

The Christian's Success

Sunday Morning, August 18, 2013

Thesis:

The Christian's Success is not Measured by Wordly Standards!

Introduction:

Jesus' life appeared ordinary until His ministry revealed who He was/is.

Our lives may seem ordinary until people see Christ in us!
Likewise...

I. Our Lives are Hid in Christ **(Colossians 3:3)**

For you have died, and your life is hidden with the Messiah in God.

The more we die to our own sinful nature and worldly aspirations, the more we will discover the life God intends for us to live.

Old Life -

(Colossians 3: 5 – 11)

5 Therefore, put to death what belongs to your worldly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.

6 Because of these, God's wrath comes on the disobedient,
7 and you once walked in these things when you were living in them.

8 But now you must also put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices

10 and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator.

11 In Christ there is not Greek & Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.

New Life -

(Colossians 3: 12 – 17)

12 Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,
13 accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive.

14 Above all, put on love—the perfect bond of unity.

15 And let the peace of the Messiah, to which you were also called in one body, control your hearts. Be thankful.

16 Let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching & admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, & spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God.

17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

(Philippians 1:20)

My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all boldness, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

II. The "glory" God has Instored for Us Will Not Be Revealed to Us in This Life...So Don't Look For It Here!

(Romans 8: 12 – 17)

12 So then, brothers, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh,

13 for if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 All those led by God's Spirit are God's sons.

15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!"

16 The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children,

17 and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ— seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

(Romans 8: 5 – 8)

5 For those who live according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit.

6 For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace.

7 For the mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit itself to God's law, for it is unable to do so.

8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

[What Do You Think About?](#)

III. Christian "Success" is Not Measured By Worldly Standards (Revelation 3:1)

"Write to the angel of the church in Sardis: "The One who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars says: I know your works; you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead.

(Revelation 3: 14 – 18)

14 "Write to the angel of the church in Laodicea:

"The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Originator of God's creation says:

15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot.

16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of My mouth.

17 Because you say, 'I'm rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,' and you don't know that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked,

18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire so that you may be rich, white clothes so that you may be dressed and your shameful nakedness not be exposed, and ointment to spread on your eyes so that you may see.

[We confuse success and accomplishments for spiritual maturity and success.](#)

[Keep Jesus "Centered" in Our Lives.
Focus on Him and His Ways.](#)

Conclusion:

[The Christian's Success is Not Found in Great Accomplishments, but it is Defined as One Who Dies to themselves that they might live life in Christ!](#)