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The Believer's Life and Walk: Free and Spiritual

Galatians 5:13-6:18

—Teacher's Outline and Study Bible™

1. Liberty—love—is the great call of the believer

- a. The danger: The flesh—indulgence, license
- b. The restraining power: Love

V. THE BELIEVER'S LIFE & WALK: FREE & SPIRITUAL,

5:13–6:18

A. The Believer's Great Law of Life: Love, 5:13-15

13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for

an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

2. Love is serving others

3. Love is not offending, but caring for one's neighbor

4. Love is not biting & devouring one another

Study 1: THE BELIEVER'S GREAT LAW OF LIFE: LOVE

Text: Galatians 5:13-15

Aim: To demonstrate the love of God on a daily basis.

Memory Verse:

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Gal. 5:14).

SECTION OVERVIEW:

This passage begins the last section of *Galatians*. Up until now everything has dealt with doctrine; now Paul begins to deal with the practical day-to-day affairs of the believer. Paul has six very practical subjects to discuss. Bunching all six subjects together, a simple title would be: “The Believer's Life and Walk: Free and Spiritual.”

SECTION OUTLINE:

1. The Believer's Great Law of Life: Love (5:13-15)
2. A Walk Combating the Great Enemy in Life: The Lusts of the Flesh (5:16-21).
3. A Walk Bearing God's Nature: The Fruit of the Spirit (5:22-26).
4. A Walk Restoring the Man Who Slips (6:1-5).
5. A Walk Doing Good to One's Teacher (6:6-10).
6. A Walk Boasting in the Cross of Christ (6:11-18).

INTRODUCTION:

Have you ever received a letter in the mail that informed you of some great news: “*Congratulations! You have been pre-approved to use our credit card. We think so much of you, that we have extended your limit to \$7,500.00!*” At once, your spending motor turns on as you begin to visualize all those things you cannot afford—but that does not matter—just charge it! All of a sudden you are tempted to cross the line between liberty and license. You are in a dilemma: Where do you draw the line? How can you control yourself?

Jesus Christ has set the believer free from having to make decisions over and over again. You face the same temptations in your Christian life day after day. But fortunately, the believer no longer has to work and work in order to secure God's approval and acceptance. The believer is accepted by God through the work of Jesus Christ. However, there is a critical fact that must always be remembered: Christian liberty is not license, that is, being free to sin, to do as a person likes. Christian liberty is being free not to sin. It is being free to overcome the passions and urges of the flesh that unceasingly wage war against the better judgment of man. The believer is a person who is so conscious of the indwelling Holy Spirit and His power that he is able to purge and cleanse himself and to love his neighbor as himself.

The point is this: the believer is not to walk in sin, for he loves God

and loves his neighbor. The believer is to walk and live under the greatest of laws—the law of love. Love is the guiding law of the believer’s life and walk.

OUTLINE:

1. Liberty—love—is the great call of the believer (v.13).
2. Love is serving others (v.14).
3. Love is not offending, but caring for one’s neighbor (v.14).
4. Love is not biting and devouring one another (v.15).

1. LIBERTY—LOVE—IS THE GREAT CALL OF THE BELIEVER (v.13).

It has been well established that the believer does not live by the law nor by some work or act of goodness. The believer knows that he can never become perfect, no matter how much good he does. He knows that he cannot keep enough laws nor can he work to make himself like God. He knows that he is short, far short, of God. If he is ever to be acceptable to God, it has to be because God loves him enough. . .

- to provide an Ideal Righteousness for him.
- to provide Someone to bear his punishment for having violated the law.

The believer knows that God has loved him and everyone else that much. He knows that God has loved the world so much that he sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to do both things for him and for all the people of the earth. He knows. . . .

- that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and secured the Ideal Righteousness for him.
- that Jesus Christ died for him—died bearing the judgment of the law for him.

The point is this: when a person believes this about Christ—that Christ is His Savior—God takes that man’s belief and counts it as righteousness. The man becomes acceptable to God. This is what the believer knows: he is not acceptable to God because he works and becomes better by keeping some law or rule or ritual. He is acceptable to God because Christ has set him free from having to struggle to be good enough to be saved and always wondering if he has done enough good. Man no longer has to work to keep laws to be saved. Living by law was always a hopeless task that left man lost and helpless. Man is saved by the grace of God in giving His Son for the world: by believing that Jesus Christ is his Savior—that Jesus Christ died for him. However, having said this, note two things.

