

# **The Christian Life and How It Is To Be Lived**

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; **yet not I, but Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: **yet not I, but the grace of God** which was with me.” (1 Corinthians 15:10)

Oh to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Praise the Saviour ye who know Him! Who can tell how much  
we owe Him! Gladly let us render to Him all we are and have!

It is essential that every believer examine the Scriptures diligently to see what God teaches concerning the Christian life and how it is to be lived.

## **1) The Christian life cannot be lived by one who is not a Christian.**

To live the Christian life, you must have God's **life**: “He that hath the Son of God hath life” (1 John 5:12). “He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life” (John 6:47). You cannot live the Christian

life unless you are born again (John 3:1-7). No one who is “in the flesh” (unsaved) can please God (Rom. 8:8). Without faith it is impossible to please Him (Heb. 11:6). Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour? Have you received God's free gift of eternal life (Rom. 6:23)? Trying to live the Christian life without Christ is like trying to swim without water or trying to breathe without air. It is like trying to drive your car without gasoline. It is totally impossible.

## **2) To live the Christian life, you must realize you can't.**

The first thing you must realize as a believer in Christ is that you cannot live the Christian life. Even Paul himself said, “How to perform that which is good, I find not” (Rom. 7:18). The Lord Jesus said, “**Without Me, ye can do nothing**” (John 15:5). In other words, we cannot live the Christian life apart from Jesus Christ. We need His enabling, His grace, His help, His strength, His wisdom and His mighty working in our lives. He can do great things in us as we rely on Him: “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:12).

## **3) The Christian life is knowing, loving and pleasing a Person.**

Meditate on Philippians 1:20-23; 3:7-10. What is the essence of the Christian life? Is it following a set of rules? Is it all about reading the Bible, praying and witnessing? Is it primarily about avoiding the wrong and choosing the right? Sometimes it is instructive to think about what certain verses do not say. Consider the following (and be sure to look up what these verses really say): “For to me to live is reading my Bible, memorizing Scripture, praying at least 15 minutes daily and witnessing at every opportunity” (Phil. 1:21). “I count all things but loss for the excellency of trying to guard my tongue, trying to overcome my bad habits and trying to have my daily devotions” (Phil. 3:8).

“That I may avoid evil as much as possible and force myself to witness to others daily” (Phil. 3:10). “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy daily Bible reading schedule and thou hast broken thy New Year’s resolutions and thou has failed to keep the Ten Commandments” (Rev. 2:4). “Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may watch our temper, keep following our strict diet, get enough rest, and not watch too many bad TV shows” (2 Cor. 5:9).

The real emphasis of the above verses is upon knowing, loving and pleasing Jesus Christ. Consider also Colossians 1:9-12: we are to know His will, walk with Him, please Him, increase in His knowledge, be strengthened by Him, be joyful in Him and thank Him. This emphasis will wonderfully change **prayer** (talking to the Person I love). It will change **Bible study** (getting to know this Person better). It will change **witnessing** (introducing others to the One I adore). Am I working at a religion or am I walking with a Person? He’s my sovereign Master, my Friend, my ever-present Companion. O how I love Him!

#### **4) The Christian life involves a love relationship, not a legal relationship.**

Read Romans 7:1-6 carefully. “Ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to Him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God” (Rom. 7:4). The believer is married to Jesus Christ. It is a **love relationship**, not a **law relationship**. We are joined to Christ in an intimate union, making possible a vibrant communion with the One who loved us and gave Himself for us. Christianity is not a religion; it is a relationship with a Person (John 17:3).

Many think of Christianity only in a legalistic way, focusing on certain commands we must obey and certain rules and duties that we must perform. While there are certainly **do’s and don’ts**

involved in the Christian life, there is a much higher perspective. Think of the marriage relationship. There are many things the husband must do, and other things he should not do. There are duties to perform, responsibilities to fulfill and obligations to meet. But why does he do all these things? He does them because he has decided to love a person, namely his wife. So too, the wife does many things: prepares meals, washes dishes, cleans the floor, washes the clothes, irons the clothes, etc. Why does she perform these duties? Is it because her husband has given her a long list of **thou shalt’s** and **thou shalt not’s**? Hopefully not. She does these things willingly and joyfully because she is responding to the love of her husband.

The marriage relationship is based on love, not law. Love for Christ should motivate the believer: “For the love of Christ constraineth us” (2 Cor. 5:14). We do what we do because we want to please the Lover of our soul. He is the reason and motivation for all that we do!

