

Resurrection Life Now

Live like today is your last day... because you never know, life is fleeting. "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:14)

History reveals people, societies, & empires change; they come & go over time. Only God is eternal and He knows the future. He tells us to wisely prepare, so **THINK!**

God is our real Truth, real Life, & real Hope! Will we wait for a terminal illness, calamity, or the Rapture before we decide it is time to **really** seek God or live 'resurrection life?' Many live as the unsaved; 'for themselves.'

Yet, we are admonished, "...Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Rom 6:1-2) Yes, we are under grace. We have free will to live as we desire, according to this world. Yet, God is clear to say, 'God forbid.' Why? Because **it matters!**

He saved us for a glorious purpose! Shall we ignore the spiritual, eternal treasures we've been given and waste them? We can, but if we choose to grow in grace and live Christ, it will mightily work within us now & in eternity. If you're coasting as a Christian, stop and reflect. Set a new direction; read and reread Romans, slowly and prayerfully. Ask God to help you make His Word 'real.' In time, it will change your heart.

What is resurrection life? Living what you learn, progressing in Paul's epistles! Don't follow others, the course of this world, or what is comfortable to your flesh; step out in faith! "Set your affection on things above, **NOT** on things on the earth." (Col. 3:2)

Move Forward, Live Christ!

Christian Life Coach Support Services

Writers/Editors: Brian & Deborah J. Johnson, Certified Christian Life Coaches
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Go to our new Website: christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com

Just A Minute! With Scripture

Request subscriptions/past issues and forward questions/ideas using contact information above.

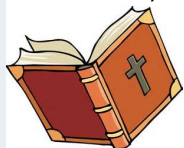
Setting Direction in Life... Yielding God the Controls

Romans 13:12 "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

Should we set a specific course in life or just 'go where the wind blows?' It may help to know God makes plans... "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth...Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof...". (Job 38:4-6) Experience teaches that to attain positive outcomes, we need to plan; whether it's to plant a garden or, most important, be spiritually educated.

There is no wisdom in allowing ourselves to yield to the world, serving Satan and his evil ways. Paul instructs the Corinthians to respond wisely, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." (II Cor. 2:11) God desires for us to yield control to Him as we learn His ways and mature; otherwise, Satan will naturally have the reins and blind us.

So yes, having direction is critical. Maturing to gain 'the mind of Christ' seems to be the goal, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive...". (Ephesians 4:14)



Taking the time to think things out prevents aimless wandering and foolish mistakes. Since there is 'ebb and flow' in situations and priorities, personal strategies will need periodic refinement. Pray, allowing the 'Spirit to dwell in you' & lead. (Rom. 8:9,13) Have a plan!

God has specific desires for saints, "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began..." (II Timothy 1:9) Since life is limited and ever changing, regularly step back to reflect on your direction. Are you using time and resources well, allowing Christ to live in you?

Live what you have 'attained unto': (Philippians 3)

1. **Plan to live godly; keep advancing:** Romans 6:1,11: "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?...reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (What is sin, and do you regularly say 'No' to it?)
2. **Look to yield:** "...if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:13-14)
3. **Decide to live selfless love:** Romans 12:1-2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Do you put others before YOUR flesh?)
4. **'Feed on' and 'put on' the Word:** "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." (Rom. 13:14 - Your 'inward man' has needs!)
5. **Prepare to confidently be 'Christ's shining light':** "...Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind...For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lords." (Rom. 14:5,8) We have such freedom to uniquely live for the Lord Jesus!

THINK ON THESE THINGS AND MAKE A PLAN!

(Look for a spiritual mentor within the Body of Christ to assist, if you need a little help.)



Sowing and Reaping

Christian Life Coach Support Services

Individual, Couple or Group Coaching - In person or phone
Presentations - Women's Retreats - Call (804) 519-1210
Donations Only-As a man purposes in his heart



Paul's Roman Epistle: Designed to Establish the Body of Christ

Romans 6: Student Study Insights

Romans 6:1 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?"

***The goal each month will be to address one successive chapter in the book of Romans and relay a few helpful study insights for application.**

Use to teach others!

Give this to a friend!

Chapter 6 begins a new section of Romans: Our Identity in Christ. Our close association with Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection is designed to change us. Awareness of our new status and its provisions as a believer enable us to live holy. We can shift from functioning as a unsaved man to an 'instrument of holiness' as Christ lives in us. "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." (Romans 6:12)

Choices will affect what will reign, sin or grace. Will we worship 'self' and yield to our flesh, or exalt and yield to God? Decisions become vital, affecting service & worship, but also eternity with Christ. This chapter begins a new way to think. (Explore Romans 6 by using 2 - 3 ideas below.)

