

Okay, so our topic today or booklet is how can we live our faith from the inside out?

And I tried to my own terms answer. What does that mean? One of the things that I came up with is that when we talk about our faith Many times and I'm going to talk about this a little bit more, but many times in the Christian walk, There are bodies and churches that try and create a system or a regimentation or rules now there are there is somewhat things that Christ requires of us.

So I would say there is quote a system but I don't like to use that word but I think you all understand what I mean. If I just gave you a list of things, okay, do this, do this, do don't do this so on and so forth. The Christian faith should be something.

That is a life lived. It's not just an external where we just keep certain laws And one of the verses that actually it wasn't mentioned in the book that came to mind, mind immediately. When I read this is in Luke chapter 6 verse 45 which says the good person out of the good treasure of his heart, produces good.

And the evil person out of the evil. Treasure produces evil, proud of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks. So what's on the inside In our of our being is, what should come out. It's the things of Christ of our Lord, the no should be expressions. If it's not Then other things come out.

I I heard Chaplain McClellan. One time say he was telling a story about when in small boy, he went to a family reunion and one of his family and family members who was a Christian and by considerable amount of alcohol. And he started talking a very different way. And a member Allen said his mother said to him, that the alcohol reveals the nature of your heart, I thought I thought.

Yeah, that is. That is very, very true and many other things. But but anyway, so as we go look into this book, A lot of people or many Christians, it says they have a problem with their Christian life that faith loses its attractiveness and they become disillusioned for some Christianity.

As I said earlier, is just a set of beliefs or rigid set of standards and even sometimes with new and emerging movements, those movements prey on the discontentment of others to try and bring them to church. But what we really should understand from this booklet today, is that our Christian walk is based on solid doctrines that do not change.

God does not change. And our Christian faith is actually, a practical outworking of that faith, and that understanding of the Word of God, which is in our lives. So Anyway that that should be the basis. And as I've told my own children, this at times, You know? I think, as

Christians we all go through times in our lives, what I call dry periods, where we don't feel very spiritual and that's the problem, we should not base how we feel on our.

Now, God can use those things. If we are not walking with him in the way, we should. But many times we just go through seasons in our life, where we don't have a lot of what we'd call, good things happening that make us feel like we're really doing a good job.

But that doesn't mean that we're any less close to the Lord, and we need to be careful of that because there are many that have allowed those feelings to govern how they view their walk. With Christ could be. So one of the things that we are encouraged to do as believers is not to ignore the beauty of the gospel and that the Savior lies heart of what we believe.

As I said earlier, too often people reduce their Christian faith or they relegated to an event that happened, you know, I was saved now, I just lived my life, you know, the way my mom and dad taught me to live, but it's so much so much more than that.

And I use the exact I use the example that I, I, somewhat grew up in that environment where I had a list of things that I was not to do. And at times I was very unhappy because to me it was just a very dry form of do's and don'ts.

Not something that emanated within and I used to say, and I'm glad that God didn't follow up on this, but I used to say I would be a, I'd rather be a happy pagan than a mineral miserable Christian. If it weren't for my salvation because I just continued to feel like I was failing and I didn't see any life or joy or hope in my life.

And so thank the Lord that he has helped me understand those things. But anyway all of life for the Christian ought to be squarely focused on Christ His cross and the completeness of his gospel must interfere with life. In other words, that should be at the very core of our Christian walk that he affects our lives so that we're a different person.

He must be the focal point for living out our faith and something I was going to say right here that we need to be aware of this week. While I was driving back from Louisiana, I happened to listen to a couple of lectures that were given on the book, by Gresham Machin on Christianity and liberalism and it turn of the, the last century, the 20th century, the liberals within the church were, which were not Christians, they were another religion, They talked about faith, They talked about the faith of Jesus.

And so, they used a lot of terms that we would say, oh, they're using all the right words. But when they talked about the faith, They didn't

say what they didn't say was, they didn't believe that. Jesus was born of a virgin. They didn't believe that he died a substitutionary death and was our atonement.

