

Men's Wednesday Night Study

January 7, 2009

Not the Same Anymore

Study No.7

During the past few weeks we have spent time with family and friends. We spent so much time with others that it was good to have our quiet time again. The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is a frantic act of buying gifts, food, and other unnecessary things to make everyone happy. During this time we as Christians may have put off every day practices aside. I had a short intense conversation with my sister-in-law during the past week. I was asked, when we go to visit them in a few months, would we my wife and I go out to a night club with them for a night of dancing. We told my sister-in-law that we do not consider that fun, and that we would not put ourselves in a position to be tempted with our pasts. Unfortunately she failed to understand that we are not the same people anymore. What has caused a change in our life styles? Why are we now different? Let us take a look at what happened to our lives, and what scripture has to say.

2Co 5:17 Wherefore if any man is in Christ, *he is* a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new.

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any one be in Christ - A true believer in him. There is a new creation - Only the power that makes a world can make a Christian. And when he (you and me) is so created, the old things are passed away - Of their own accord, even as snow in spring. Behold - The present, visible, undeniable change! All things (every thing about us) are become new - He has new life, new senses, new faculties, new affections, new appetites, new ideas and conceptions. His whole tenor of action and conversation is new, and he lives, as it were, in a new world. God, men, the whole creation, heaven, earth, and all therein, appear in a new light, and stand related to him in a new manner, since he was created anew in Christ Jesus.

The thing that my sister-in-law can not understand is the fact the Christ now lives in my wife and me. Because she is not a believer she is unable to see and understand the change in our lives. Scripture tells us that these things are foolish to non believers.

Discuss the differences before Christ and after Christ. Take another look at v. 17, and note that old things are....

2Co 5:15 And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

2Co 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2Co 5:18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

2Co 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

2Co 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us; we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

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Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Because we are now new creatures in Christ my wife and I know the difference between right and wrong. The Holy Spirit will stir-up a felling of being wrong. We are no longer part of the world, but part of the perfect will of God. I now know that I will be held accountable for what I do, and do not do. I will have to answer to God, good or bad.

Mat 12:33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit.

Mat 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Mat 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Mat 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Mat 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

I know what I can do, and can not do. I know that my family is also aware of what they are to do as well. We have taught our children what the scriptures say and have encouraged them to read on their own. I as a leader of my home have to hold my self accountable. I know that there are people who will not understand what I have to do. I also know that there are people out there who are watching me. People are waiting to point a finger, to question my belief in God, and wanting to use my actions to question the sincerity of my actions. I know I am born again, I also know that I am free because of the price Jesus paid. I also must be a good witness in actions, and deeds. This means whether people see me or not.

Something to think about:

Jas 4:14 You do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Jas 4:15 Instead you should say, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live-and do this or that."