1. Preview and Reflect: a) Read through Romans 6 a few times and meditate on what it teaches. Jot down findings, building depth as you study. b) Read with an additional purpose: find 'action words' describing new 'choices.' Pray to do them!

2. Find the Organization: a) Look back to locate the transition verse at the end of the previous chapter. Use it to help identify the purpose of Chapter 6. b) Find the key verse(s) that summarize Romans 6. c) Determine the topics for each subdivision: 1-7, 8-14, 15-20, 21-23. d) Locate key repeating words in this chapter; think about their significance and definitions.

3. Discover Helping Words: a) Know/Knowing: How often were these words used? What should you 'know' and do you? b) For: Why was this term utilized so often? How does it help? Reflect on its meaning, then reread each verse in context.

4. Comparisons/Contrasts: This chapter refers to 'how things were,' comparing it to some 'changes' made once you trust Christ's blood. Read/jot them down. Which way do you live?

5. Study Verse Subdivisions: For example: Verses 1-7: How are you identified with Christ's death/burial/resurrection? To what is the 'Old man' referring? How is it beneficial to know you are 'crucified' with Christ? Create your own questions.

6. See 'Progressive words': a) In Verse 4, the word 'buried' is used, then in Verse 5, Paul chooses the related term 'planted.' How does this unique term teach something new? b) Can you find advancing terms about 'the physical body' in Romans 6?

7. Reflect upon key concepts: The two operating systems law and grace, introduced in Romans 1-5, re-emerge to progress students in Chapter 6. How do they control and affect the fleshly desires, thinking, and decisions of the new Christian?

8. Obtain An Overview: Read this second section, Romans, chapters 6-8. Notice how God helps you view life differently, access His power, &

gain Christ's mind.

Family Bible Study In N. Chesterfield

Brian's Topic: Our New Identity in Christ

Time: Fridays, 7-9 PM Call for info - (804) 519-1210

Study as a Berean!

Are We Somehow Disloyal When We Study Outside Paul's Epistles?

II Timothy 2:7 "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."

ABSOLUTELY NOT! While it's vitally important to recognize Paul's distinctive ministry to the Body of Christ, through his 13 epistles, the whole Bible is needed 'for our learning.' As Paul prepares to depart this life, he instructs Timothy, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." (II Timothy 3:16-17)

Learning about the Bible and obeying the strong command to 'Rightly Divide' can prompt apprehension to study outside of Pauline epistles. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15) Some saints concentrate only on Paul's letters, 'avoiding other books' for fear of making a mistake in applying Scripture. Others can feel disloyal when spending time outside Paul's epistles to examine the Old Testament or Hebrews-Revelations; he's our Apostle, after all. (Romans 11:13)

This belief is unquestionably *contrary* to what Paul himself teaches, hindering personal study and edification. God, through Paul, clearly instructs, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17) and "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Rom. 15:4) Here, he describes the Word of God as 'whatsoever is written' and calls it 'Scripture.' Throughout his epistles, Paul directs saints to consider Old Testament passages, often referring the reader to things written in Time Past. For example, read Romans 1:17/Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 3:10/Psalm 14:3, & Rom. 4:3/Gen. 15:6. Paul is our pattern, even in this way of studying. All of the Bible teaches us!

Misapplication and misunderstanding of the Word 'will' occur, at times. This problem self-corrects as we mature and work through the doctrine, studying and living it, gaining insight and refinement. Learning is a lifelong process, even in Scripture. To help think out passages, pray & ask yourself questions as you study: To whom is this written? Is this passage written to Israel or the Body of Christ? When is the time period? What is the instruction, and is it consistent with what Paul teaches in Romans-Philemon? Be open, push out 'religious thinking,' & allow time for the Holy Spirit to teach you as you are 'led by the Spirit.' *Be patient*, but when needed, consult a spiritual mentor, mighty in the Scriptures, to address questions that don't seem to resolve in time or feel destabilizing. **Purpose to Read All His Word!**

Being 'Led' By the Spirit with Prayer

Definition of 'Led': To be shown, drawn, directed, or guided in order to attain an objective.

What is the Spirit's role? God the Creator planned 'training' epistles as a curriculum for those who desire to learn: "...God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." (I Cor. 2:10) The Spirit desires to teach Romans-Philemon to impact every soul and develop understanding /conviction of heart. Yet it is dependent upon *your* will. Open the Book to become absorbed in the Word, so the Spirit begins to 'dwell' within you. He then will "...quicken your mortal bodies..." enabling you to live 'through your circumstances' so you can exercise the doctrine. (Romans 8:11-13) One of the many 'fruits' in studying Romans is a profound, unwavering confidence in 'God's way' to mature you. Prayerfully yield and know *it will take purpose, time, and energy!*

Being 'Led by the Spirit,' God's Way (God uses analogies to help us understand: 'construction' and 'human development.')

