

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.

VICTORY THROUGH THE VICTOR

Dr. Joe Mosley

Dr. Joe Mosley was a pastor for many years. He was invited to be the Associate Director of Missions for the Dallas Baptist Association. Now, in retirement, he is Director of Student Ministries at Dallas Baptist University.

One of the saddest statements in the Bible is "Demas has forsaken me, because he loved this present world." Paul writes this to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:10). We know little about Demas except that he was a believer, and was on Paul's missionary team. In Colossians 4:14 Paul writes, "Luke, the beloved physician and Demas greet you."

Yes, this is sad but it helped me understand better the words of Jesus in his final hours before the cross, interceding to the Father on behalf of his disciples and all believers with his words, "neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."

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What is meant by the world "world?" The Greek word is "kosmos." Its definition, basically, is "mankind and the human affairs while alienated from God." In English we have a similar word meaning "any orderly system." The word "cosmopolitan" is from that root and is defined as "not being bound by anything including religious beliefs." That is about what anyone would guess the "world" to be.

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An excellent example of a person of the world is the rich young ruler who came to Jesus "but went away sorrowful, because he had great wealth." Jesus then said, "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter Heaven."

In the parable of the sower recorded in Matthew chapter 13, Jesus explained the one who received the word among the thorns with the words:

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. Matthew 13:22

Jesus also said the Church of Laodicea had pushed Him out of their lives. He said they were too comfortable. He quoted them as saying, "we are increased with possessions and have need of nothing."

John, in his first letter, targets the world and approaches it from several angles. He, rather abruptly, says, "if anyone loves the world, the love of the

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Father is not in him.” “All that is in the world, ‘the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the boastful pride of life is from the world.’ Sounds like Adam and Eve and Satan in the Garden—First, Satan got Eve’s attention on the ‘forbidden fruit.’ “Eve saw that the fruit was good for food and a delight to the eyes—and (most of all) would make her wise.” And their fall has reverberated throughout time.

So, we see the world, as its ‘Ruler/Prince’ wields it, blocking a young man from coming to Jesus; choking off the potential fruitful Christian life; and causing indifference toward Jesus, which led to closing Him out.

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Back to that last night before the Cross, burial and resurrection of Jesus. He also said, “In the world you shall have tribulation, but take courage, I have overcome the world.” The Victor has stepped in. But, one might think, to oneself, “sure, He, the Son of God, the creator, the King of Kings has overcome the world, but I am just me. How can I overcome the world?” Good question. Hebrews 2:17-18 says:

“He, Jesus, had to be made like(us) for since He Himself was tempted, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.”

It gets better! That same evening, Jesus spent most of the time talking about His imminent departure saying, “let not your heart be troubled—in my Father’s house there is much room—I will not leave you comfortless—and you are in Me and I in you.”

That evening He also addressed the issue of our inability to win the war against the world and its prince. In other words, He was saying, “There’s no way you can win without Me” (author’s translation). Scripture actually quotes Jesus saying, “Without me, you can do nothing. Abide in me and I in you” (John 15:4).

For me, the most dramatic, if not surprising conversion experience was my own. I was a Junior in High school. I recall the following morning, awaking and realizing it was real. *It was like —it doesn’t get any better than this.*

Later, I came across 2 Corinthians 5:17, “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” I was shocked to see myself in that.

From that point there was no turning back. A few years later, I baptized a new believer, and I, only a seminarian, borrowed the words, “we are buried with Christ and raised to walk in newness of life.” For a few years I quoted that, never even looking for it in scripture. Still a fledgling, I did locate Romans 6.

It was like that ‘morning after’ my conversion. Again, I saw the depth and height, of what God did for me. I died to sin, I was buried with Him, I was raised to a new life, I was alive unto God!

It was like that ‘morning after’ my conversion. Again, I saw the depth and height, of what God did for me. I died to sin, I was buried with Him, I was raised to a new life.

Years later I had reached a plateau as a pastor—or maybe a ‘brick wall.’ Some first time difficulties, even outright failures in the ministry, caused much needed humbling. One of the tentacles of ‘the world’ is “the pride of life.” I credited a ‘successful’ life of pastoring to God blessing my efforts. That really means, I gave myself the credit.

On a day, reading in Ephesians 6, a very short verse (10) reads, “Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.”—not strong in me, and in my might, but His. But more of something was needed. That was revealed in discovering Jesus words, “I and the Father will come to you and make our abode with you—that they may all be one—I in them and thou in me” (John 14:23, 17:23).

Actually the ‘oneness’ aspect was not grasped fully, as was His ‘making my body His home.’ It was yet a few years later, at a Dallas Baptist Pastor’s meeting, that David Kuykendall had been invited to teach “Our Oneness With Christ.” He had hardly begun and I heard him say, “I had to deal with my ‘know-it-all attitude.’” I was glued from that statement on. It’s not about me it’s about Him—His glory.

Thus, Victory over the ‘world’ is because the Victor lives within us.

We bring pleasure to Him, our Victor, and find our focus to be on Him, as we daily reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to God; refusing to allow sin to capture our bodies; not yielding our bodies to be instruments of ‘unrighteousness’, but living as alive from the dead, and offering our bodies anew to Him (Romans 6:11-13).

MINISTRY NEWS

God continues to expand our living by grace ministry. We now have books in over 40 countries. In recent months, doors have opened for us to have our abridged version of “Our Oneness With Christ” translated and printed in a number of other languages. In time, we will expand this aspect of our work.

We also now have copies of our abridged version of “Oneness” printed in English. We will be happy to supply you with copies of this 54 page version of the message of our oneness with Christ.

Our board members and others who understand the life of grace are having opportunities to share the message. We are fully confident that it is the Lord working through them for the advancement of this message.

We are grateful for your gifts that make it possible for us to send out books as gifts. We also thank you for your prayers.

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

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