

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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Obeys 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.

IN ALL THINGS GIVE THANKS

David Kuykendall

Thanking God for His blessings is one of the most common aspects of our prayer lives. God blesses us so much that throughout each day we are thanking Him. We thank Him in silence if others are around when something good happens. When we are alone, we thank Him out loud.

When we sing the words "Count your many blessings name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done" we become aware of the continual flow of good things from our good God. Four times in Psalm 107, the Psalmist writes, "Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness." Two times in Psalms 118, the Psalmist writes, "Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good." The same message is throughout the Psalms.

During this Thanksgiving season, we are especially conscious of the continual flow of good things our good God sends our way.

First Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." This sounds like Paul may be meaning something like, "In spite of all things give God thanks." That is, we are to thank God even though all that comes our way does not seem to be good.

However, verses like Romans 8:28 show that He has in mind that we give thanks for all of our circumstances. The verse reads: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Even when something bad happens, something good is on the way.

Also, in Philippians 4:6-7, Paul writes, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Notice the words "with thanksgiving."

Those who practice giving thanks for all things—good and bad—have been greatly blessed by the

Lord. Thanking God for the problems that we are going through brings peace. We know that something good is going to come out of the bad.

On the first day of a revival as the host pastor and visiting pastor were visiting to invite people to the revival, the host pastor said: "One day this week I want us to visit a member of our church who has said she would never come back to church." Her attitude about church was prompted by a terrible tragedy in her family two weeks before the revival.

Later in the day, the host pastor stopped in front of a house and said to the guest pastor, "This is where the lady lives who has said that she will not come back to church." She welcomed them into her house. For the next 30 or 45 minutes, she talked about the tragic things that had happened to her through the years. The guest pastor just listened with a sense of deep grief for the lady without saying a word.

The guest pastor had learned within the last year that he should thank the Lord for his burdens. He had shared with his congregation how it had been such a blessing. Members of his congregation began to do the same thing and testified of how they had been blessed.

Finally, the Lord impressed him to talk to the lady about 1 Thessalonians 5:18. He told her that he had learned that Paul meant thanking God for the good things and the bad things. He gave his testimony of how God had blessed him for doing that. He also told of members of his church who had received the message, obeyed it, and had been blessed. He told her that God would bless her if she would thank Him for her burdens.

The guest pastor looked for her at the evening service. She did not come. On Tuesday evening she was in the service. She missed only one other service during the week.

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Saturday evening during the service the visiting pastor told something that was funny. When the people laughed, he noticed that she laughed as big as anyone in the congregation. The guest pastor prayed silently, "Father, I did not know that you could do that." In the last service of the revival on Sunday evening, the pastor of the church had a testimony time. Amazingly, she stood up and said, "I have learned this week that I can thank God for my burdens." Through the years she has remained a faithful member of that church.

You might say, "I would certainly love to thank God for all things whether good or bad, but I just don't know if I could ever do it." There is a way for God to make it possible for you to do it.

When you received Jesus as Lord and Savior, many things happened to you. Some of them you know. It is possible that other things happened that you have never discovered.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Paul writes that when we were saved, we were baptized into Jesus by the Holy Spirit. We are one with Christ. Verse 13 adds that we were made to drink of the Holy Spirit. That is, the Holy Spirit came to live in us when we were saved.

These two verses, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, explain what Paul meant in Romans 6:3-5. There he writes: "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection." When you were saved, you were spiritually crucified, buried, and resurrected.

Romans 6:6 says that when we were saved, our old man was crucified. Our old man is the type of person we became when we were born into the race of Adam. We were born sinners—born with a sin nature. The New Testament calls this sin nature "flesh." Because our old man was crucified when we became Christians, we can experience that crucifixion and put the flesh out of power. We are told how to experience the crucifixion of our old man in Romans 6:11-13.

Galatians 5:17 teaches: "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish." Paul means here that our flesh seeks to be in control of our lives and the Holy Spirit seeks to be in control of our lives. When we experience the crucifixion of our old man by following the guidance of Romans 6:11-13, the flesh is put out of power and no longer resists the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We obey that command by experiencing the crucifixion of our old man.

Following the command to be filled with the Spirit, Paul lists three things that will result from the filling. The second one is expressed in Ephesians 5:20. This verse says, "... giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

That is, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit and He is in control of our lives, He will lead us and enable us to give God thanks always for all things. Then we will realize the blessings that come from obeying the words in 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

This Thanksgiving season could be the beginning of a new way for you to thank God that will bring abundant blessings.

If, in your mind, thanking the Lord for all things still seems impossible, read a statement from the one who encouraged us to do it—the Apostle Paul. In 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 he writes:

... in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

THE MINISTRY CONTINUES TO EXPAND

In addition to having books in every state in the USA, we now have books in at least 55 other nations around the world.

Recently, 5,000 copies of a translation into Arabic of our abridged version of "Oneness" were printed by a seminary in Lebanon. This is one of a group of seminaries in the Middle East. Each of these seminaries has received copies of the books for their students.

A few months ago, we sent money to a nation where we already had thousands of books—some in English and others in translations into languages of that nation. The money was for the reprinting of books in two different languages spoken in that nation. We have been notified that 10,000 copies have been printed in each of those languages.

We now estimate that we have at least 200,000 books in circulation throughout the United States and in the other nations.

We do not sell our books. We distribute them as gifts. We can do this because of gifts we receive from those who have been blessed by this ministry. We have never asked for money, but we joyfully receive gifts for the ministry.

NEW BOOK SOON AVAILABLE

The title of the book is "Living the New Covenant." This book is important for two reasons. First, not a lot has been written about the New Covenant.

Second, many believers are living the Old Covenant way. This is a tragedy because they are missing out on living the New Covenant way which brings abundant blessings. We live the New Covenant way when we live out our oneness with Christ.

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

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