What they meant was Jesus was like the first Christian here on this earth and he lived a good example. So we should follow that. And so you see, if somebody says Christ is the faith I follow as opposed to Christ, is the object of my faith. That's very substantial and that we understand that.

And that was part of when you look at the falling away of the church, that is part of the false religion that carried us away. So One of the things that says in the book here that I think is very important for us to remember, it says right thinking about the gospel produces right?

Living under the gospel. So having a proper understanding of the gospel produces the right way that we should live. Also as we go in here, our passage primarily this week, I may ask a couple you to read the verses. It's going to focus on Colossians chapter 3, verses 1 through 17 which is really where Paul is taking theology.

You know, how should we live and giving us practical application in ways that we're supposed to be doing those things? And in this chapter 3 of Colossians, what we're reading about here is that, as those who are called, Christians, those who have Jesus Christ as the object of our faith.

We are in union with Him Now. What does that mean to be in union with Him? If we talk about there are two aspects from the title, our verse how we live, our faith, from the inside out. There's the one part that we would call the hidden life who we are in Christ.

Our understanding our walk. And then there is the the open or those which other people see as we live our lives. And so in Colossians 3:3, it says, for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ. In God, Tell me somebody. What does that mean? When it says, we die with Christ.

Does it mean? We literally died with him on the cross. We hung on the cross with him. What does that? What does that mean?

That person He died for our sins but we were, How is Christ often referred to, in the Bible. We've heard refer to Adam as the first one Adam and Jesus Christ as what The second Adam. So, as he died for our sins and made a covering for us and imputed the righteousness unto us, the righteousness of God unto us.

We are We still have the flesh but our nature is now changed. And so we take on his his I don't know what word I want to use, We take on

his instruction because we have a new man that now lives within us. So as we go through this today we're going to talk about the two facets of Christian life.

Both the hidden and the scene. So when we talk about the The hidden life, There are a couple facts that we need to be made aware of as we look at this. What is, What is the hidden life? Well, it says, in that verse I read in Colossians 3:3, it says you died?

Who did we die with? We died with Christ and we take on a mysterious and mystical union, that every believer in Jesus Christ, in his death on the cross and in all aspects of his work. Now, This is somewhat hard for us to understand, because this is Supernatural, because, no man, which God was 100% man and 100% God, not too individuals, but he was fully God and fully, man.

This is something that no man can do. So this is outside, the realm. Did we have a little crash? Oh, okay.

This is outside the realm of what the human mind can comprehend. But that is true that we have been renewed or regenerated and with our life in Christ. In fact, when Jesus Christ died on the cross, Our sin was secured and our connection. To the power of sin was severed because now We're no longer trying to live a life.

Let's say you were raised in a family where they taught you to do the right thing or good things, right? But you do that of your own. What your own volition, your own power, but are being crucified with Christ means that we have been given his nature, the new man.

And we're being crucified means that we should look down on our sin, and the old life, from that vantage point and the allure of this world should lose its appeal. When it viewed from the cross. It says, here in the book. Ironically, although we died we live in another sense.

So while in the one sense, it says we die. We died with Christ, but we're alive unto him because he gives us a new life. One that is is not perishable this mystical death to sin. Did not produce a lifeless corpse on the contrary Union with Christ, always includes union with his resurrection and his life.

So we are new Now, as we talk about the hidden, the hidden man, in our death with Christ. Paul uses a head body analogy. And that's how he describes our union with Christ Christ. Is the head of what the church. Okay, and we are the what the body in Colossians 1:18.

Let's see. Does someone can I ask someone to read that quickly if you have it and he was the head of the body? The church, who is the beginning? The first one from the dead and then all things you may have freedom. Okay, So it's it's through the security of God that he

sees the body through the head.