-*God's goal*: To form or build a framework of doctrine, "...to be conformed to the image of his Son..." (Romans 8:29)

-*The process*: It starts with a positive response to God & His Word, trust in Christ's blood sacrifice, His death, burial, and resurrection, then a believer receives the Holy Spirit. Yet, proceed wisely. "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." (Eph. 4:30) The Spirit will lay a sound structure to the building, 'forming Christ' in you, transforming your mind. (Gal. 4:19/Rom. 12:2) Babies can grow to become spiritual adults.

God's design is for believers to acquire the 'form of doctrine' located in the foundational book of Romans. (Romans 6:17) The Spirit guides slowly, helping 'a babe' digest what is taken into the inward man. Scripture uses the idea of 'milk to meat doctrine.' (I Corinthians 3) As you yield, God the Spirit takes the controls, teaching 'the milk,' verse-by-verse, chapter-by-chapter, book-by-book, as you read and pray. Slowly, instruction can uniquely teach, correct misunderstandings, navigate personal strongholds, and fill in missing pieces. It takes time to progress to 'meat doctrine.'

-*Lifelong learning*: As the individual studies by faith, being sensitive to the Spirit's teaching, and yielding in faith, he gains conviction of heart for application. Regular, prayerful reading and meditation are vital in this process. Interconnections are made, tapping into the storehouse of doctrine placed in the inward man, refining understanding as he gives himself wholly to the doctrine and meditation, "... which effectually worketh also in you that believe." (I Thess. 2:13) New insights prompt realignments, building on what is known with new insights *to live it out.*



How to get and stay in the spiritual realm

-*Two-way communication*: You have the great privilege to access God's spiritual, invisible realm, while living in this physical world! How? It is through reading/meditation/prayer. Be genuine and communicate openly through the day with your Heavenly Father; He wants to hear. Ask Him for help; express your thoughts, feelings, and concerns. (Verbalizing prayer, even quietly in the mind, can help you to see God as more REAL & expands awareness of your thoughts.) God spontaneously helps you in 'how to pray' until you mature in this area, making 'intercession.' (Romans 8:26) For two-way communication to occur, remember to also 'listen' to God. His love and wisdom will speak *personally* to you, when you 'open the Scriptures;' believe, yield, and allow the Spirit to lead. ***Are you listening?***

Be 'ready': If you are 'not prepared,' you'll be ill-equipped to handle the spiritual battle and sufferings. A saint needs sound Scripture, with opportunities for application, working it out in the details of life. Paul addresses the Galatians, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you..." (Galatians 4:19) They had 'run well,' living out Paul's teachings, but were hindered by being taught a false gospel, legalism. (Gal. 1:6, 5:7) Patiently, and in selfless love, the Apostle Paul assisted the Galatians to 'get back on track,' to again rely on sound teaching.

Today, God, through the Lord Jesus Christ, desires to prepare saints to become spiritual, adult soldiers. The goal is to live wisely in order to navigate the satanic warfare in this world, while manifesting Christ. First, it requires a 'cooperative will' to live out your faith. Then, live by setting aside your flesh in prayer and study. Choose to live what is learned in willing subjection, even when fears or busyness are all around: it's a walk of faith. God offers a glorious provision. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:14)

God goes with us by His Spirit and the Word functioning as spiritual armour, leading the way through every battle. We can have perfect confidence, fully persuaded that God is 'for us' and our strength. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6:10-11) Each saint is responsible to know 'what' sound doctrine is and continue in these things, prayerfully. Decide to 'push through' challenges: a busy life, fatigue, unfamiliar terms, King James language, new ideas/concepts, or any other struggle. **God is Able & Is Our Wisdom!**

Women's Bible Study In Richmond

When: Every Fri. 2-4pm - Topic: Rom. 9

Call for information - (804) 519-1210

**NEW PRACTICAL 'HOW TO' ARTICLES****HOW TO WRITE A BIBLE TRACT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD**

What motivates these new 'How To' articles is to help you, as dear brothers and sisters, to 'put into action' things addressed in 'Just A Minute' Newsletters. Living the Word isn't always easy, so articles dedicated to 'application' may offer support.

As homeschooling parents, it was motivating to provide opportunities for the kids to write their own tract every couple of years. It taught them to express thoughts clearly in written form, gain experience finding basic verses to share the gospel, and to realize the sadness that many don't know Christ died for them, realizing God's great love. Having them hand out a few tracts in a store while doing errands offered many interesting discussions, exercising their faith. A natural outcome was their desire to communicate the gospel to their friends, in love.