#### **5) We must understand who we are in Christ.**

When you were saved, God did a marvelous work and totally changed your identity. He brought you from the realm of being “in Adam” to a new realm of being “in Christ.” You are no longer a child of the devil, but a child of God (John 8:44; 1 John 3:10; John 1:12). You are no longer a slave to sin, but you are now a slave to God, your new Owner (Rom. 6:17-22; 1 Cor. 6:19-20). You are no longer a child of the darkness, but you are a child of the light (Eph. 5:8). You were once dead in your sins and separated from the life of God (Eph. 2:1-3; Eph. 4:18), but now you are dead to sin and alive unto God (Rom. 6:11).

We have a wonderful new position in Christ, and it is so important that the believer sees himself the way God sees him. We need to realize who we are in Christ and then act and live accordingly.

One example of this is found in Ephesians 5:8—"For ye were once darkness, but now ye are light in the Lord: walk as children of light." When we were unsaved we were children of darkness, but now we are children of light, and thus we are to walk and conduct ourselves as children of light. If you see yourself as a pauper, you will live a certain way, but if you see yourself as a prince or princess (a child of the King), it will affect your conduct.

The Middletown Bible Church has two very important studies that would help along these lines: 1) *215 Things That Happened to Me the Moment I Was Saved.* 2) *The Difference Between a Believer's Standing and State.*

## 6) **The Christian owes everything to the grace of God!**

"That no flesh should glory in His presence." (1 Cor. 1:29)

"But **by the grace of God I am what I am:** and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." (1 Cor. 15:10)

"For **by grace** are ye saved through faith...For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them....For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." (Eph. 2:8-10; Gal. 6:15-16)

"What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but **under grace?** God forbid." (Rom. 6:15; see verse 14)

"For **the grace of God** that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **Teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." (Tit. 2:11-12)

"And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you;** that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." (2 Cor. 9:8)

"**His grace is sufficient** for thee." (2 Cor. 12:9)

"Thou therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**" (2 Tim. 2:1)

"Paul and Barnabas...persuaded them to **continue in the grace of God.**" (Acts 13:43--we are not just saved by grace but we must continue in grace. The Christian life must continue as it commenced.)

"That as sin hath reigned unto death, **even so might grace reign** through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 5:21)

"We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also **that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.**" (2 Cor. 6:1)

"I do not frustrate the grace of God." (Gal. 2:21; see Gal. 5:4 and Heb. 12:15)

"But grow **in grace.**" (2 Pet. 3:18)

Grace means that God gets all the credit! It is His salvation! It is His **life!** It is His working! It is His power! To God be the glory! Worthy is the Lamb! May Christ be magnified in our bodies (Phil. 1:20)! May the beauty of the Lord God rest upon us! May Christ be formed in us (Gal. 4:19)! May His fruit be to His glory (Phil. 1:11)! May we be trophies of His grace (Eph. 2:7)! **Oh to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!** "By the grace of God I am what I am!" (1 Cor. 15:10). "That, according as it is written, He that glorieth (boasteth), let him glory (boast) in the Lord!" (1 Cor. 1:31)

## 7) **The Christian life is to continue just as it commenced.**

Understanding how we got saved will help us to understand how to live the Christian life. We were saved by faith, and we must

live the Christian life by faith. We trusted the Lord for our salvation, and we must also trust the Lord for His strength and His power to live the Christian life. We cannot do it on our own. God's grace enabled us to get saved (Eph. 2:8-9) and God's grace can enable us to live a life pleasing to God (1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 9:8).

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk ye in Him.**” (Col. 2:6)

“For **we walk by faith**, not by sight.” (2 Cor. 5:7)

“Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? **having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?**” (Gal. 3:2-3)

“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith...Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?” (Gal. 5:5-7)

“Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith.” (Heb. 12:1-2)

## **8) God's Word, the Bible, is all-important.**

God's Word was vitally important in your salvation:

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Rom. 10:17)

“In whom [Jesus] ye trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.” (Eph. 1:13)

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.” (1 Peter 1:23)

So also the Bible, the Word of God, is vital if a believer is to grow in the Lord and live a life pleasing to God:

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God.” (Matt. 4:4)

“O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.” (Psalm 119:97; see also Joshua 1:8)

“If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7)

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another.” (Col. 3:16)

“Desire the sincere (pure) milk of the Word that ye may grow thereby.” (1 Pet. 2:2)

Find a believer who is devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, serving Him with joy, sharing Christ with others, growing in Christ-likeness, and you will find a believer whose mind and heart is saturated with God's Word. Sanctification (growth in holiness) cannot come apart from God's Word: “Sanctify them through Thy Truth: **Thy Word is truth**” (John 17:17).

