True Christianity in Life of Believers

(SAVED BY JESUS' BLOOD & LED BY GOD'S SPIRIT)

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We all should consider and think about the meaning and purpose of our life on earth, and more importantly re-consider what the Christian life is truly all about. What are we doing with our life here on earth? Are we going in the right direction? (as apostle Paul said Phil.3:14) *"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* Whether we are new to a life of Christianity, or we had given our life to God many years ago, it is valuable for us to re-consider the foundation of our faith, and review some basic principles of what Christianity is all about.

Jesus showed us the humble and only *way,* as He lived God's *truth* as an example for each one of us, and He is the only One who can give eternal *life to anyone* (John 14:6) *"no one comes to the Father except through me".* Since no one will enter God's kingdom except *through* Jesus Christ, that should (and must) be our direction and our only goal in this life. True Christianity means to follow His way, to know His Truth, and live a life that God approves of. *"I have come that they may have life," (John 10:10), "and have it to the full."* (Jesus said).

The Christian life should not become meaningless or pointless, but instead, meaningful, and full of purpose. The Christian life deals with major issues in life, and Christ Jesus will transform a life that is sincerely committed to Him. (*We need to get back to the basics of a Christian life, with a heart that is pure, and a 'faith that is sincerely and fervently grounded in and for Christ Who can save us.*

Everyone wants to feel loved, accepted, and needed, (however, Satan wants people to feel unloved and not needed). God has equal love for everyone, and He loves us all so much that He sent His Son to suffer and die, to pay a ransom for our life and deliver each one of us from the slavery to sin. God really loves us and He even created us in His image. That imitation is a sincere compliment to mankind, which tells us we are special, we are loved, and our soul is eternal.

Even though Satan tries to cover that up, God loves every human soul, and He proved that beyond question by sending His Son to die in our place, and His Word tells us that He does not want any soul to perish, but for all to repent (2 Peter 3:9). God wants us to spend life in eternity with Him, so from day one He provided a way and a Truth that can make us belong to Him. We can be adopted into His family, which requires choices on our part for that to become reality.

Satan will always try to plant seeds of doubt in our mind (as he did with Eve), saying to us 'Does God really love you?' 'Look at all that has happened,' (he will suggest). We need to refuse Satan's lie, and instead, accept God's truth. (1 John 4:9) *"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him,".* Jesus said those words to us (John 15:12-13), *"Love each other as I have* loved *you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."*

The Son of God came into the world so we could *live through Him,* because He is the only *'way,' gives us the only Truth, and He offers us Life.'* Even while we know this, we don't always go His way, since we don't always believe the truth of His Word, so we don't always make the right decisions to live our life according to God's will.

It all started at the beginning when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's Word. Via that willful act of disobedience, sin entered the world and severely damaged the relationship they once had with God. Since that time (so-called 'The Fall' of Adam), everyone who has been born, is 'born in the 'sin of self' and sentenced to die, and spend an eternity in the Lake of Fire (forever separated from God). That fate is far more terrible and frightening than any one of us may realize.

That term used 'born in sin,' means that from infancy a seed of sin matures and grows each day, which reveals itself in our tendency to turn toward the evils of our 'misplaced trust'. [Where we place our trust (in God or some other thing or person), defines the Christian life.] We

are unable to change that horrible condition of ourselves (in our own strength or determination). There is no way (without God's help) to get back to where Adam and Eve were before they disobeyed God's Word. (Romans 5:12 informs us) *"Through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin death, and so death passed to all mankind in turn, in that all sinned."*

A next question then (in our considering basic Christianity) would be, 'What or 'Who can save us?' (which is the question that the jailer asked (Acts 16:30), in saying *"What must I do to be saved?"* The apostles answered him (plainly): *"Believe in the Lord Jesus"* (vs.31). The prophet (Isaiah 45:22) was inspired to give us the same truth, from the same God, who loves us the same way, *"Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other."*

God showed that He loves us, and He proved it by sending His Son to die in our place. God in the Son, became Jesus the man, who obeyed the Father to put His 'plan of redemption' in place. Jesus is the only One who can save us from the sin that entangles our feet. There is no other way to God, except through Christ, (which is exactly what Jesus told us in John 14:6), "no one comes to the Father except through me".