Jesus Christ. It is our duty and this is quite a responsibility as we walk here upon this earth, that the world would see the head being Jesus Christ through the body, which is the church. It's sobering to realize that the world's estimation of the head is so often determined by what's perceived about the body.

How many people do you know that said, I don't go to church. They're a bunch of hypocrites. I see that. Well they're right. We are hypocrites because we still have, we have the, the sin nature, but we also have the nature of Christ that should, if we're walking in our Christian faith, should begin to encompass and take more and more over our thoughts and our words and our deeds.

And I think this is a key portion right here This about how the world views us. I know that I was telling Miss Sue a little while ago that when I grew up I grew up. My dad was a minister and we were faithful and going to church and having devotion everything, but Living the Christian life for me, was really a bunch of don't do this.

Don't do that. Don't go to dances, you don't watch movies, you don't listen to rock and roll music. You know, go down the whole list of things. And that's why I said that I would think about my Christian walk and I'd say, wow, this is really, really miserable because I was trying to live it on my own power, But as I've grown in the Lord, because of his growing in me, Now, some of those same things, I feel the same way, but the motivation is different.

In other words, there may be movies that I don't go to because They don't see the spirit of God within my life. They feed the flesh and the sad thing is well no I shouldn't say that. Just let me retract that state. It's not sad. The good thing is There are certain rock and roll songs that I used to really love that I listened to the words and I said I can't listen to that anymore, you know, God has convicted me of that.

And and so, but the motivation it's different because it's Christ in me. It's not David trying to live out this system and I'm sure I see some smiling faces here. So I I I think I have hit a note with some of you in here. I mean, and it seems like when I talk about the music, seems like the songs that I like.

The best were the ones that were the worst When you laughing about, you have? Does that have you found out to be true?

Well, now I have to survey those first and it's made me go back and listen to them and to see what they're and, and many of them, I hate to say we're not just not God glorifying but they were dismal. I mean hopelessness and and those of you the minute music industry Benjamin

you know I'm sure you recognize that too.

Yes a little bit yeah just a little bit. Okay. So So in the admonishment is far as the hidden part of our Christian walk. There are two things in verses 1 and 2 of Colossians chapter 3 that it says we should do. It says, if you have been raised with Christ seek, the things that are above where Christ is seated, at the right hand of God and then set your mind on the things that are above not on the things that are on the earth, okay?

So we're to seek and we to our to set. The first of all, when we talk about Sikh seeking, What does that mean? That means that in our Christian life, we establish patterns of things that we do, What I think of for me is you know, daily spinning a time with the Lord, where I'm reading his word in meditating upon it.

And and contemplating what God requires. You One thing just a little quick, add advertisement. I'll give you real quick here. I am. As far as the Bible reader, I'm pretty much a I started Genesis. I read all the way through and then I start again Some people read differently but I like to just read all the way through but recently.

Well not recently but a couple years ago, Karen bought me. A book that was written by Gresham Machin, It was his Old Testament, a New Testament survey of what was happening at the time that the New Testament was written. And I found it to be very, very helpful. Even with this book today, because some of the things that are talked about culturally that Paul was addressing as he wrote to these churches.

I didn't understand. And and and now having an understanding of those things. It's made The meaning of God's Word, all that much greater because I I somewhat see the challenges. And and you see that, you know, as Solomon said, there's nothing new under the sun that those same things are happening today.

So it says, where to seek and the second thing, it says, we're supposed to do is to set our affections on things above. Literally, it says there, that means that we are to think about The above things. And so That was one area where when I said listening to certain songs or whatever I realized, well maybe this song passed the litmus test, if it didn't have bad words, but is it really?

Is it really setting my affection on the things that are above and I'd have to say no. And so, there are times that I've reached up, hit that off button on the radio, even though I really wanted to, I really wanted to listen to that, and, but it doesn't, it doesn't, it doesn't edify the Lord.