Sharing the Truth as adults is challenging for most. Fear can prevent us from even thinking about it. We may not know where to start, be without experience/confidence, or simply be ashamed. Yet, we are all 'ambassadors.' God "... will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." (II Cor. 5:20/I Tim. 2:4) God's love gift of forgiveness through Christ's blood can motivate our work.

Ideas to write a tract: (Keep the tract short, one quarter of a standard page, but use both sides.)

1. Your audience & purpose: Determine if you're writing to 'the lost' or 'saved.' (Start with writing a tract to share the basic gospel message to the unbeliever. Later, a second tract can focus on a 'new believer' to help them understand their new identity in Christ & how to study the Bible.)
2. Topics: Decide areas you see as important to present the gospel, such as sin, judgment, Christ's love, death/burial/resurrection, & security. Wisely & concisely address your topics.
3. Use Scripture, as the power is 'in the Word.' The book of Romans is highly recommended; it's the foundational book, to the Body of Christ. The first section on justification, Romans 1-5, contains the basics of the gospel. Be sure to check the context of verses used.
4. Additional issues: Include something for your audience 'to do,' like pray to understand, or read Romans 1-5, or think on Romans 3:21-31. As you end the tract, you could add your phone number as a contact for follow-up or invite them to your Bible study or church.
5. Add a Picture: Include a colorful picture to catch interest and reinforce your theme. (A child's tract is priceless when he includes a personal illustration of how he views the gospel.)

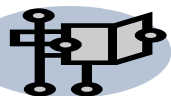
HOW TO PASS OUT A BIBLE TRACT WHEN IT IS SCARY OR INTIMIDATING

Philippians 2:16 "Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain."

If you do not have a ministry or are thinking about starting a new outreach, make a point to regularly pray. God faithfully and powerfully is able to effectually help you by stirring the doctrine within your inward man to motivate and enable you to walk by faith. Fear need not be an overwhelming, show-stopping emotion. Rather, allow it to motivate you to trust God; His power is exceedingly stronger than any fleshly emotion. Push through it: make a decision to set the flesh aside and yield in faith.

We have unique ministries all around: family, friends, co-workers, & even strangers. Passing out tracts can be an easy way to allow God to use you; "...ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life...". (Phil. 2:15-16) You can use someone else's tract or make your own. No complicated words are needed; leave it on a table in a doctor's office or hand it to the store cashier, smile, and say, "Would you read this?"

Maybe you have blinding fear that 'stops your mouth,' as did this writer. Experience proves, if you hand out a tract, it's *usually* taken with a "Thank you." As you feel confident, pray and keep progressing: "Has anyone told you how much God loves you? Could you read this!" or even, "The Bible says, you can be justified freely by His grace! Do you know how?" At times, some have no interest. Graciously accept their refusal with an "OK" and walk away. We all have strongholds that can discourage, or inhibit Christ's life from being manifest. God powerfully enables us to walk by faith in *all situations*. **Pray for this faith attitude!**



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

'On A Personal Side'

Please forward testimonials, praises, personal growth, or feedback about this newsletter, 150 words or less. We will print all we can.

**From Our Readers...**

"The newsletters are so full. I think you are doing such a wonderful job. Things are so clear." (Florida)

"I like what you've come up with on depression. (April) It really helped me yesterday..." (California)

"I got your note and absolutely, it's (Just A Minute) been helpful and wonderful. I look forward to it every month. (Arizona)

"Thank you so much for the information you provide in your articles to me. I find them very useful. Both my church and I are learning a lot from them." (Ghana)

"I really enjoy the (news) letter and love reading it every month. Please keep sending them. It ups my spirits. (Virginia)

Announcements

If you enjoy this ministry, please ask for more copies to share, or forward this email newsletter to others.

Decide to step out in faith and reach out to the lost or encourage a saint to study the foundational book of Romans. This world is changing around us. Let's work together to help others gain hope and find answers from God's Word! Call if we can help!

**Christian Life Coach Support Services
NEW WEBSITE**

Take a few moments to look at our new Website. It provides a description of services, our purpose and beliefs, and the background of our writers-coaches. Newsletters and resource books are posted/available in PDF format. Events and Bible study announcements are also listed. Christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com

Things To Do Be a Berean (Acts 17:11)

1. Make a plan to set spiritual goals.
2. Use a few Romans 6 suggestions for personal study from page 2.
3. Decide to live in the spiritual realm by spending time in the Word, prayer, and meditation.
4. Try to write your own tract to share with others. Begin slowly, praising God!

'Newby's Bridge' Ministry

This new quarterly leaflet will begin next month to reach out to the unsaved, new believers, or individuals who are distanced from the Church and God. It will define terms and explain how the gulf between each 'newby' and God has been 'bridged' by the cross. The handout will be sent with 'Just A Minute' quarterly in July/October/January/April. Feel free to copy and share with others or post in community settings.

Tell us what you think!