## **9) Prayer is vital.**

Prayer is to the soul as breathing is to the body. It is vital to our relationship with the Lord.

Years ago an aged Scot, lying on his deathbed, with his loved ones gathered round him, whispered, “Could these walls speak they would tell you what sweet communion I have had here with my God.” Dear friend, if the walls of your room could speak, what would they say?

No Christian is greater than his prayer life. Seven days without prayer makes one weak. The church has many organizers, but few agonizers (that is, those who wrestle in prayer—Col. 4:12); many who pay, but few who pray; many resters, but few wrestlers; many who are enterprising, but few who are interceding. The secret of praying is praying in secret (Matt. 6:5-8). A worldly Christian will stop praying and a praying Christian will stop worldliness. People who do not come apart a while (Mark 6:31) will soon come apart. Tithes may build a church, but tears will give it life (Acts 20:19-31). Brethren, let us pray (James 5:16; Eph. 6:18).

### Reasons for Unanswered Prayers

Consider these clear statements from God's Word as to why the prayers of His children may go unanswered:

1) Refusal to deal with sin in my life: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." (Psalm 66:18) My heart must be right for my prayer life to be right.

2) Failure to pray: "Ask, and it shall be given you." (Matt. 7:7) "Ye have not, because ye ask not." (James 4:2)

3) Praying based on a sinful desire or a wrong motive: "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." (James 4:3) Any request must be subject to the glory of God—nothing less and nothing else.

4) Failure to ask according to God's will: "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us" (1 John 5:14). What I want and long for may not be what God wants.

5) Disobedience to God's commands and failure to please Him: "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight" (1 John 3:22).

6) Failure to dwell in Christ experientially by abiding in the Vine who is the Source of our life: "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7).

7) Failure to properly fulfill my role in the home in light of God's order and clear instructions: "Ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Pet. 3:7).

### 10) The filling of the Spirit is essential.

It is fascinating to study the Gospel accounts of the temptation of Christ. All of us will face Satanic attacks as we seek to live for Christ. We need to follow our Lord's pattern for gaining victory over the evil one. The Lord Jesus, in His victory over Satan, provided a wonderful demonstration that man, **walking in the Spirit**, using and relying upon the Word of God, is more than a match for the devil! Notice how the Spirit of God was involved in each of the accounts of the temptation: 1) Our Lord was led by the Spirit (Matt. 4:1). 2) Our Lord was "driven" by the Spirit (Mark 1:12). 3) Our Lord was filled with the Spirit and led by the Spirit (Luke 4:4).

How, then, can a believer be filled with the Spirit? Consider the following:

All those who **believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ **receive** the Holy Spirit of God (John 7:37-39). This blessed and divine Person dwells within every born again believer (1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:9). The living God wants to powerfully work in the submissive believer to produce Christ-likeness (see Philippians 2:13):

### The Key Command:

## **“Be (continuously) filled with the Spirit”**

(Ephesians 5:18)

Paraphrase: Do not be under the influence of alcohol, but be under the blessed influence and control of the God who indwells you!

Surgeon’s glove illustration: The surgeon wants to fill the glove and put his hand in it to accomplish a wonderful work that only the surgeon can do. But the glove must meet certain conditions or else the surgeon cannot use it.

There are **three conditions** that must be met in order to be filled with the Spirit:

### Condition #1

## **“Grieve not the Holy Spirit”**

(Ephesians 4:30)

Meaning: Do not allow sin to go unconfessed, thus causing sorrow and grief to the Holy One who indwells you. He refuses to fill and use an unclean vessel.

Key Word: CONFESS (1 John 1:9--acknowledge, don’t hide, don’t cover up but face up, be honest before God, see sin as God does, hate sin as God does, admit to it).

Surgeon’s glove illustration: Obviously a surgeon would refuse to use a glove that is dirty. When he begins to do his work, he always uses a clean glove.

Personal questions: Am I clean and fit for the Master’s use? Is there any unconfessed sin in my life (Psalm 139:23-24)?

Passages to Study: 1 John 1:5-10; John 13:4-11; James 4:8-10; Psalm 51 and Psalm 32.

### Condition #2

## **“Quench not the Spirit”**

(1 Thessalonians 5:19)

Meaning: Do not be hindering or limiting God’s mighty working in your life by saying “**no**” to God or by being unwilling to do His will.

