesus is God’s Son, and be immersed. The Bible says that on the same day, 3,000 Jews were baptized for the remission of their sins (**Acts 2:41**). Clearly the Apostles of the Lord

taught that baptism is necessary since they taught that a person can only be saved when he submits to the will of God and is immersed based upon his faith. They also taught that a person must determine to sin no more, which is what is meant by the term repentance.

In numerous passages we see the reason for and the importance of baptism. We cannot begin our new life in Christ until we are buried with Him through baptism into death, and then we are raised to walk in the newness of life. In **Romans 6:3-4**, the Bible says:

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

We are children of God by faith in Christ, and it is through baptism that we put on Christ.

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Galatians 3:26-27

Paul teaches that it is through baptism that we get into the One Body of Christ, which is the church, and says it is through baptism (the “circumcision of Christ”) that we are “buried with Him,” and are “raised with Him through faith in the working of God.”

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. Colossians 2:11-12

1 Peter 3:21 is also very important, for it plainly says that it is by baptism that we can be saved, and that it is the only way for a person to have a good conscience with God.

There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ ... 1 Peter 3:21

All these verses speak of the absolute necessity of baptism, which is immersion or submersion in water (**Acts 8:38**), for the remission of sins. **Acts 22:16** also tells us that it is only through baptism that our sins can be washed away.

So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Acts 8:38

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” Acts 22:16

If you believe that Jesus is God’s Son, and are willing to change your life (repent), are you also willing to obey the Lord in all things? Then be baptized for the remission of your sins today.

5. The Church that Belongs to Christ

The purpose of this article is to discuss a few characteristics or traits of the church that belongs to Christ. I am speaking here of the church that the Lord said He would build.

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” **Matthew 16:18**

We can rely on the fact that He did build it because He promised to do so, when He said, “I will build My church.” The question that we must now ask is, can we determine what His church is? The New Testament reveals a great deal about what the Lord’s church is to be like, and what His will is for it, so that it may be pleasing to God. We can read in the New Testament about many traits or characteristics of God’s church in the first century, when it was being led by Apostles who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. And by studying these scriptures we can duplicate these traits and follow the inspired pattern today, as we endeavor to be servants of the Most High God.

First, we need to know that the Greek word for church is the word *ecclesia*. The word literally refers to an “assembly” or “called-out group of people.” The Lord’s church is His sanctified group of people, called out of the world, separated from sin, and consecrated to God. It is composed of all those who believe, repent, confess Christ, and are baptized (immersed) into Christ.

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **Galatians 3:26-27**

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection ... **Romans 6:3-5**

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
Mark 16:15-16

Those in the church are to live holy, righteous, and godly lives to the Lord.

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age ... **Titus 2:11-12**

Each congregation in the days of the Apostles was a self-governing body of believers. The term often used to describe this is “autonomous” congregations. Each congregation was

composed of its own members, who were willingly under the leadership of its own Elders, with its own preacher (evangelist), deacons (servants), and teachers (**Ephesians 4:11-16; Philipians 1:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2**). In the first century there was no idea of any denominational structure or hierarchical organization in the mind of Christ or the Apostles. The Elders in each congregation were the Shepherds of, and tended to the flock that God had made them overseers of:

“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Acts 20:28

Elders (also called Shepherds or Overseers) were scripturally qualified leaders who were spiritually mature men (**1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-11**). Preachers (Evangelists) preached and taught God’s Word (**2 Timothy 4:1-5**) and Deacons served the needs of members (**Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-15**)

Though this organization is simple by the standards of some today, it was clearly the Lord’s will for His church, and it is still His divine will today.

