

CONTINUING THE “GREEN LETTERS”
FALL : 2023 - SPRING: 2024
CHAPTERS 36-37, pg. 167-174

**36 - THE PROCESS OF CONFORMATION - CHANGING US INTO
THE LIKENESS OR IMAGE OF JESUS CHRIST, GOD’S SON**

THE WILL OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER

Ro 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined** to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (NKJV)

Php 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, **being conformed to His death**, (NKJV)

Php 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
21 who will **transform our lowly body** that it may be **conformed to His glorious body**, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. (NKJV)

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, (NKJV)

Heb 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (NKJV)

Heb 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (NKJV)

1Jo 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (NKJV)

Ro 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And *do not be conformed to this world*, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJV)

WHY BELIEVERS FAIL TO LIVE THE NEW LIFE

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

Many Christians know only the first half of the truth of their salvation, Christ died for them, His substitutionary death.

But many do not know the truth concerning their u _____ with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial, resurrection and ascension.

Too few Christians realize their

i _____ with Him.

This is mainly due to the fact that the

i _____ truths have long been a n _____ teaching in schools, churches and homes

MISAPPLIED KNOWLEDGE

There are those who know this truth and even understand their union with Christ's death,

but set about to produce the results of that union by s_____ -e_____
The work of conforming a believing one to the image of Christ is the work of the Holy Spirit. If self-effort could accomplish that there is no reason for Christ to come.
The believer's responsibility and privilege is to exercise f_____ in the facts of our i_____ and to walk in d_____ on the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

UNBALANCED KNOWLEDGE

Many believers know more about the work of the cross (crucifying the old man) than they do about the new life in the risen Christ.
For those believers, though the old man is crucified, they think of him as still very active in their lives and they go through the frustrating and futile work of trying to defeat him by t_____.
This is a failing effort but it is a necessary work of the Holy Spirit to bring the failing believer to realize that living in and relying on the old nature is SIN, not just a disappointing inconvenience.
The years of struggle and failure have not been wasted, but have been g_____ by His loving hand to p_____ the hungry heart for the blessed EXCHANGE
The believer is to see Christ as the model for the life he is to live. Christ submitted Himself fully to the Father to fashion Him as the Christ. So too the believer is to live the exact same way. Jesus did not TRY to be the Messiah, He simply believed His Father for everything.

THE NEW LIFE IS AN EXCHANGED LIFE

2Co 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (NKJV)

2Co 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. (NKJV)

*This all important realization (the failure of the believer to defeat the old nature by himself) provides the necessary hatred of the old man, and the desire not for c _____ but for e _____:
E _____ the old life for the new eternal life of Christ; the horrible old relinquished for the h _____ n _____!*

In the tomb we were dead; then in Christ risen we were totally r _____, not just renovated or reformed

KNOWING THE OLD LIFE

When the believer's knowledge of Christ as his new life is insufficient or in error, he more or less abides in the old nature because that is all he knows by experience.

This old life is his only focus because that is all he knows; it is his default. The more he d _____ on that source the more it is a _____

KNOWING THE NEW LIFE

When the old life within becomes

i _____, it is time to become a _____ with the new

The k _____ to living the new eternal life in Christ is k _____ the new, knowing Christ!

Joh 17:3 "And this is **eternal life**, that they may **know You**, the only true God, **and Jesus Christ whom You have sent**. (NKJV)

Php 3:7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

8 Yet indeed I also **count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and **be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;**

10 **that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,**

11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (NKJV)

Joh 15:4 "**Abide in Me, and I in you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. (NKJV)

HOW DO WE COME TO KNOW CHRIST AS OUR VERY LIFE?

1) *By the W_____...*

2) *...and that by the S_____*

WRONG WAYS OF KNOWING CHRIST

LEAVING THE WORD OF GOD TO DISCOVER THE "REAL" JESUS ON OUR OWN

1) *If we leave the realm of the Spirit-wrought-and-taught Word of truth in an effort to know Christ more personally, some seeming "angel of*

light,” some denizen of the dark, or an overheated imagination will have us thrilling over a “Jesus” who is not the Christ.