1. There is the danger of license. A question needs to be asked: if Christ sets us free from the law, does this mean that a person can believe in Christ and then live as he wants, doing his own thing? Can he use his liberty as an occasion to satisfy the flesh, knowing that God will forgive him? Can a person continue to seek the things of the world and give way to the desires and lusts of his flesh? Can he believe in Christ and still live in worldliness? No! A thousand times no, Scripture declares!

A person who thinks and declares such an idea fails to understand belief—true belief. In the Bible belief does not mean intellectual belief, to just believe something in the mind. Belief means a committed belief, to believe something with one’s life. To believe Christ is to commit one’s life to Christ. Just think about it for a moment, and it becomes perfectly clear: if a person is not willing to commit his life to Christ, he does not believe in Christ. He could not believe, not really; for if he really believed, he would beyond all question give all he is and has to the Son of God. (See Ro.6:16; He.5:9.)

2. There is the restraint of love. A person who thinks that belief in Christ frees him and gives him license to sin does not understand what love is. This is the subject of the present passage. The true believer is freed from having to secure God’s approval by law, but love is the one restraint that is placed upon him. The believer needs no restraint but love. There are at least two reasons for this.

⇒ God has loved him, so the person who truly sees the love of God is drawn to love God and to love all God’s creatures.

“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again” (2 Co.5:14-15).

⇒ Love embraces all the commandments of God. Jesus Himself said so, and the fact is clearly seen in the points of his passage.

“Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Mt.22:36-40).

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ILLUSTRATION:

There is an old saying which says, “Give him enough rope and he’ll hang himself.” Somehow, some Christians feel that God’s love gives them enough rope (license) to explore the sins of the world. Listen to this example of one who took advantage of God’s love.

My name is Sidney the Sheep. I had the good fortune of belonging to the Good Shepherd. He treated me with great respect and provided me with the finest care.

I really had it made. He made me to lie down in green pastures. And when I got thirsty, He led me beside quiet waters. When I felt bad inside, He restored my soul. I could always count on Him to lead me in the right path—a path of righteousness.

Sometimes, life got really scary as I faced the shadows of death. But my Good Shepherd stayed with me and brought comfort to my troubled heart. He kept me secure against the enemies who surrounded me. Life with Him has been wonderful.

He has promised to help me—even when I stray from His side. I could kick myself (with each of my four legs) when I allow myself to be drawn to the other side of the fence. The grass just looks greener at times. But as I sample the grass, I quickly realize that I have been deceived! When will I ever learn to trust Him for everything that I need?”

Have you tried the world’s green pastures? Then you have also come to realize, or will shortly, what Sidney did: looks can be deceiving!

QUESTIONS:

1. What circumstances tempt you to wander from the Good Shepherd?
2. Give some examples of abusing the liberty that God has given you. What is needed in your life in order to correct this problem?
3. What restraints has God provided for you to stay true to Him?

2. LOVE IS SERVING OTHERS (v.14).

A believer is free in Christ: he is set free of all law, restraints, and works. He is under nothing, absolutely nothing but Christ. He lives in Christ, moves and has his being in Christ. The love of Christ is his law and restraint. Why? Because Christ loved the believer, served and gave Himself for the believer, and the believer knows it. Therefore, the believer loves Christ with all his heart and life. He wants to please Christ and do all he can to serve Him. And this is just the point: how can the believer serve Christ? By doing exactly what Christ did: loving and serving others.

“By love serve one another” (Gal. 5:13b).

A person who loves does not act like a lord over people; he . . .

- serves and helps
- shows kindness and gentleness
- expresses concern and care
- demonstrates sympathy and empathy

The person who truly loves identifies with a person, gets down where he is, even below where he is, and ministers to him. Love serves—always reaches out to do whatever it can for the other person. Love never withdraws from the other person, feeling that he or she . . .

- does not deserve the effort or help.
- is not worth the effort or help.
- is less than what he should be.
- is too derelict, immoral, uneducated, unrecognized, below others.

“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mt.20:28).

ILLUSTRATION:

What motivates your service to others? Keep your thoughts close to the heart as you listen to this story:

A young woman in New York held what was considered a splendid position in a school attended by children from wealthy homes. Suddenly she gave it up and went to teach in one of the most squalid districts on East Side. “These East Side kiddies have so little,” she explained. “School is the one bright spot in their lives. I feel almost like a fairy godmother when in their midst. The children in my other school had everything. They even were [brought] to the schoolroom door by nurses and chauffeurs. There was no ‘kick’ in it for me.”