Key Word: YIELD (saying **yes** to God, a complete willingness to do God’s will—whatever, however, whenever; saying “**no**” to self and letting God have His way and His sway, presenting myself to God and placing myself at His disposal.

Surgeon’s glove illustration: This would be like the surgeon’s glove clinging on to a chair or to some other object while refusing to allow the surgeon to put his hand into it (refusing to be used). The surgeon says, “Just let me put my hand into you so that I can do a marvellous work!” But the glove refuses!

Personal Questions: Am I willing to do God’s will no matter what it is or am I insistent on having my own way and doing what pleases Me? See Luke 22:42 and Romans 6:13.

### Condition #3

## **“Walk in (by) the Spirit”**

(Galations 5:16)

Meaning: Constantly be walking or living by the power of God the Holy Spirit who dwells within.

Keyword: DEPEND (rely, trust, cling to, have God as your sufficiency)

Surgeon’s glove illustration: Says the glove to the surgeon, “I don’t need you at all! I’ll do this operation all by myself!” How foolish! What the glove should say is this: “I can do nothing apart

from the hand of the surgeon which can fill me and use me!” (see John 15:5)

Personal questions: Am I depending on the Lord for help and strength moment my moment, or am I struggling in my own strength and trying to accomplish things myself? Am I God-conscious and God-dependent? See Ephesians 6:10; Phil. 4:13; John 15:1-7; etc.

### **The Blessed Result of the Spirit’s Filling**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control. (Gal.5:22-23)

“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:11)

“For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness, and truth.” (Ephesians 5:9)

“Out of his belly (innermost being) shall flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:38)

Ye shall “be endued with power from on high. . .ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you.” (Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8)

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.” (Romans 15:13)

“And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 13:52)

## **11) A healthy believer must have a proper estimation of himself.**

When we were saved, we had to see ourselves as we really are. Each person must recognize himself as a lost, hell-deserving, wretched sinner who deserves nothing but God’s wrath. Once we became saved, it is still crucial that we have a right view of ourselves. The pride of our heart can easily deceive us into thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. Our pride should be in the Lord (proud of Him!), ever boasting about what a great Saviour we have! May we not glory or boast in ourselves, but only in our worthy Saviour (Gal. 6:14; Psalm 34:2).

Consider the importance of a right estimation of one’s self:

“For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.” (Galatians 6:3)

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Rom. 12:3)

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” (Phil. 2:3)

“He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 3:30)

Our purpose in life is to exalt and magnify and glorify the Lord (1 Cor. 10:31; Phil. 1:20-21).

*Less of me and more of Jesus;  
Less of self, O Lord I pray;  
Till I am so lost in Jesus  
That I live like Him each day!*

The hymnwriter, A. A. Whiddington, stated it this way:

Not I, but Christ be honored, loved, exalted,  
Not I, but Christ be seen, be known and heard;  
Not I, but Christ in every look and action,  
Not I, but Christ in every thought and word.

Oh, to be saved from myself, dear Lord,  
Oh, to be lost in Thee,  
Oh, that it may be no more I,  
But Christ that lives in me.

**12) The Christian life is a daily battle.  
Don't expect an easy journey. Yet God  
will not lead you where His grace  
cannot keep you.**

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation [pressure, trouble]: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

“Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22)

“Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.” (1 John 3:13)

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.” (1 Peter 4:12)

The Christian life is not a journey on flowery beds of ease! There are trials and difficulties at every turn. Yet, the battle is the

Lord's, and we are overcomers and “more than conquerors” through Him (1 John 5:4-5; John 16:33; Rom. 8:37).

In earlier generations the most popular book next to the Bible was *Pilgrim's Progress*. The author, John Bunyan, masterfully shows the dangers and temptations and difficulties that await all believers along our pilgrim pathway. It is valuable reading for every believer.

**13) Fight the good fight of faith.**

“Fight the good fight of faith.” (1 Tim. 6:12)

“War a good warfare.” (1 Tim. 1:18)

The Christian life may be compared to what takes place in the human body. Within our physical being, a constant battle is being fought. White blood cells are our germ-fighting army. When germs appear, white blood cells have a variety of special tactics they can deploy to knock out the invaders. In some cases, they produce protective antibodies to overpower the germs. Other times, white blood cells surround and devour the bacteria. The war is continual; the battle always rages. When the white blood cells are winning, we enjoy health. When the virus or bacteria is winning, we become weak and sick.