Many confuse “organized church” for the Bible and think by leaving the “church” they can be free to know the truth. But often this exodus from the church is the exodus from the Word of God and that leaves them with no true authority for finding the very Christ they think they will find by their “freedom”

DISTORTED VIEWS OF WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS BASED ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OR INTERPRETATION

2) Then too, for many Christians their knowledge of God, and their attitude toward Him, are based on and controlled by circumstances - and/or their personal condition - rather than the Word of God. They judge Him for what they feel He is doing for them, or seemingly is not doing for them.

FOCUSING ON THE OLD NATURE - THE DEFAULT

See the discussion above

37 - HE IS OUR ALL - FOCUSED ON THE TRUTH OF JESUS

Too many believers view Jesus “geographically” - in heaven a very long way from here! We cannot be near Him because He is so far away. While it is true that the risen Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, is seated in heaven at the Father’s right hand, it is also true that He is always a t_____ away, a p_____ away! It is also true that He left us His Spirit living in us as our comforter, guide and teacher forever. We are united, joined with Christ so that where He is, we are; where we are, He is there!

Col 2:20 Therefore, **if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world**, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations--

21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,"

22 which all concern things which perish with the using-- according to the commandments and doctrines of men?

23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh. (NKJV)

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

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

3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (NKJV)

Php 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

HE IS OUR HEAD

When we see Jesus Christ as the sovereign Lord of the universe, we acknowledge Him to be the r_____ of our personal lives and our circumstances.

He is our Head; we are His body on earth

He is providing our circumstances and guiding us in them. He knows where He is going with them. Our response is to be t_____; not complaint, questioning His integrity

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are working together with those circumstances:

1) To change our mind to think like Christ

2) To change our heart to be like Christ

3) To change our desire/will to the desires/will of Christ

4) To make us holy, like Christ

5) To make us Sons of God

HE IS OUR INTERCESSOR

Heb 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (NKJV)

Ro 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. (NKJV)

(THESE NOTES ARE TAKEN FROM THE BOOK PAGES 172-174)

When the believer sins, his relationship to the Father is not affected, but his f_____ with Him is impaired. It is for this self-induced exigency that we need the Lord Jesus at the Father's right hand as our advocate and intercessor.

When the believer fails to confess (agree with God) our sins, or to judge ourselves in the matter of sin, we must be c_____. Because He has already born the wrath of God on the cross, He is able to chastise us instead of destroy us.

There are many Christians who do not believe it is necessary to confess sins. We do not confess sins because God is unaware of them; we do not confess sins because they were not paid for on the cross; we confess sins to bring our minds into conformity to that of God's - we are agreeing with Him that what we did was sin and against God; we are not excusing ourselves as if our sin was not against God.

The primary ministry of the Holy Spirit is to reveal to us the Lord Jesus as our new life, and to occupy our minds and hearts with Him. When we sin, we g_____ the Holy Spirit

Frank and immediate confession of sin is v_____ and brings us into the light as Jesus is in the light.

HE IS OUR LIFE

The r_____ and m_____ of our daily lives are in the Son who is seated at the right hand of the Father

Such resources for the new life can not be found in the old man or the old life that we just left behind by the work of the cross.

Such resources for the new life cannot be found in this sin-cursed world. We are traveling through it, not abiding in it.

The death of the cross stands between us and the old man; it stands between us and the world system; it stands between us and Satan. There are no resources in these three things to give us new life. All use of them must be abandoned for Christ.

If the roots of your life are in the old nature, and therefore in the world, absorbing the poison and death of those cross-condemned sources, **IT IS TIME TO MOVE!**

If by the Spirit you have understood these things, it is time to pursue **KNOWING HIM IS YOUR LIFE!**

NEXT CHAPTER, "THAT I MAY KNOW HIM"