Such confessions as this prove that Jesus was right when He stressed the fact that the joy that comes from helping others is the richest reward one can experience in life.

QUESTIONS:

1. When is it easiest for you to serve? Is it supposed to be easy to serve? Why or why not?
2. What motivates you to serve others? Are there wrong motives for serving? What are they?
3. Who are some people who serve you? What motivations do they have to serve you?

3. LOVE IS NOT OFFENDING, BUT CARING FOR ONE’S NEIGHBOR (v.14).

It must be admitted:

- ⇒ If a person cared for everyone else as much as he cared for himself, he would need no law. He would be living and doing exactly what he should.

This is the reason love fulfills all the law. Love does not take advantage of other people. Love will not use other people to fulfill one’s own purpose, greed, or lust. Love will not hurt someone else any more than we would want someone to hurt us.

Love involves some very practical acts that are clearly spelled out in Scripture (1 Co.13:4-7).

- ⇒ Love suffers long (endures long and is patient).
- ⇒ Love is kind.
- ⇒ Love envies not (is not jealous).
- ⇒ Love vaunts not itself (does not brag; does not boast).
- ⇒ Love is not puffed up (vainglorious, arrogant, prideful).
- ⇒ Love does not behave itself unseemingly (unbecomingly, rudely, indecently, unmannerly).
- ⇒ Love seeks not her own (is not selfish or self-seeking; does not insist on its own right and way).
- ⇒ Love is not easily provoked (not touchy, angry, fretful, resentful).
- ⇒ Love thinks no evil (harbors and plans no evil thought; takes no account of a wrong done it).
- ⇒ Love rejoices not in iniquity (wrong, sin, evil, injustice), but rejoices in the truth (justice and righteousness).
- ⇒ Love bears all things.
- ⇒ Love believes all things (exercises faith in everything; is ready to believe the best in everyone).
- ⇒ Love hopes all things (keeps up hope in everything and under all circumstances).
- ⇒ Love endures all things (without weakening; it gives power to endure).

“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” (Ro.13:8-10).

4. LOVE IS NOT BITING AND DEVOURING ONE ANOTHER (v.15).

QUESTIONS:

1. Why are we to love others? When? Are there exceptions to this commandment from God?
2. How does trusting God help you to love others?
3. Are you satisfied with your current level of love for others? In what areas does God need to help you?

A.T. Robertson says that the picture of biting and devouring is that of a fight between a dog and cat or a fight between wild animals. Biting and devouring refers to much more than just feuding and fighting. Men bite and devour each other when they violate each other. For example, nothing takes a hunk out a person any more than the biting or devouring that takes place between a wife and husband. However, love respects the other person—no matter who he is or what he has done. Love does not bite or devour others in any way whatsoever. Love does not . . .

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| ⇒ snap | ⇒ expose | ⇒ Slander |
| ⇒ condemn | ⇒ hurt | ⇒ censor |

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------|
| ⇒ covet | ⇒ accuse | ⇒ exploit |
| ⇒ abuse | ⇒ misuse | ⇒ take |
| ⇒ criticize | ⇒ gossip | |

“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not” (Jas.4:1-2).

“Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins” (Pr.10:12).

ILLUSTRATION:

There is an old Indian story told about two wolves; one black and one white. As the story is told, a man was describing to his chief the vicious battle which was taking place inside of him:

“Old and wise chief, help me to understand those things which trouble me.” Taking a deep breath, the chief shared his insightful wisdom. “My son, inside each man are two wolves: one good and one bad. They will be in continual conflict for as long as you live. Your responsibility in this inner-struggle is to feed the good one and to starve the bad one. Your life will become an open record based upon your ability to do this.”

How about you? Everyone has a war between the good and the bad. Which one do you tend to feed the most? Are gossip, criticizing, accusing, hurting, and so on a part of your daily diet? If so, then the bad in you will continue to win the battle. It is only as you starve the bad and overcome it with good (love, care, concern) that the good will take over!

QUESTIONS:

1. In response to the above illustration, what kinds of things feed the bad wolf inside of you?
2. What practical things can you do in order to not bite and devour someone else?
3. What are some ways you can feed the good inside you?

SUMMARY:

Love must be your guide in all that you do. When you choose to follow this great law of life, you will discover that . . .

