

How Can We Live Our Faith from the Inside Out? Pt. 2 (2022.05.08 Sabbath School class)

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“How Can We Live Our Faith from the Inside Out?” (2 of 2) in the RHB series, "Cultivating Biblical Godliness."
Recap of introduction and the father as prophet in the home.

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So, let's just open a word of prayer racist. Lord, heavenly Father, we just ask this say that you would be with us. Your Holy Spirit would help us to discern that, which is from your word.

And then we might grow in our sanctification Father. I pray that you would use your word to speak to our hearts and that I would say nothing out of the flesh, that would be displeasing in your sight. Of course, in Christ saying we pray. Amen. Okay, so we have been going through the book, how we can live our faith from the inside out.

And just a quick review of what we talked about last week because we have the other half for book and I'm going to finish this week regardless. So I want to make sure I get through that. But just a quick review we talked about living our faith from the inside out.

And we talked about the fact that living our faith from the inside out there is both a practical or principle and a procedural way that we live that out. The the procedural or principles would be the doctrine, the doctrine, we understand that, the Bible teaches, the practical would be, how we take that doctrine, that we receive from the Word of God and how we apply, and how we live it out.

In our life. The other thing that we did in our review latch or a review of last week is we understand that our Christian faith starts with what Understanding the beauty of what The man remember? Understanding The gospel of Jesus Christ, and the salvation that we have in him.

And Another aspect of that review is that as we live the Christian life, Everything that we do should be focused on who Christ. And somebody say Christ because he is the object of our faith. And does just your bonus question here. Does anybody remember what I said? Those that use the same terminology but they're Jesus Christ, is not the object of their faith.

What would they typically say? Liberalism makes Christ, the example of their faith. The example of their faith. Jesus was the first Christian, so to speak. And so we follow His example, but he's not the the object of our faith. And then the other thing we said, what was the when we talk about Jesus Christ, being the object of our faith, We talked about there's something.

I'm careful with my use of words here. But um mysterious in our being united with Christ and what is that? So I talked about something we are with Christ. And with Christ, You may remember, What did we do? We died with Christ, those that are Christians and we do and we are what alive unto Christ, right?

When when the Holy Spirit convicted, As of our sin, and drew us to the Lord, we he didn't physically die on the cross, but our sin, which we could not atone for was placed on Jesus Christ. So positionally That sin is God no longer sees that sin. But also, what was placed upon us?

The righteousness of Jesus Christ. So when our, when we stand before the Lord, he doesn't see our sin. He sees the righteousness of Christ, And with that.

Where we died with Christ and we arisen with Him And so one of the things I'll note especially for the young people here, if you think there is ever going to be a time in your Christian walk. When you think up, I have finally arrived, I've got this thing.

I don't want to I see Miss Sue laughing back there. I don't want to burst your bubble so to speak. But you will spend your whole life trying to discern that work, which Christ did in our life. In fact, I guess the older you get more often. You look back.

You say, How did I now see this, you know, and and so we we marvel at that. So we're going to, you'll spin your whole life. Discovering the full meaning and understanding of what it means to walk with Christ. The other thing too that I will just say here is remember in Colossians chapter 3 versus one?

And two. There are two things if we want to live our faith from the inside out. We are so there are two things last week that we we do we seek, right? So it says in three of verse 1. It says if you have been raised with Christ seek the things that are above where Christ is seated, at the right hand of God, so we're to seek.

And then what's next word? We are to in verse 2. We're to do one. Remember set your minds upon things are above. That means that as we go through our days, We should continually be doing things that fill our minds with the knowledge of Christ and what he did in our lives.

It's not just something that we have our devotion time in the morning or we come to church and so we turn on our God, God worldview. And then when we're separated from that, we just go back to routine, living, We don't see our Christian walk or living, our faith as something that is just another item on the bookshelf for us to have, It's the essence of who we are because we have been united with Christ.

So, That brings us up to where we are. Today, we started. We ended last week saying that there were two parts to our our walk with Christ, living their trade, from the inside out one, there was the hidden part. That's the work that has got has done in our life and then the, the next part was the sea.

That is, which comes out or flows out of our knowledge of him and and are walking the Christian life. So one of the statements that makes in the book which is very true as many things in our Christian life. It says, what is true on the inside? We'll show itself on the outside.