(1 Tim.2:5-6 tells that same truth) *"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time."*

A next question can be: 'How does Jesus save us from this sinful condition?' Only One Who lived a sinless life could do that, and no one else. The Person would have to be perfect, but no one else is perfect. But Jesus was, and because He still is, He is able to take that guilt from us, and bring us to the Father as not guilty.

Jesus lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father, and in that way, He took the penalty of our sin upon Himself on the Cross.

Because God declared that the penalty for sin is death, someone had to die. So 'Who is to die?' That person would have to be perfect, and we know that 'no one is perfect' because all have sinned, we are told (Rom.3:23). No one of us can cast a stone (although we often do).

Jesus, as the only perfect Person (because He was God in the flesh), was the only One able to make the perfect sacrifice. (John 1:14) reminds us that *"The Word became a human and lived among us."*

God was pleased with His Son's sacrifice, and He brought Him back to life. It is believing in that resurrection to life and accepting the perfect work of Christ that makes us right with God [or righteous before God]. Our faith provides us with a living hope of salvation. We are promised a place in Heaven with the Father and the Son forever.

God's Word is (and must be) sufficient evidence for us that it is true. "*Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures… He was buried, and He was raised on the third day according to Scriptures,"* (1 Cor.15:3-4). That is Christianity in itself, and, is the Message of the Cross...*'Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised to life.'* We were sinful and imperfect, but Jesus can make us sinless and perfect. He made the sacrifice for us, and He gave us the evidence of the Father's approval, by coming out of the tomb three days later.

That is basic Christianity information of greatest importance for everyone, but the story doesn't stop there. A choice needs to be made by everyone on earth, before that sacrifice will have effect. Jesus said that we '*must be born again*' for our relationship with His Father to be restored. That *new birth* will take place the moment the *new life* of Christ is sincerely accepted by any repentant person.

Jesus' cleansing blood sacrifice brings us from spiritual death to spiritual life. He creates a clean heart in you, and this *new you* will want to live only for Christ. The Holy Spirit within us, makes us a new person in Christ. (1 Peter 1:23), *"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God."*

From that point of a new commitment to obey Christ, we turn 180 degrees, from living in a way that pleases the world, to living in a way that pleases the Lord. The sinful nature and the divine nature have nothing in common. Our true Repentance, changes our direction, so we turn around to walk opposite to the direction (we had been going). Repenting, being born again, and walking by faith are never separated.

When God creates in us a new heart (after we surrender our old ways of life) which brings spiritual life), we no longer walk in the darkness

of sin, but we begin walking in the light of Christ. We begin realizing how serious sin is. Sin separates us from God, and, condemns us to the eternal flames! We should be very sorrowed about our sin and our unscriptural attitudes. We should realize and understand that we have offended God(in many ways), but that we can be made acceptable because we can be forgiven. God gave us life in the beginning and then purchased our life (again) at Calvary. So, He has this *double right* to control our life.

As we realize and know this, we should begin to hate sin, and to hate the pattern followed by most of the world. The result should be that we turn away from the world and turn to God. (Isaiah 45:22) *"Turn to me and be saved, all you* ends of the earth*; for I am God, and there is no other"*. It should bother us to continue to live as we had lived. (2 Cor.7:10) *"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and* leaves *no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death,"*. So, are we truly sorry for our sins? Do we realize no one can cast stones? *"The kind of sorrow God wants, makes people change their hearts and lives. This leads to Salvation, and* you cannot be sorry for that*."*(Acts 26:20) the Apostle gave that same truth, *"I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds."*

If we have sincerely changed, we go before God in prayer and bow our head in humility. If our heart is touched by what Jesus did for us, we will stop throwing stones, and start saying prayers for those in need of conviction. 'Because of God's mercy alone, our life is to be placed on God's altar of sacrifice every day. That is pleasing to God, and that is how we worship Him,' (as we are told Romans 12:1).