1. Liberty—love—is the great call of the believer.
2. Love is serving others.
3. Love is not offending, but caring for one’s neighbor.
4. Love is not biting and devouring one another.

PERSONAL JOURNAL NOTES (Reflection & Response)

1. The most important thing that I learned from this lesson was:
2. The area that I need to work on the most is:
3. I can apply this lesson to my life by:
4. Closing Statement of Commitment:

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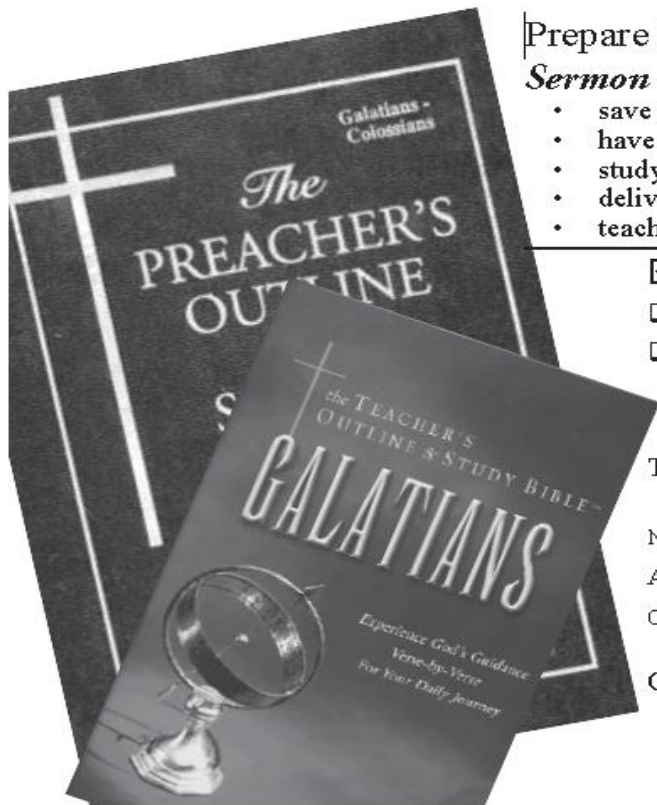
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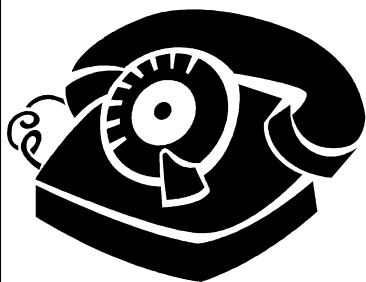
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3. **August 03:** What did Jesus mean when He said: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature?" Mark 16:15

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Contact us at the Amish Voice and let us know what you think. How do you like these conference calls? Are there any topics that you would like to hear discussed from a Biblical viewpoint?

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Do you consider yourself a thankful person? What I mean is, when was the last time you stopped, looked into someone’s eyes, and said, “Thank you?”

When was the last time you sat down and wrote a heartfelt note to a friend or spouse using those powerful and amazing words, “Thank you for what you did for me?”

What about God? Do you appreciate Him for all He does for you? Do you tell Him thank you? How many years has He provided you with food? Breath? Protection? Health? Finances? Family? Love? Roof over your head? Job?

I’m going to be brutally honest with you. I believe we live in a day when most of us are so caught up in ourselves and what we can get out of life that we have forgotten to be thankful for the many things we have. We go days and weeks without thanking those people who gave their hearts to help us! The same goes for bowing our heads and thanking God for all He does for us.

There are at least **three indications of an unthankful heart:**

- **Anger.** People are angry because they don’t get their way.
- **Depression.** People are depressed almost daily because they are discontent and dissatisfied.
- **Self-centeredness.** People use the word “I” and “me” constantly because they think the world revolves around their lives and their needs. I want to draw your attention to a description of one of the most chaotic, unruly, disorganized, and messy lives found in God’s Word. Please stay with me; this leads to the reason to be thankful.

In Romans chapter 1, the Bible describes

what the last days will be like. Listen carefully; it begins with an unthankful heart.

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were they thankful (Romans 1:21).

Plainly and simply, as we head full speed into the last days, it is very clear that people everywhere know God. Some even claim to care about the things of God, but they have stopped worshipping and thanking Him.

Why?

The answer is simple! They are too caught up in themselves and what they can get out of life.

