

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 3

Therefore if any man be in
any one
CHRIST
he is a new
CREATURE:
old things are passed away;
Christ
BEHOLD,
all things are become
NEW.
2 Corinthians 5:17

THE RECRUITING CENTER

Scripture Texts: John 3:3; Colossians 3:1-10; 2 Peter 1:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

The natural person cannot successfully meet the trials and temptations of life. He has no strength to overcome them. Much less can he meet those added testings and persecutions that evil times inflict upon the saint who joins Christ in the battle for truth. No one can be victorious through this battle unless he has been made new in Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. — John 1:12*

How to Become a New Creature

John 3:3 Except a man be born again—unless he be made new by God—he cannot be in the Church of God, is not a child of God, and cannot go to Heaven. "Church joining" does not put one into the Kingdom of God. Nor does doing good works or enduring suffering or trying hard or being a part of a spiritual congregation. It is by repentance, by confessing our sins to God and turning away from them. It is believing on Christ as our Savior, by trusting Him to cleanse and make alive and keep us. It is by letting go of ourselves and surrendering to Him. It is to live thereafter as He leads, to right wrongs of the past and live holy in the future. No one is drafted into the army of God. It is completely voluntary service.

Mortify Your Members

Colossians 3:1-8 If ye then be risen with Christ—this is the resurrection of the soul or spirit. This happens when one hears the Gospel, repents, believes on Christ, and is saved. He is passed from death unto life (**John 5:24**). If you are thus risen, seek those things which are above—think about, love, strive to attain, let grow in your heart the Persons and virtues of Heaven, where Christ sitteth.

Both God and man have to do with the process of salvation. God works the inside death and resurrection. Man regulates his outward members in accord with it. God, on His part, by grace washes the heart clean of sin and gives life to the soul. Man, on his part, draws on the power of God to deny entrance to sinful deeds and do righteous ones.

When individuals come to the recruiting center, they will not be chosen until they are ready to die out to earthly things and accept heavenly things. Saints love heavenly things, not earthly things, because saints are dead—dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world (**Colossians 2:20**). Death is separation. Saints are separated, cut off, from worldly things, things of the flesh, of this life only. Here is death and life. First in repentance one dies to sin. He accepts Christ's death for him and is united with Christ in death to self. He is baptized into His death (**Romans 6:3**), (not baptism in water but into Christ's death). Second, your life is hid with Christ in God. The one who dies to sin is made alive in Christ. ". . . if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (**Romans 6:5**).

Mortify your members which are upon the earth, the earthly, fleshly deeds of natural human nature. Put them to death. Why? Because we have been made alive in Christ and we now have power over these works of the flesh. Some of these works of the flesh are fornication, uncleanness (impure thoughts, words and acts which may not be actual fornication but related to it), inordinate affection (vehement, wrong feelings), evil concupiscence (strong evil desires, lusts), and covetousness, which is idolatry (loving possessions rather than God), anger, wrath, malice (desires to bring evil upon another), blasphemy (dishonor to God), and filthy communication. All such must be put off, put to death.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 3

A New Soldier

2 Peter 1:4 By accepting God's great and precious promises we are made partakers of the divine nature. The old sinful nature is gone, taken away, and God's nature is given to us. We are saved from sin.

2 Corinthians 5:17 If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. If we are not a new creature, we are not in Christ. Through the process called conversion a man gives up his life and commits himself to God's leadership and causes from that time on. Old loves, desires, attitudes, lusts, fears, bondages, and sins of all kinds are passed away. In their places all things are become new. Inward virtues, joys, hopes, desires, loves, attitudes, and powers are of God now.

False Notions

The doctrine that one's "position" can be in Christ while his deeds are sinful, that Christ's righteousness is "imputed" unto one even though he is not righteous, that the divine nature and the sinful nature can live in one at the same time, the sinful one perhaps predominating, and still the person remain saved—no, these are false notions. Both the old man (the inner being) and his deeds (the outward doings) must be put to death. Both the new man inside and holy actions outside must unite to fill the life. Only then is a person a child of God and fit for army service for the Lord. Christ's army is made of changed lives—new men and women.

JUST A THOUGHT

**If you think you are too small to do a big thing,
try doing small things in a big way.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
It is revised and posted here with written permission from
(c) Bible Paths Publication, PO Box 299, Keithville, LA 71047