

## Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

Theme: Application of I Corinthians 15



### Resurrection Life Starts Now

What would resurrection life look like in our Christian walk? Christ's life works in and through us as we live the Word. When we believe, trusting that Christ paid for our sin, we are justified by grace and saved. Immediately we acquire a new identity in His death, burial, and resurrection. *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."* (Romans 6:4)

We are forever transformed into a new creature (II Cor. 5:17) and now able to bring forth acceptable fruit unto God. We are married or joined unto Christ, enabling us to live in a new godly way: *"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."* (Rom. 7:4) While many focus on our future resurrection life once we're in heaven, we can functionally start now to have Christ's resurrection life in us. Let us take a moment to think about this.

Scripture says: *"But now is Christ risen from the dead..."* (I Cor. 15:20) As we read, think about, and know Christ lives in us by the Word, we can believe it and then live what it teaches us to do. As we apply the Truth in us, we are submitting to God and His power rather than what our fleshly desires and feelings tell us to do. This produces acceptable fruit to God because it is Christ Himself, the Word, working in us: *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* (Gal. 2:20)

**Something to ponder:** Instead of living in fear or by the flesh, we can decide to please God, allowing resurrection life to be manifest in us even when it is difficult. For example, as we hold forth the gospel, it is not what our flesh wants as we may be rejected. It can be a battle of our mind. Yet, we have God's power/wisdom to help us walk by faith through the problems.

## Our Hope is Laid Up in Heaven

How does this hope help us to focus on our resurrection life and heavenly future? First, it gives us confidence: *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."* (I Cor. 15:19) But Scripture is clear, Christ has risen! He victoriously conquered death (I Cor. 15:54-58) to give us a sure hope.

Second, we have access to His resurrection power. Therefore, we fill up on His Word and dwell on it. This empowers us to work it out by faith. Our focus is no longer to be on earthly issues that can derail, overwhelm, or prevent us from living as who we are. We trust God to walk by faith. (Colossians 3:15-16)

Third, from the day we hear and believe the Word, it can bring forth fruit (good works). Christ lives in us, which works for us into eternity. *"For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth."* (Colossians 1:5-6)

Fourth, we can fix our attention above as we realize our new identity: Christ is our life! *"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God...When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."* (Col. 3:2,4)

Finally, it reminds us of our purpose. While on earth we are Christ's ambassadors to share this good news with others. This exercises God's wisdom and power in us to grow spiritually: *"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."* (Eph. 3:19-20)

**These are just a few of the numerous ways our focus on our heavenly hope helps us. Glorious!**



## Study Tools: How the Timeline Can Help Us Understand

(Refer to August Issue)



**Exploring the use of the Timeline:** This article continues our goal to help the reader understand how the Bible is organized and can assist us when we read and study Scripture. This tool is #6 on p. 17 of “Exploring the Bible Using Study Skills,” available on Amazon or free on our website. (see top of p.1) Ponder a few insights that address common questions:

### 1. Should I restrict myself to read only Paul’s epistles since this is what God has written directly to us?

Truly, Romans through Philemon is written to the Body of Christ. To be built up in sound doctrine, it is best for students to primarily focus on these to be edified. However, all Scripture is inspired and profitable (II Tim. 3:16) for our learning and comfort. (Rom 15:4) Paul regularly refers to Old Testament passages in his own epistles. Why? Past writings are foundational to what he teaches. Therefore, make it a priority to **read all the Bible**, recognizing the context, that is, noting to whom it was written and by whom.

### 2. What does it mean when someone says that some things taught in the Bible are inter-dispensational?

Dispensation is a term used to describe God’s dispensing (giving out) of different instructions to different people, at different times. For example, in the past God gave Israel the Mosaic Law, but thru Paul, God gave the dispensation of Grace for the Body of Christ.

**\*Newer students: Focus on reading Scripture rather than using many new study insights.**

So then, inter-dispensational means that the instructions given are general teachings that are true in all times and taught through the Bible, i.e. God teaches man to love others throughout the Scriptures: “...but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.” (Lev. 19:18) Also: Matt. 5:44, Rom. 12:10, Heb. 13:1.

### 3. How can I use the timeline to help me discern whether a person is teaching sound doctrine or pulling something out of context, and not meant for us in the Body of Christ during this dispensation of grace?

Generally, if a teacher uses Scripture outside of Paul’s epistles, a flag should go up in your mind to ask: Who was this written to? Is this a teaching that runs through the Bible and applicable to me? For example, in Proverbs, Solomon is speaking to Israel, specifically his sons, about the Word of God. Though this is written ‘to’ Israel, many verses seem to be general teachings exalting the inter-dispensational characteristics of the Word, applicable in all times: “Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.” (Proverbs 4:7)

As you note the context, ask yourself: How can I learn from this, knowing it is not written directly ‘to me,’ but all is profitable? “**For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**” (Romans 15:4) and also, “**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.**” (II Timothy 3:16)

## Stepping Out of This World While We Are Still Here

We can leave this world in our mind to think about our eternal home above. It is a spiritual realm where we will live with our Father, God. When we understand that all believers will be changed and obtain a new eternal body to live this new life, it is a hope that brings patient endurance. “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” (I Cor. 15: 51-52) Living each moment with this reality, especially while we experience tribulations and sufferings on earth, is glorious and a refreshment to our soul.

Scripture goes on to say: “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (I Cor. 15:57-58) Thankfulness for Christ’s love sacrifice on the cross can be a powerful thrust in our life to walk faithfully as a living sacrifice until the day when we go home. What a day of rejoicing that will be!!!



## Investing in Eternity

To help an unbeliever invest, encourage him to plan for his eternal future in heaven by becoming saved from his sin. God offered His Son to be the perfect sacrifice to fully pay for all his past, present, and future sins: *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Rom. 5:8) Each person can be justified by faith alone in Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. It is not by good works. (I Corinthians 15:3-4)

After believing Christ’s provision of the cross, we can think on this verse to bring a new viewpoint about our current life, allowing Him to live in us: *“Laying up for store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”* (I Tim. 6:19) In the context, it warns us not to trust in temporary, earthly riches, but focus on building God’s treasure, His Word, into our lives to manifest Christ’s perfect works. These riches last forever, producing resurrection life in us, for which we will obtain rewards. (I Cor. 3:14, II Tim. 4:8) We can exalt and keep these spiritual things in our mind so Scripture becomes more real and important to us than the challenging things that we see in this world.

Exercise sound teaching unto godliness: this is immersing ourselves in the Word and working out what we learn in the details of life. As discussed in prior issues, there is great value to living Christ’s Word: now, while we live on this earth, but also into eternity. (I Tim. 4:8) God works His glory (his character & attributes) in and through us as we believe. Christ living in us is seen by all those around, even when we don’t speak a word. Angels also observe and learn as they see God’s power and wisdom shining through us in a world that is darkened by Satan. (Eph. 3:10)

**Think on this:** In this life we are building a store of spiritual treasures in heaven. These are actually the very assets that will help us to function in the eternal realm, and specifically in the position God plans to give to us. The result is having exceeding joy, but more, it enables us to glorify God for ever more. Our choices, such as whether or not to read and apply the Scripture, along with living and laboring with Christ, seems to affect the role we will play in heaven. This is an inter-dispensational issue. Read what is taught in the parable of the talents: *Matt. 25:14-28*. This reinforces that what we do on earth matters: *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 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.”* (II Cor. 5:14-15) **How are you investing in your future?**

On A Personal Side



## Question & Answers

by Deborah Johnson

### Question 1: What does it mean to be dead indeed unto sin and alive unto God?

Each person inherits a sin identity ‘in Adam,’ which is also called the “old man.” Once a person trusts Christ, his “old man” is indeed crucified (Rom. 6:6) and immediately God places him “in Christ.” His new identity is now ‘in’ the Lord’s death, burial, and resurrection (Rom 6:4), and now he is alive with a new ability to live resurrection life. *“Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.”* (Rom. 6:8) Christ lives in us as we yield & allow the Spirit to lead us to learn/apply the Word.

### Question 2: Once we trust that Christ’s blood paid for all our sins, what is our goal as a believer?

God desires that we grow up from a spiritual babe unto an adult believer. We do this by allowing the Spirit to teach us sound doctrine and put this teaching into practice: *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”* (Rom. 8:14) This enables us to be a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1) and an ambassador for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20). Living this goal helps us to prepare for eternity.

### Question 3: When I find I am walking in the flesh, how do I adjust to live unto God?

Fleshly living and the carnal mind are against God’s way: *“So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”* (Rom. 8:8) There is only one way to please God, that is to STOP ‘trying to do it’ with your self-righteous works. Rest. Believe the Scripture within you and decide to ‘live it’ by focusing on God’s Word and being led by the Spirit. (Rom. 8:14)

### Question 4: How can I tell if I am living under the law or functioning in grace?

Simply put, we can know how we are functioning by the fruit produced. When you sense anger, pressure, frustration, or similar feelings, this is **the law** and fruit of the flesh. (Galatians 5:19-21) The flesh is ever ‘trying’ to meet a standard or expectation, but will never be able to live it perfectly. In this sin cycle, our behavior is the focus. When we function in **grace**, our mind is the issue. (Rom. 8:6) We are thinking about and immersed in the Scripture, so we are dwelling upon it. This grace way enables Christ’s life to live in us and produces godly fruit: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith...”* (Gal. 5:22)

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Stamp

To:

**“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)**

## Grace Immersion by Jeanette Scallan

*That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Eph 4:22-24)*

Learning a foreign language is difficult. The older you are, the harder it becomes to grasp subtle differences between dialects. It is natural to carry the grammatical habits of one language into another. However, relying on perceived similarities can have unintended consequences when speaking with the fluent. Misunderstandings and offenses occur when the learner fails to grasp significant differences between the two languages.

There are two ways to learn a new language: instruction, or immersion. Instruction focuses on memorization and repetition to produce a rudimentary understanding. This method relies on practice, and requires great effort. It teaches limited communication, but rarely produces fluency. Immersion on the other hand, mimics how young children learn. Surrounded by fluent speakers, one immerses oneself in the language and culture of the foreign country. Listening for key phrases, watching facial expressions, and learning by example until the language permeates one's thinking. Given time, one becomes confident and articulate.

**Think on this:** Learning the language of Grace can feel just as difficult, especially after a lifetime of religious instruction. Though believing in salvation by grace alone, we often refer back to the legalistic interpretations we were taught. Working to understand God's Word, we still fail to become fluent in Grace. What we need is Grace immersion: diving into the writings of our Apostle Paul, to whom the language of Grace was given, and surrounding ourselves with those fluent in its use. As we read, listen, watch, and allow the truth to permeate our thinking, Grace slowly becomes our native tongue.

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