

If the Bible is the Word of God, and we do not doubt that it is, and God is the supreme ruler of all the world, and we confess that He is, then every word of Scripture is pure and tested seven times in the fires. As Jesus said, it cannot be broken, and Peter tells us that the very writings themselves are inspired of God and designed to make us perfect in every good work.

The Scriptures come with the very authority of God and must be adjudged as such. Ministers are to preach the word of God and call people to obedience to the Word of God.

There are implications to the doctrines of Scripture, and the apostles, in all of their writings include practical admonitions, warnings, and commands concerning these doctrine. We are not to be like those who behold our natural face in a mirror and then go away forgetting what manner of people we are, as James tells us.

We confess that Jesus of Nazareth is God's only begotten Son, our Lord: [Say it with me:] Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. Amen and amen.

The text from Colossians from chapter 3 deals with the implications and imperatives of the later part of this part of the confession; "He arose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty."

It will be impossible to say everything that could or should be said, but all truth is contained in every truth, and people of faith will understand some of the things that we will not be able to say in one short sermon.

Paul had just warned the church about following the rudiments of the world, living after the world, the flesh, and the devil in chapter two, showing that their very baptism called them to a better life in Christ than one fraught with ceremonies and rituals. He now puts substance into that warning so that they would not miss what he is talking about. He is talking about putting away the things of verse 5, putting

them to death [mortify], and going on to put away the things of verse 8, 9. He assumes that they have already made progress in the horrid sins of verse 5, but he warns them that they are not finished or perfected in the obedience required in the "if" of verse 1.

The "if ye be risen with Christ,," includes both the doctrine of the resurrection, the ascension, and the session of Christ. If you do not believe that these acts of Christ are yours in Christ, then Christ has nothing for you. These things are the very beginning of the Gospel, and that is why these historical facts are included in the Apostles' Creed, for without them you have nothing but wishful thinking and vain dreams, and you will spend your days following vain ceremonies and empty works. Jesus died for His sheep, rose for them, and ascended into heaven for them.

But if you confess that you believe these things, then there are some strong commands that are implied. I would like to consider these commands today under several heads: I. The Foundation of the New Life; II. The Mindset of the New Life; and certain specifics for the New Life, for both You and for Me. Then I would make some applications. You are going to have to put on your thinking caps, wake up, pay attention if you are to receive the benefit of a sermon such as this. I spend from 20 to 30 hours thinking and preparing a sermon, and it seems a shame that you might sleep through it with your eyes open. I try to sift out what is of lesser importance and stress the really good stuff, so listen up.

- I. The Foundation of the New Life: Historic fact of the Resurrection of Christ and all that is implied in this: his ascension into Heaven, His reigning in Heaven, His coming again.
 - A. This faith is compared to Moses law in Romans 10:4-10. A living Mediator is compared to dead priests in Hebrews.
 - B. The historicity of the resurrection is affirmed by Luke, quoting Peter, in Acts 10:34-43 All the witnesses proclaimed it and affirmed it and died for it. Luke and Peter certainly believed it and these things were published

widely vs. 37, beginning with John the Baptist. The messiah is Jesus of Nazareth.

C. These things are affirmed by the Holy Ghost to the elect of God through the preaching of the Gospel. Titus 1:1-3. READ

II. The Mindset of the New Life.

A. Seek those things which are above "Seek in order to find." A strong imperative. No doubt about the existence of what you look for. Ask and ye shall receive; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you.

B. Above: either of space or time. Get your head out of this stinking world and testify and make decisions in terms of the world to come. The world that is not of this world and the time that is not of this time.

C. Set affections. "heart and mind." The inner man, not the lusts of the body.

1. See Ephesians 1:1:17,18;

2. See Eph. 3:14. I have preached on both these texts.

D. This is the good work that is begun in you: 6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

III. Specifics of the New Life, for you and for me. This is where the rubber hits the road. The imperatives are not abstract, but specific, and are spelled out in the following verse.

A. Things: what are the "things." Study the verse that follow if you are serious about these words. THINK. Wise words for those who profess wisdom, having risen with Christ, the wisdom of God.

B. He is talking about works, works that are consistent with a heavenly people. We have a most blessed statement on this in HC no. 91. Turn to and have open.

1. Done in faith: with Christ in view. You believe that you have risen with Christ and that He died for you. All good works must begin here; for you cannot do anything but dead works unless you are risen with Christ. **FIRST THING; A GOOD WORK IS DONE IN FAITH IN CHRIST.**
2. Done in obedience: with Christ in view: for He is our king and law given. He gives meaning to the law and applies it to the inner man. All good works must consider Christ the king, risen and enthroned in heaven to be a good work. **SECOND THING: A GOOD WORK IS DONE IN OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST AND HIS LAW.**
3. Done to the glory of God: Christ is in view, for He is the glory of God
 - a. Read II Cor. 4:6
 - b. 2 Cor 3:18 Reading the words of the New Testament.

THIRD THING: A GOOD WOK IS DONE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST. IT IS CHRIST FROM BEGINNING TO END.

APPLICATION:

- A. A resurrection with Christ of personal devotion, private Bible reading and prayers.
- B. A resurrection with Christ of family Bible reading and prayer.
- C. A resurrection of renewed communion of the saints, forbearing one another and forgiving one another, serving one another a members of Christ's body.
- D. A Resurrection of person responsibility in doing good to all men, especially those of the household of faith:
- E. A Resurrection of seeking the abundant life in Christ: I am come that they might have life and might have it more abundantly.

F. Most of all: A resurrection of thankfulness to God and the Lord Jesus for the abundant promises that He has given tous

1. In terms of Colossians 3:12-17

2. And 2 Peter 1:3-18 and all the other exhortations that we have cited today and the many others found throughout the testimony of the apostles and prophets.

May God bless you in your family and friends today and every day as you live in the life of Jesus of Nazareth who : [Say it with me:] Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. Amen and amen.