So also in the spiritual realm: the battle is constant and there is no end to the spiritual warfare. Our enemies—the world, the flesh and the devil—are relentless and indefatigable. There is never any cease fire or peace treaty with such foes. These enemies must be defeated in God's way, in God's power, knowing that we are weak, but the battle is the Lord's.

➔ **The World:** “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2). “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,



are changed into the same image from glory to glory” (2 Cor. 3:18).

➔ **The Flesh:** “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts” (Gal. 5:24). “We are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Rom. 8:12-13).

➔ **The Devil:** “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). “Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

Remember, it is a fight **of faith**. Trusting a great God and believing His Word is so vital for daily victory. “This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4).

## **14) Give yourself a frequent heart exam.**

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23). The heart is the key. The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart. Is your heart right with God?

May the Holy Spirit of God examine us and cause us to see the true state of our hearts. Here are some key questions to ask:

1) 1 Chronicles 28:9—Whom does your heart serve? And do you serve Him with whole-hearted devotion? (Not half-heartedly)

2) Psalm 19:8—What causes your heart to rejoice? What brings joy to your heart? What does your heart delight in?

3) Psalm 28:7—Is your heart trusting in a great God? If so, you will be greatly helped!

4) Psalm 51:10—How clean or pure is your heart? The Lord is so eager to restore you to fellowship. “Nothing between my soul and the Saviour.” Are you harboring any unconfessed sin? See 1 John 1:9 and Psalm 51.

5) Psalm 51:17. Is your heart broken and contrite (deeply grieved over sins committed)?

6) Psalm 95:8—How soft is your heart?

7) Psalm 119:11—What do you have treasured up in your heart? Does God’s Word find its home in your heart?

8) Matthew 6:21—What does your heart treasure? What does your heart find most valuable?

9) Matthew 22:37—What does your heart love more than anything else? Who is the greatest love of your life? Who is your first love (Rev. 2:4)

10) Ephesians 5:19—What kind of melody is found in your heart? What song does your heart sing? The song of fools (Eccl. 7:5) or the praise of the One who is altogether lovely?

## **15) Keep looking unto Jesus.**

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. **Looking unto Jesus** the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

We all remember what happened to Peter when he got his eyes off of the Lord (Matthew 15:22-33). We should live gazing at God and only glancing at our circumstances. Sadly, many believers gaze at their circumstances and only glance at God.

When we were saved, we were saved by **looking**:

“**Look unto Me**, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 45:22).

The Israelites who **looked** at the bronze serpent lifted up on the pole were saved (Numbers 21:8-9), and “as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:14-15).

“And this is the will of Him that sent me, that every one **which seeth the Son**, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life” (John 6:40). By faith we saw Christ and understood what He had done for us!

***Just as we were saved by looking unto Jesus, so we must live the Christian life in the same way.***

Theodore Monod, the Frenchman, has written a masterful booklet entitled, *Looking Unto Jesus*, in which he explains what our life focus should be. This booklet is highly recommended and is available from the Middletown Bible Church.

### **Recommended Reading.**

1. *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan is a wonderful allegory on the trials and dangers and difficulties that face every believer on our journey to the celestial city and how victory can be achieved.

2. *The Mackintosh Treasury—Miscellaneous Writings* by C. H. Mackintosh, contains numerous articles on all aspects of practical, Biblical truths which can be of great help to the believer who desires to know God's will and God's ways.
3. *George Müller of Bristol* by Arthur T. Pierson is probably the best biography of this remarkable man. It shows the importance of believing prayer and a life lived by faith.
4. *The Battle is the Lord's—Studies in Practical Holiness* by David Dunlap is an excellent volume on how to live a life that is set apart for God's service.
5. *Practical Religion* by J. C. Ryle. This volume covers very practical subjects such as prayer, Bible reading, the Lord's Table (Communion), zeal, happiness, sickness, the family of God, the home, etc. It is spiritual instruction for right where we live.
5. *Kept for the Master's Use* by Francis Ridley Havergal is a very practical volume on surrendering our body to God and presenting our bodily members as instruments of righteousness unto God. It is based on the well-known hymn, *Take My Life and Let It Be, Consecrated Lord to Thee*.
6. *Humility* by Andrew Murray is a convicting but necessary treatise on the importance of living a Christ-exalting, self-abasing life.
7. *Looking unto Jesus* by Theodore Monod, translated from the French by Helen Willis, is available from the Middletown Bible Church.