



# Just A Minute with Scripture

## Workers Together with Christ

Whether we are sharing the gospel, reading the Word with prayer, doing home chores, or working a construction job, we can function in our role as a laborer working together with Christ. Paul models this as he teaches the Corinthians to live as who they are in Christ, in love and grace: *“We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”* (II Corinthians 6:1)

This young, carnal Church had challenges in applying the basics of the sanctification doctrines. (I Cor. 3:1-4) While they did respond to the reproof given in I Corinthians, they needed further correction to function properly. Paul wrote II Corinthians 6:3 to remind them to live in accordance with the Truth, so *“the ministry be not blamed.”*

I Corinthians 3:9-10 had already taught them that there was a sowing and reaping to their decisions: *“For we are labourers together with God...But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.”* All saints in the Body are to learn how to live holy, sanctified lives with pleasing labor. These works will abide (last) at the Judgment Seat of Christ, glorify God, and impact us and others both now, and into eternity. (I Tim: 4:8) *“If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.”* (I Cor. 3:14) However, when we live in the flesh, not building wisely on the foundation of Christ, it affects our potential for being used by God, but it also affects eternity: *“If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”* (I Cor. 3:15)

**To Do:** This article is meant to stir up the doctrine in you. Take a moment now to read II Corinthians 6:4-10. Think on these things in order to be approved unto God as His minister in your life situations.

### Articles in This Issue

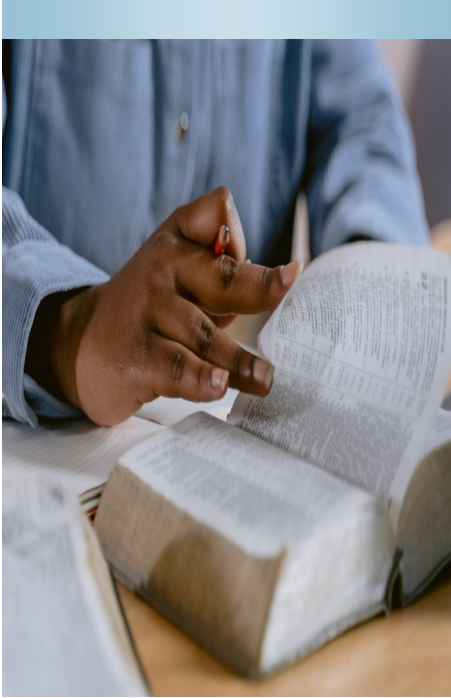
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Feel free to call if you have questions with any articles.

### How God Justifies Us

God doesn’t sweep sin under the rug. He is a righteous God and had to provide a perfect, fully satisfying sacrifice to pay for sin. This provided an opportunity for all His precious offspring (man) to be in heaven.

Our only responsibility in order to receive God’s righteousness is to believe: *“...if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”* (Romans 4:24-25)



## Study Devotional of the Book of Galatians

*Galatians* is a great book to understand God's view of saints who go back under the law. The goal of this devotional is to think about/study the verses to expand understanding and your relationship with the Father; not to get the perfect answer. Enjoy.

**Verses this Month:** *Galatians 3:1*

*"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth crucified among you?"*

1. Describe the reason Paul calls the Galatians "foolish."
2. How were the Galatians "bewitched" and by whom? Look at the con-

text of the chapter for clues.

3. In what way did the Galatians "not obey the Truth?" Do we do this also? If yes, describe how?
4. Explain the statement, "before whose eyes." Whose eyes?
5. How has the Lord Jesus Christ been clearly "crucified among" the Church of Galatia? Did they all see the physical crucifixion of Christ? Or was this referring to knowing and believing that Christ died on the cross for them, while also placing them under grace?
6. What can you learn from this passage in your own life? Describe how you or other saints can be "foolish" and "bewitched." Give examples.

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*"But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God..." II Corinthians 6:4*

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### Questions & Answers With Deborah

#### Question 1: How can the Word work powerfully within me?

In *I Thess. 2:13*, God describes how Scripture "effectually" works: "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because **1)** when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, **2)** ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, **3)** which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

**God's process is in this verse:**

**1)** A saint receives Paul's doctrine, reading and believing the verses. **2)** The Spirit teaches our spirit as we acknowledge and exalt it as Truth, God's own Word. **3)** The Word is formed in our inner man, which works precisely as God intends, by His power and wisdom in and through us in the details of life.