Another aspect of true Christianity is living by faith. To live by faith is to trust God, believe in His Son, and be controlled by the Spirit's power. If we have faith to believe God for material things in life, we need also have faith to believe in Him for spiritual things like salvation (by grace, through enduring faith in Christ Jesus).

Now *crucified* with Christ, we can *walk* with Him by faith in His Father's Word and promises. The 'call to repentance' (of Jesus, John the Baptist, and many others) has always been the same, and has always been for everyone. Anyone who will accept the call, will turn from the sinful ways of the world, to live by faith in the Son of God. (1 Pet.1:22), *"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth, so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one* another deeply*, from the heart."*

Faith is a gift from God that results from being *born again*. Being born again will enable us to live by faith in Christ that results in salvation. Because of the Son's perfect sacrifice on the cross, we can confidently place our life on the altar of God as a living sacrifice. That is how we worship God.

(Romans 12:2), *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

Faith is more than hoping something is true. Faith is a personal trust in a personal God. Saving faith is based on the truth of God's Word. Faith not only believes God but trusts Him for the salvation of our soul. We are to be absolutely-confident that God will do what He has promised to do.

(Rom.5:1-2) *"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."* (or), *"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory."*

The true Christian life is a true walk of faith every day. Faith in God for that day's supplies, faith in Him for divine protection, faith in the atonement of Christ for healing (if oppressed), faith in God for wisdom, and faith for a 'forgiving spirit'. Faith in Christ enables us to love each other as He loved us (John 15:13).

As a sinner from birth, how do we stand before a holy and just God? In order to be able to do that, our guilt must be justified. Justification is God as Judge saying we will not be judged because our sins have been erased.

The basis for this justification is the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, when He died in our place and

paid the penalty for our sin. God accepts the death of His Son as the payment for our sin, *credits* it to our account, and says *not guilty*. We are *righteous* in His eyes. Our faith in Jesus (and faith in His sacrifice for us) is sufficient payment, and all that is needed to be justified.

We *"are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood... He did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just, and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus,"* (Romans 3:24,26).

Grace is free, and grace is forgiveness from sin, so we are justified. We may have heard, 'How do you justify your actions?' God says His Son paid the price for us because He loves us, so we are justified. The 'sins of our past', are in the past.

"All need to be made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They need to be made free from sin through Jesus Christ. God gave him as a way to forgive sin through faith in the blood of Jesus' death. This showed that God always does what is right and fair... God did this so he could judge rightly, and so he could make right any person who has faith in Jesus."

It all comes down to trusting God, and having faith in Christ. It is being sure of our forgiveness, and that means we forgive others because Christ forgave us. Forgiving others because of divine love in our heart, is following Jesus who forgave us before we deserved it.

The Apostle says (Acts 5:32), *"The Holy Spirit, whom God has given to all who obey him, also proves these things are true."* 'We are transformed and our life is made new so we can test and approve God's good, pleasing and perfect will.' The Christian life is a life of faith in God and His Son Jesus Christ, as we are empowered to do that by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wrote God's Word, so He enables us to follow its directions.

(Hebr.12:1-3), *"Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."*

Our faith must be perfected in the perfect work of Christ. We are to be perfectly confident that once we sincerely repent, confess our sins to God, and accept His Son Jesus into our heart, we are right with Him. We are declared 'not guilty' of the sins of the past.

Stating our faith and then acting in faith in God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son (by the power of the Holy Spirit), is the basic Christian life. It is 'True Christianity in the Life of Believers' and is (as Galatians 5:6 says), *"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."*

www.fcgchurch.org
fcgchurch1@gmail.com
PO BOX 143
Cheltenham, PA 19012
S485R 1021 26W
The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia