

Energized to Live for Christ

Buster Brown, March 18, 2018

"And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.¹² **Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,** ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

Colossians 3:10-14

How are we motivated and energized to live the life of pursuing Christ on a daily basis?

1. Be renewed in your thinking. (v.10)

"But meditation is the form of thought that is appropriate to revealed mystery. If the mystery were not revealed, thought would not be possible. Then the voiding of our minds might be appropriate (as in Eastern Mysticism or the Colossian Heresy). But if God's revelation were a simple matter of fact, the intensity of meditation might seem foolish." **Christian Meditation, Clowney, pg. 54**

"The Christian life is lived in this sense of groaning, persevering anticipation. The victory is already won in Christ. We are already blameless and righteous and sanctified in his sight, washed clean, granted citizenship in heaven. And yet in faith and hope we seek **more and more** to live a life of love as we await a final consummation-the resurrection of the dead when our struggle with the world, the flesh, and the devil will finally be over." **The Vine Project, pg. 94**

What is a disciple?

A disciple is a forgiven sinner who is learning Christ in repentance and faith.

(Romans 6:17, Philippians 4:9 and 11, Colossians 1:5-7, Ephesians 4:19-24, and Titus 3:14)

2. Understanding that all distinctions regarding race, religious affiliation, culture, and economics are superseded by the glory and wonder of being in Christ, "Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us," Colossians 3:11.
3. Rejoice, be glad in the eternal love of the Lord and the attendant security which that knowledge brings.

"(Salvation) is a work that does not proceed from anything good foreseen in him, nor from any power or agency resident in him. The power that enables him to answer God's call and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it, is no less than that which effected the resurrection of Christ from the dead."

1689 London Confession, 10-2

Regeneration or salvation is the work in an individual when the Lord opens the heart and mind to believe the good news of the gospel as it is communicated (generally speaking) by an individual who is living out the reality of Christ.

Q. But doesn't this teaching (salvation by grace alone through faith alone) make people indifferent and wicked?

A. No. It is impossible for those grafted into Christ through true faith not to produce fruits of gratitude.

The seamless garment of the believer (includes):

1. Compassion-feelings of sympathy for the needs of others.
2. Kindness-a ready disposition to listen and respond.
3. Humility-an appropriate understanding and estimation of ourselves.
4. Meekness/gentleness-a willingness to allow others to say about oneself what I acknowledge before God, strength under control.
5. Patience-not easily provoked.

"And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but **kind** to everyone, able to teach, **patiently** enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with **gentleness**. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will." **2 Timothy 2:24-26**

The point of understanding and putting on these qualities is always a response to and in light of the glory of the forgiveness of sins by the work of Jesus on the cross.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why is biblical meditation centered around the renewal of our knowledge and not the emptying of our mind to become "one with all that is" (i.e. as advocated by Eastern Mysticism)?
2. How do we meditate on scripture?
3. What attitudes, hopes, and aspirations does the eternal love of the triune God for his people build in the life of a Christian?
4. *March Madness Question*: How did Bobby Knight (NCAA legendary coach from Indiana and Texas Tech) get it wrong when he said, "the meek may well inherit the earth, but they rarely get rebounds!"
5. Why do we say, "meekness is power under control"?
6. Why is the focal point of the Christian wardrobe primarily the Cross and not the individual qualities elucidated by Paul in Colossians 3:12?