### Our Position in Christ by Erin Young

As believers we are now members of the Body of Christ. This is a very important position that is talked about several times in Paul's epistles. *1 Corinthians 12:27*: "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." *Galatians 3:27-28*: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

In this position, we are now ambassadors for God and His glory while we are here on earth. We are also the living temple of the Holy Spirit. *1 Corinthians 6:19*: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" And we have unmeasurable value in the sight of God. *1 Corinthians 6:20*: "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." *Colossians 3:3*: "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

Paul tells us we will judge angels with our new position as saints. *1 Corinthians 6:3*: "Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?" It's clear to see that once we believe the gospel, not only are we saved for eternity, we also have a new and very highly important position in Christ.



## What Are Our Weapons?

Obviously, we've not been given physical weapons, instead they are spiritual, empowering us to take on adversaries: *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."* (II Cor. 10:4) Most challenges we deal with are in our minds, that is, strongholds (fortified places) in our thinking. As we trust Christ and view things as He does, we're enabled to put off the works of the flesh: *"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."* (II Corinthians 10:5) Our obedience to the Word is sweet revenge against Satan's devices, which deal with "all disobedience" in us. (II Corinthians 10: 6)

We are able to be approved as ministers of God in any situation: *"...in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings."* (II Cor. 6:4-5) Yet, what specific armaments can we use to be successful in this endeavor? The fruit produced by the Word (doctrine) working in us is to be our spiritual weapon.

Paul teaches us this in II Corinthians 6:6-8a as he lists the spiritual qualities that become our armor: *"By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the amour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report..."* This fruit of the Spirit works in our inner man when we believe and put them into action. How can you apply these things in life?

## Questions & Answers

With Deborah (Cont. from p. 2)

### Question 2: What are some general suggestions to improve my marriage?

1. Begin a regular daily time to read together (5-10 min.) to renew your mind in *Romans-Philemon*. (II Cor. 4:16) This puts God at the center. Verses bring natural discussion; purpose to focus on how it applies in life. If your spouse declines, study on your own, keeping future options open. Topics: charity, patience, love, etc.
2. Take turns planning a fun-oriented date night: at home or an evening out. No talk of problems, kids, or work. Prepare a few interactive questions to prompt discussion. (get to know each other on deeper level)
3. Pray before going to bed, especially things you're thankful for regarding your spouse. Invite your spouse to join you!
4. As a couple, set a goal to improve two things in your marriage (review monthly). i.e. listen better; daily show thankfulness to each other; and/or do an unexpected, kind thing each week. If your spouse has no interest, let it be a personal goal.

### Question 3: How can I move forward since losing someone close to me?

It's a healthy, natural process for saints to be sad and grieve when they lose someone. Each of us respond differently. What can help you during this time is to recognize and stay focused upon God's eternal perspective, (I Thess. 4:15-18) knowing you will see them again if they're saved, (trusted Christ's blood). Focus on this future. God can then shut the window of your mind, which is overly ruminating upon the past and your loss. Be mindful of your thoughts: *"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."* (II Corinthians 4:18)

For short intervals, focus on fun times you had with them, then allow God to redirect your thoughts to the present and future. Time on earth is short for all of us, yet we have eternity with our saved loved ones.



**Movin' Slow?**

## What Takes God So Long?

Something to ponder: Is God slow? Why does it take Him so long to answer my prayers and help me know how to solve a problem? Does He even care? Well... absolutely! He is all-knowing and deliberate in what He does, way above us in wisdom, and exceedingly 'for us.' Funny, we know and readily accept that snails do what they do...they move slow. So too we are to acknowledge and then be at peace with God's way: *"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."* (Colossians 3:15)

God's way is to patiently wait as a loving Father would, for us to be ready and use what He has given us to *"grow up into Him:"* *"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"* (Eph. 4:15) We can do this by reading, believing, and then applying the Word to learn understanding. God allows us to take as much time as we need. Do we redeem it? We are to *"awake out of sleep"* to walk by faith: *"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed...But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."* (Romans 13:11,14)

So the question really isn't, "What takes God so long." He has already wondrously given us everything, such as His grace doctrine and the Spirit, our teacher. The real question is, "Why does it take ME so long to trust Him and use what He provided?" We all have unique circumstances, strongholds, and problems, and this is Satan's world for now. Still, we are to purpose to make no provision for the flesh and to respond by trusting and applying His Word in the details of life! When we do as God instructs, suddenly prayers seem to be answered more quickly. God is lovingly waiting. Are you motivated to respond in faith?

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Note: For all Publications the King James Bible is used. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