So Christ has truly changed your life. Then it can be hidden, It will come out. Even even when we go through times in our lives, where we allow the old man to dominate if Christ is in, in our lives, in our, in our hearts. Now, sometimes use the word hearts because I don't want the young children to think that heart means that Jesus is living in our physical heart, but in our lives, that we will fall under times of conviction for that sin, if the Spirit lives within.

So, mmm, when we, when we talk about the C in our faith, in Colossians Three, verses 5 through 17. It talks about The different aspects that should be seen by the believer as he walks through this life. And and the Bible puts some of those in a negative concept for the believer and others in a positive, the implications of those things.

So, It says, in that the shorter, catechism question. Number 35, the work of God's free. Grace whereby we are renewed in the whole man. After the image of God are enabled more and more to die unto self and live unto righteousness. It's it's the work of the Holy Spirit that allows us to die to self.

It's not our sheer willpower that we can just push through. So one of the things that must take place in what should be visible, when we are living the Christian life, when the faith that we have is, is truly from God, Well, one, we should be dying to sin.

And in the book, it talks about the duty of dying. It says where he uses an old English word. I think, if you read some of the Puritans, you'll see, it says we are to. You may know the word mortified Mortify. I guess, I guess you would call that an old English word.

But that means to do away with our sinful practices and we must not allow our bodies to be any more instruments of sin. This parallels the whole idea. We talk about what when Christ came, he was the second Adam and he gave us a what the new man versus what the old man, which came from our federal head, which is Adam.

So it says that we are to, We use the term, I'd never heard this before, but in our, in our death, to sin or mortifying our sin, we are to kill sin, which is we're committing godly suicide, We must kill self. We have to die to sell and put it to death.

Somebody here want to read Matthew 28 through 30 for me, please Nathan. Go ahead. Thank you. Matthew. Matthew 5. Verses 28 through 30.

And why are you anxious? That Cobain considered a little video on the ground? They need your toil orchard yet. I tell you if you saw him and all his story. But it's not that's not chapter 5 chapter 5 verses 28 3:30.

Read it loudly. User, while they Student closer refuser and you will get done, and the judge to the god and use the prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never know out until you lost. I still don't think that's the I'll read it here. It's Matthew 5:28 through.

30 is, but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent, has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out to send, tear it out and throw it away for his better, that you lose one of your members, then your whole body be thrown into hell.

And then verse 30 is and if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away for, it is better that you lose one of your members, then that your whole body, go into health. So, when it talks about mortifying our sentiments cutting off those things, and Some of you aware in some of the Middle Eastern countries, they take that literally.

If you go out and commit a crime, will you theft take your arm off? That's a constant reminder of what that individual did But for us it's where that's to to ourself to the to the the old man. When I say that the old men would have died to self, where to put off our sinful practices Colossians 3:8.

Let me read that for you here. Colossians 3:8 says, but now, you must put away, You must put them all away. Anger, rat. Malice slandered and obscene talk from your mouth, okay? So when it says we're to put off these sinful practices, it means we practice those things in our lives because our lives have been changed.

We've been given. The example, the book uses is that of a garment, you know, none of us would if we were dirty and we had bathe we wouldn't unless we had no other clothes. We wouldn't go out and take a bath. And then put on the dirty clothes we just took off.

We would put on new clothing. Clothing. That would identify us to be, that would be clean because our body is clean. So the same way with our faith, we're to put off those things that that continue to to wreak the old man in ourselves. Okay, So in the book, it also Paul identifies, the sins that are subject to death.

And we see that in verse 5 and verse 8 of Colossians, chapter 3 five, it says here put to death there for what is earthly in you Sexual immorality impurity, passion, evil, desire and covetousness, which is idolatry. And then verse 8. It's it also says that we just read that.

Once you walk, I'm sorry, but now you must put away, anger, wrath, malice, slander and obscene, talk from your mouth. So these are things that we have to, we have to rid our cells through the power of the Holy Spirit. Now, One of the things that mentions in the book, some of those sins are sins.

When I say of the heart, in other words, they're not necessarily manifested. You don't go out. And if you think murder, You may not have gone out and killed someone. But the Bible is talking about all of those folks. Those sins that are a thought that fill our hearts and those which we act on, as far as in our walk with the Lord, in our exterior, faith, it doesn't matter.