So it says our mind, Here's a litmus test of who really, really are. Thinking is the first step to doing right. Thinking again, we come

back to this right thinking and right believing produce, right behavior. It is imperative that believers. Therefore habitually and routinely engage their minds on things above where Christ is, and where they are with Christ who sit on the throne.

So I think what we're being challenged here to do is continually asking ourselves. Are we doing the things that in Colossians here? We're talks about how we are to set our affections on things above. Are we consciously thinking about those things? Are we just sort of letting things evolve?

Well, I feel like I need to read my Bible today for whatever. Do we actively do those things? It uses a term. We need to groove our brains I guess. Is there some scientific truth to that that if we think enough about something that we actually get seems? Like I've heard that every time you have a thought, you get a groove in your mind.

But you know, the point is this that that needs to be a habit or something that is a very strong in our life. Think about things that you do automatically every day You don't even think about it. So So what is the prospect? Or what's the hope of this hidden life?

We have in Christ. Well it says right now that we walk by faith and not by sight, But for the believer, the hope is that one day that faith will be transferred into site when we are with our Lord and Savior in His very presence and the invisible becomes visible and are what they would call our subjective experience, how we lived on this earth, living in faith.

We see the result of that when we're with our Lord in heaven. So we talked about the the hidden life. Now, we want to talk about The scene life. We keep going back to this. What is true on the inside? We'll show itself on the outside. Now, I feel like I have to give a little bit of a disclaimer with this.

And how am I doing for time? Okay, a little bit. I don't think I'm gonna make it. Yeah. Okay. A little bit disclaimer here because one of the things that troubled me is a young Christian is, I'd look at people who I'd look at their lives and I say, wow, they have an exemplary life, you know the way they live but they were dead, you know, inside.

And so it's really the question is or the the thing to concern yourself with is not just how does the appearance look on the outside? But what is motivating us Is it just because many of those people that live exemplary lives If you were to ask them, why they do that?

Somebody tell me here. What do you think? They would give as a reason trying to get in the heaven Trying to get into heaven. That's it. Exactly, I had one guy. Say to me, Wisconsin, I just hope that what I

do. Good outweighs what I do bad. And then when I stand before the Lord, he'll look at this balance and he'll say, oh, you know, you get more good than bad.

So you're in. No, that's a. That is not the life of the Christian, but we should have those things that are true inside, should be true on the outside. And I think since it is 20 minutes till When I got three minutes, are there any questions? Let me do this, any questions or comments on things because I think I it's a natural break right here.

Yes, sir. Question, I have a comment a few years ago, I was bringing a book about our paradigm to our worldviews,

Most people have a have a worldly paradigm. But if we were to cultiv a paradigm of the Eternal where we're going to be spending a few most of our time, that, that would kind of direct our lives of the, the visible versus these invis. So that one more time said, I didn't catch last part.

If the the paradigm of the eternal are a world view of the eternal are time determining that will help us. Cultivate we walk around every day, seeing things and see what's going on in the physical world. We don't put a lot of thought, unless the full description side, but we don't put a lot of thought into the insurance.

You don't put a lot of thought into things spiritually, ever, seen physical things. And most of our thoughts are phys called the fact that that paradigm of the Eternal That tells me. I know it's it's helped me keep my thoughts and not like would you say earlier about is this really to replying for God?

Yeah, I know that one thing. Just sort of a little add-on to that. That happens, maybe not every day but the focus is beyond the eternal is when I think about you think, you know, someone a friend, or you hear a story on the news about someone that tragically died.

And the family are not believers and I think, whoa, I don't know how I could, you know, if my wife or one of my children, I don't know how humanly I could survive that. I don't know how I could could could deal with that through Christ. It's not that it would be, oh, no big deal.

I'll see them later. I mean, it would still be very traumatic, but there's hope because I have hope where that I will see my children again, and I'll see my wife again. So, but when I have those events, like I said, where I see death occurring like that, that's where it vividly.

Brings to mind The one whose soul is dead and the one who is united with Christ. So, all right.