In many scriptures we see the practices and beliefs of the Lord’s church in the days of the inspired Apostles:

- Those who believed in Christ and desired to be saved were baptized (immersed) in water for the remission of their sins (**Acts 2:36-47; 8:26-40**).
- The disciples assembled on the First Day of the Week and took part in Communion, also called the Lord’s Supper, to remember the death, burial, and resurrection of their Lord (**Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30; Luke 22:14-20**).
- There was preaching of God’s Word done by an Evangelist or the Elders. (**Acts 20:7; 1 Timothy 5:17-18**).
- Singing was offered in praise to God and His Son, and that singing was *a cappella*, that is, without the aid of instruments of music (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**). Even the Lord sang hymns or spiritual songs of worship with His Apostles (**Matthew 26:30**).
- The followers of Jesus were simply called disciples or Christians and wore no other name that divided them religiously (**Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:14-16**).

There are many more such scriptures in the New Testament. It is my earnest prayer that we all search the Word of God with an open mind and an honest heart. Let us study the Word of God without preconceived ideas, as we try to learn for ourselves what God’s will is for the Lord’s church today. Likewise, we must strive to learn what His will is for our individual lives. Let us seek to please only Him, and not follow traditions, man-made doctrines, creeds, or human wisdom. Let’s be Christians, nothing more and nothing less.

6. Walking in the Newness of Life

In the preceding articles we have been discussing what a person must do to be saved. The point of each of those articles is to show what you must know, believe, and obey in order to come to the Lord and have your sins forgiven and completely washed away. No discussion of this subject would be truly complete without asking this question: what must you do *after* you have believed in Christ, repented of your past sins, and been baptized for the remission of those sins? That is the purpose of this article.

One of the best places to go in scripture to answer this question is **Romans 6:3-14**. We have already discussed the necessity of immersion in obedience to Christ in order to be saved, and that is clearly taught in verses three and four. What is interesting here is that the same passage tells us what we must do after our initial conversion to Christ.

3. *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*
4. *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*
5. *For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,*
6. *knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*
7. *For he who has died has been freed from sin.*
8. *Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,*
9. *knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.*
10. *For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.*
11. *Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
12. *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.*
13. *And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*
14. *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

The Apostle Paul is inspired to say that after we have been saved by the grace of God we must “walk in newness of life” (verse 4). In the verses following that statement, God fully describes what He means by that. We are told that we are no longer slaves of sin (verse 6). Verse 11 makes a beautiful statement regarding how we are to live as Christians: “... reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Paul

concludes this thought by telling us that we are to present our bodies as “instrument of righteousness” to be used by God (verse 13).

We are told here and in many other passages in the New Testament, that as disciples of Christ we are to cease from the willful practice of sin and live a life of holiness, purity, and godliness.

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. **Romans 12:1-2***

We are to give our lives to God and strive to be different from the world around us. Both the Ephesian and Colossian letters say that we are to put to death the old man and put on the new man who is created in the image of God (**Ephesians 4:17-24; Colossians 3:1-10**). Then in **Ephesians 4:25– 5:21**, the Holy Spirit describes in great detail the changes that God will make possible in the life of the child of God who desires to be what God wants him to be: born again in the image of Christ.

Another beautiful passage in Paul’s letter to Titus describes what we are to be now that we are Christians, and because we are imitating Christ in our daily lives:

*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age. **Titus 2:11-12***

Walking in the newness of life means that we walk in the spirit and walk in the light as we keep our eye on the goal of living righteously now, so that we can spend eternity with the Father, the Spirit and the Son of God after this life is over (**Gal. 5:16; 1 Jn. 1:7**).

We must strive to be faithful until death as servants of God in His Kingdom:

*Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. **Revelation 2:10***

That means that we are to live daily for God, attempting to fulfill His will in every area of our lives. It also means that now that we are saved, we are to try to bring others to the knowledge of the Son of God so that they can be saved also. We are to worship the Lord with other saints and work with a group of disciples in a local congregation, who are also striving to be faithful to our Master and Savior. God desires us to use our talents, abilities, and resources to help edify other Christians and build up the Body of Christ. If we will do these things, and repent when we fall short, we are promised that by the grace of our Lord, and because of the blood of Jesus Christ, we will be saved in the Day of Judgment.

PRAISE THE LORD!