Jordan, you weren't sending me a note. Were you Kathy Collins saying you? Oh, okay, Is she okay? She's okay. Okay, I should have turned that off, but I, I normally keep this on in case somebody says, I can't hear what you're saying, or whatever for that reason. But Bible says that, as we live out our faith, that there is no difference.

Between our X, our external actions, and the thoughts of our heart, The Bible says both. In fact, it makes a comment here. This focus affirms, our proposition that thinking determines behavior sins in the head are no less serious than sins of the hands. So if you think murder in your heart as far as in God's eyes you have committed murder.

I always find it. Interesting Mr. Charlie might find it interesting. Also to that, Sometimes in our work, when we're in sort of law enforcement circles, you hear these psychologists come in, and they're always trying to talk about. Well, I wonder why these people do these things. You know, why why people do these, they murder people or why they rob and everything.

And they talk about like we're still trying to find out what the root cause of what makes people do these things. And it just like, it wasn't very sad, but it makes me realize how far as a people Even in the church even in Christian circles. How far we have fallen when people, we even go to the point where they think.

Well, there's something in this person's life or there's some chemical imbalance, that makes makes them do these things. I was I was writing about a month or so ago and one of the officers brought this up when I said you know he said something like what makes people do this and I said, let's very simple.

It's sin, It's not your environment. Oh yes, you know, those things. They, they can have some impact but it's sin. It's a sin in our heart. We know when we don't know Christ, we are being led by the old man. We are doing that. Which pleases the flesh Even?

It may even be more subtle than that. I've often thought about the fact like coming to church on Sunday If I'm going to be completely honest with you, they're

not times where I jump out of the bed and I say I just can't wait to get to church today.

I mean, The old man still exists. And I I sometimes struggle with got to go to church today and but I know that the Spirit with lives within the new man, my desire is, I want the police Jesus Christ. I want to please the Lord. And so those things must Those things.

One must decrease in the other must increase. So When I talked about this earlier, I said, with our the perspective of our Christian life that is seen and I said there were two, there were positive, and there were both a negative. The negative would be putting off the old man.

See here. Oh, one of the other things. I was going to just mention. As I went through this year is that as we walk through our our Christian life, verse 7, and verse 8 should give us encouragement. It only said, verse 7, but I thought verse 8 was good as well.

When it says on account of the wrath of on the count of these, the wrath of God is coming and these you too, once walk and when you were living in them, But now you must put away all those things because why my why do we put away those things because who has changed us?

Christ has changed us. There was a quote from John Newton and we will at times we're going to we're going to fall. Even as we try and live our life, We're going to do things that are not very Christian. There was a quote from John Newton and said I am not what I ought to be.

I'm not what I want to be. I am not what I hope to be in another world but still I'm not what I want used to be. And by the grace of God, I am what I am And I think a related to you all last week. That One of my struggles as a, as a young man not having come up in the circles, where I understood is the power of Christ.

In me, that changes my life. Although I would say those things outwardly, I would say with the power price, to me the struggles in my life and the mortification of sin was really by the power of David. And I failed miserably because I can't do that. I can't kill the sin that besets me.

In fact, I'll just relate this to you. When I Well, when I I should say, when the Lord gave me an understanding of the reformed faith, I remember and that that it wasn't the power of David fighting sin, it was the power of the Holy Spirit. God working through me.

I remember being so exciting saying I can't do anything about this. I'm a wicked sinner. And it was, it was frame to my soul because I just thought I'll never make the mark of a Christian. You know, I just can't, I can't, I can't, I can't do this. And so it sets me free.

And I've related this to people before I said that Many times coming to that understanding was more freeing to me when I quote confess Christ as my Savior. Even though I understood I was a sinner but understanding that it wasn't this joint relationship where God would reach His hand out to me.

And that I would reach out my hand to God, and we would jointly, you know, get my life together where I was totally incapable of doing anything. That was a very free things. Me, but also we talked about the negative here, putting the death of sin in our lives.

But there's also a positive aspect In the Bible. It talks about any verses 9 and 10. It says, I said Lion King. It talks about putting on where to put on the new man and to do what To put off The old self with this practices. So so we put off the old self and we put on the new cell and the new self is that which is given us to Christ.

So the positive aspect of living, our life is now that whose image have be whose image have we've been restored to. So the image of Christ, The new man and that we don't have to identify with the old man anymore Calvin in one of his commentaries on Colossians. He defines the old man as whatever we bring from our mother's womb and whatever we are by nature.

The old man being the unregenerate state. Have any of you just out of curiosity? Have any of you run across people, who don't believe that babies were born with sin that they think they're innocent. And then it's the world that influences them and they become sinners. I've run into quite a few people that would come from, quote, Christian circles, who, who actually believe that that we're not born in sin, we're born sort of in this state of innocence and the world taints us.

And, and so, but the Bible doesn't teach that here. So we have been positively, as we live out our faith, We can take great. Hope in the fact that we have been restored. We have made been made regenerate. We now have a life that we're not burdened down, you read pilgrim's progress, where he was burdened down by the load of sin on his back.

That no longer is is upon us. Just to note here from the book. It says, suffice it to say that it was a unique market, humanity's original creation. That was tragically marred by the fall of sin and wonderfully restored by God's grace through the gospel. Jesus Christ, is the aisle ideal image, even the perfect manifestation of God.

And if you go back to first colossians 1:15, it says He is the image of the invisible. God. The firstborn of all creation. Okay, so mmm. When it says here, he's the ideal image even the perfect manifestation of God. Why does it say that This is sort of a theological or doctrinal?

Why does it say that that he's the perfect manifestation of God? Hmm, go ahead. What you say? Mary? Because he is God because he is God, God in the flesh. Now there are there are those within a world today who don't believe that Jesus was God? One of the major groups?

I think of as the Jehovah's Witness, they do not believe that. Jesus Christ was God in the flesh. They believe that Jesus Christ was a good example that God empowered him. God the Father empowered him and gave him this ability to do things that he couldn't do up in himself.

But no, the reason why he's the ideal image. And the perfect example is because he is God.

Who can read? Let's see here. Somebody would pick out Romans Romans 8:29. We get somebody at Romans 8:00 Justin, just hold that just for a second. So When our lives are changed, when we put on the new man, we're no longer fed. We shouldn't be fed by The old, man, the sin.

We should be alive unto righteousness. Living out. Our faith is more than not just doing bad things. It involves doing good things. Now there are many people that apparently or outwardly do good things but are those all of God? No, Why not?

Why are there some things that are people do that are good. Things. Not always of God about, how would you explain that? What would you say? You know, if somebody said oh he's a good man. He did this. If you had the opportunity to talk to a person, we explain that.

Well, he may not be a good man. What would you say? Whether not whether or not it was done for the glory of God. You know, one of the things just an example that I have used with people is I liking it to you. You see a child getting ready to walk in interstate across an interstate?

And there's an 18-wheeler getting ready to hit that child and this man. That's a murderer. He's done everything that you can think of his life is vile, but he sees that child and he runs out and he pushes that child out of the way. See a good man. He stands condemned before.

God He did a good thing but but God and God may have used him. I'd say Providentially he did use him to say that that child's life, but that doesn't make him good. When we are changed righteousness is what reigns in our lives and it is because of the righteousness of Christ that we are able to do good things.

So short, as we, we wind down here. There are three things with our being alive to righteousness that are mentioned, that should be characteristic of a life that is alive to righteousness. One There should be marks of a spiritual life. In other words, we have taken off the old man.

And we have put on the new man, It's like the new set of clothes we talked about. And where's that? Romans 8:29 for him before. Now, he also pedestria to be conformed to the eligible side that he might be the first born in, okay, so what's that mean? Practically speaking, We should look the same anymore.

You know, people should be able to tell there's something different, I don't know. I'm sure you've all had different experiences but the one that that strikes me the most personally in my work and things is there been times where I've been somewhere with somebody I knew and they were you know of the world and their language was whatever.

They they're language was course and they'll catch themselves. They'll start say something they'll look at me and they'll say all David. I'm sorry. And I thought I never said anything to this person and that's not to bring anything to me. It's just to say that the change should be so dramatic in our lives.

That people know that something is different.

I just say this real quickly, you'll find this humorous. Again, I related to another law enforcement story but we had to go to a scene where there was a domestic issue going on between one neighbor and the other They were about ready to go to fisticuffs and fighting everything.

And so the one guy who was really the perpetrator but he was trying to look like the good guy. He said, look, officers, just tell me what to do. I'll do anything you say, if I can make this. So, I looked at him and I said, why don't you go ask the forgiveness of the other guy, Sam.

I'm sorry. And so what makes it funny is? We went to see the other person and they were just fed up and fit to be tied. And the officers who I ride with, who's not a Christian looked in and said, hey, We told him to come and ask forgiveness And so I thought.

Well okay, He heard something, He said yeah, we asked the guy to come and ask forgiveness so can't you all like make up and work things out. Anyway, that was just so there, there has to be a difference in our lives. There should be marked And this should be surprising.

Because if Christ is our likeness or we are the likeness of Christ, If you look at Christ's life then our life in an imperfect way, should reflect that. So with Thurston, we talked about there was the marks of the spiritual life. Now the method. Okay. Somebody, if you would read, let's see.

Verse 15 who can read verse 15 of Colossians chapter 3. 3:15 like this glasses. Oh, I thought he was really somebody have that or you want me to Go ahead? George one are to only. Okay. Sorry, go ahead. I'm sorry. Could you do that again? I, I thought you'd finished and I started speaking English.

Ice ruling your hearts tuition fall. Okay, so we talked about the marks. Now, we talk about the method, What who has to rule in our lives? Christ has to rule in our lives. We have to die who we were previously. So, we have to allow the Lord and we cannot when I say allow the Lord, again I reaffirm we cannot do that because we will to do that.

Well, I'm gonna let God rule my life. No, God has to change our hearts. The Holy Spirit has to change our lives And so knowing peace and letting God roll in our lives. That's all summed up in Christ and we should let the if you read verse 16, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly teaching and admonishing one another and all wisdom, singing, Psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness to your hearts.

And your hearts to God and see, we're getting very close here. And then Finally, the last thing should be, what should be our motive for living the Christian life?

Our motive should be our relationship with Jesus Christ. One of the comments they often makes here is in our postmodern world, we have a tendency to come art compartmentalize things. Meaning that we say we're a Christian but our exterior activity Doesn't necessarily reflect. What's in our heart? Because we see those as two separate things.

Well, if you don't know this, and we're not aware of this, that's nothing new. Because when you read the New Testament, and, and most of the epistles, one of the problems that the apostles ran up against is because the society at that time had been so influenced by Greek culture, which saw the body and the mind, or the soul is two different entities.

One of the problems that the apostles were running through in the church was there were those who claimed the name of Christ, But they didn't see any correlation with that and how their lives were lived. Morally until you see all kinds of debauchery and things that were happening in the church.

Taking place a sexual sins and everything else because they didn't see any correlation between their faith, and their walk, the practical asset. So we see that today, very much. So, but it's, it's not, it's not new. In fact, again, I recommend to you if you want to just get a a better feel for that that book I've mentioned last week, I've been reading by Gretchen Machin on the New Testament and he really lays out the cultural understanding of what was happening.

It's really helped me as far as I read through the New Testament, understand everything that was taking place taking place. So, let me just, I'm gonna use the book because I think they the author does much more eloquently than myself and stating the summation of everything. It says, living out our faith simply amounts to living in the reality of the religion.

We say, we believe, There could be no disconnect between belief and practice between doctrine and duty objective truth must transfer to subjective experience. In other words, we live what we believe, The more we know the gospel and our complete. Listen, completeness in Christ. The more we can enjoy and experience the gospel in our lives.

Theology is the most practical of all disciplines in sciences in the head. We must know the truth. In the heart, we must believe the truth with the hands, we must implement the evident and evidence the truth. Living our faith starts on the inside and shows itself on the outside.

Thank you. Any comments or questions because we are. Yes, sir. And when you find that everything that's been said, the last two weeks is totally frustrating and

then go well and nothing's checks of 7:414 feet through. Romans chapter 8, verse 4.

Christian walk. Like I said, well, first started here You sort of substantiate what, Mr. Phil just said it's that as you go through the Christian life, don't ever think that. Well one day I when I arrive because that will not happen. This side of glory, we'll only happen. When we are complete in Christ, when we stand with Him, without the flesh, the old man has been completely destroyed.

So that's why I've said many times that said if it weren't for my wife and children, I would be, I would be elated if the Lord would just take me now. But you know in his providence he has not and so we must take that as God still has work to do and each of our lives and until he he calls us home.

We are to live out the Christian life. All right, just when you close to some prayer for me.

For other things to bring you this together in your day and through these opportunity, for what means deliver sanctified and home device. We saw all of us to trust Germans for this and not.

Amen.