

Timothy ... will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

Paul - 1 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

In Christ

Or don't you know that all of those who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death...burial...and resurrection.

Paul - Romans 6:3-5 (NIV)

David Kuykendall Ministries

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Obey the five commands listed below and experience your life "in Christ." Experience the abundant life through living by grace. Notice that each command is either to believe something or to choose to do something.

THE FIVE COMMANDS

Believe

Romans 6:11

Reckon (believe) yourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord

Choose

Romans 6:12

Do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey it in its lusts

Choose

Romans 6:13a

Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin

Choose/Believe

Romans 6:13b

Present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead.

Choose

Romans 6:13c

[Present] your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

We can and should obey each of these commands because Romans 6:3-5 teaches that all believers have been baptized into Jesus and as a result all believers have been baptized into his death, burial, and resurrection.

LIFE IN THE HEAVENLIES

If [Since] then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Colossians 3:1

Believers have been raised with Christ and should seek those things which are above.

Paul writes in Ephesians 2:5-6 that believers have been made alive, raised up and seated together in heavenly places.

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Romans 6:10-11 adds to our understanding of our spiritual resurrection. In verse 10 Paul writes that Jesus is dead to sin and alive to God. Jesus is with God the Father.

Believers are commanded in Romans 6:11 to reckon (believe) themselves to be dead to sin and alive to God. We are to believe that spiritually we are with God our Father.

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is ... the evidence of things not seen." We do not need to see God with our physical eyes to know we are with Him. We know because the Bible tells us we are.

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Moses persevered because, "... he saw Him who is invisible (Hebrews 11:27). With that same quality of

faith we are to believe that spiritually we are with God the Father.

Paul writes in Colossian 3:2:

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Are we, in obedience to this command, to lose interest in things on the earth? Far from it. No one is more interested in things on the earth than God. He is involved in everything a believer does. When we set our minds on things above, we have our best opportunity of understanding our circumstances on earth and of knowing what we are to do next.

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Setting our minds on things above also draws us into a spirit of worship. We can easily imagine the scene of Revelation 4:10-11.

... the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

Revelation 5:11-14 provides another stirring scene of worship:

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the lamb

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who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

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When our faith, which is the evidence of things not seen, permits us to know that we are with our heavenly Father, we know we are in the same atmosphere of loved ones and friends who are with the Father. Consider the vivid declaration of Hebrews 12:22-24.

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of

angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling ...

The words "have come" of verse 22 indicate that we are already in the "heavenly Jerusalem." Then notice who else is there. The words "... the spirits of just men made perfect ..." in verse 23 describe our loved ones and friends who are there.

While we can and should believe we are in the same spiritual atmosphere with loved ones who have gone on before, we should never press this thought to believe we can communicate with them.

On the other hand, experiencing life in the heavenlies may bring us into our closest fellowship with our Savior and our heavenly Father.

Like all other aspects of our life of oneness with Christ, we must continue to grow in our experience of life in the heavenlies.

Devotionals

We are always delighted to receive words of encouragement about our weekly devotionals. We are grateful when you let us know they have been a blessing. We never send one that we do not believe is from the Lord for the particular time we send them.

All of our materials are written with the desire to set forth the New Testament message of living by grace. The need for doing so is great.

Sharing the Word

It is a common experience that when someone is taught the message of living by grace, he asks, "Why have I not heard of this before?" Perhaps no one fully knows the answer to that question. But it is a vivid revelation that the message of living by grace is not a well-known truth among evangelicals.

It is such a hidden message that some who hear it think that the one sharing it has fallen into heresy. However, the message of living by grace screams at us from the pages of the Bible.

Realization that the truths of living by grace are so hidden from many evangelicals is a strong motivation to spread the message.

Some of us whose lives have been radically changed by the message have with much enthusiasm shared it with others. To our disappointment, most of the people we sought to bring into the life of grace were not interested.

The message of grace to the saved must be shared with the saved as the message of grace to the unsaved is shared. It must be Holy Spirit directed.

There are some ready to hear us. As the Spirit directs, let us share the truth with them.

Book orders, newsletter contributions, or tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

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