Let me show you from the Bible where people like this are headed. Many are not only headed that way, they are already there and don’t even know it.

Romans 1 says because they stopped being thankful:

Verse 24: God also gave them up to uncleanness through

the lusts of their own heart. . . .

Verse 26: God gave them up unto vile affections. . . .

Verse 28: God gave them over to a reprobate mind. . . . God is saying, “Because you stopped glorifying Me and being thankful, I am going to pull out of your life and let you do your own thing.” The truth is, our world is full of people who are completely blinded. They are so caught up in their own selfishness they don’t even recognize the fact that God pulled out and left them wallowing in their own mire and pit of darkness. No, it’s not just the unbelieving crowd who are “of the world;” worldly people can also be found in our communities and in our churches. They dress up nicely and know all the right words, looking much like the church we read about in Revelation.

Take a look Revelation 3:15-17:

I [Jesus] know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

What are some outward signs of a person with an unthankful heart?

Living a sinful lifestyle no longer bothers them. Maybe it did in the beginning, but not anymore.

In their hearts, they have said, I can pretty much live any way I want and God will overlook my sinful lifestyle.

Romans 1:29-31 gives us a glimpse of where unthankful people are headed: Verses 29-31 say they are filled with all:

- **Unrighteousness:** mistreating and acting unjustly toward God and mankind.
- **Fornication:** having sexual relations before marriage. We live in a day when people from all cultures are shacking up, having sex, and not caring whether they are married or not. Let me just say this as kindly as I can: you are deceived! You will be judged! You will not get away with it.
- **Wickedness:** not caring what anyone says or feels; doing whatever they want, when they want, and where they want.
- **Covetousness:** a deep and continual craving for material things instead of God.
- **Maliciousness:** a heart completely turned over to evil.
- **Full of envy:** going beyond jealousy it makes a person angry, holding a



Illustration by Lydia

Thankful, continued

grudge when he does not have what belongs to another person, including honor, recognition, or position.

- **Murder:** taking the life of another.
- **Debate:** strife, discord, contention, fighting, struggling and constant quarreling with others.
- **Deceit:** misleading, twisting the truth or giving a false impression in order to get his own way.
- **Malignity:** looking for the worst in other people, always running them into the dirt.
- **Whisperers:** talking behind another person's back, tearing down their reputation.
- **Backbiters:** loud gossipers who don't mind at all when they hurt other people.
- **Haters of God:** wanting to be the god of his own life, doing his own thing as he wishes.
- **Despiteful:** attacking others in a verbal and sometimes physical way to show he is in control.

- **Proud:** continually comparing himself with others, holding his head high and showing off.
- **Boasters:** always trying to impress others by boasting in what he has and can do.
- **Inventers of Evil:** tired of his old sinful ways he is constantly seeking out new ways to feel good about himself.
- **Disobedient to Parents:** This does not mean that a child is chained to his parents for the rest of his life and has to do everything exactly as they do. This is talking about a much greater problem. It means that the child does not have any love, respect, or honor for his parents. He becomes nasty and uncaring toward them.
- **Without Understanding:** ignoring experience, refusing to learn, and acting foolishly.
- **Covenant Breakers:** Breaking promises, being untrustworthy and undependable, and lying easily.
- **Without Natural Affection:** lacking affection and love for others; treating

others as tools for his own use and benefit, pleasure, and purposes.

- **Implacable:** refusing to make peace and constantly disagreeing with others.
- **Unmerciful:** constantly craving to satisfy his own pleasure, even if it means the hurt or death of others. Sadly, the Bible says in verse 32: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

When does all this chaotic, messy, and unruly stuff start happening in a person's life?

When he stops being thankful!

The next time you pray to God, consider beginning with thanks for all He has done in your life. Far too often we take our health, warm house, food, friends, family, and jobs, for granted. We forget that God gave us everything we have.

Those who are thankful to God and others are also more positive, less depressed, and easier to hang around with.

—Joe Keim

Parachutes and Safety Lines

—By Eli Stutzman

In October 2013, we decided to fly to Minneapolis-St Paul and then drive to Wisconsin to visit. As we sat in the boarding area waiting for our plane, the pilot and crew walked by. I wondered what the crew would have thought if we had strapped parachutes to our backs as we boarded the plane. Wouldn't their first reaction be: these people don't trust our flying? Yet that is exactly what I see some who call themselves believers do! We know salvation is by grace, but to be safe, we add a lot of works that are designed (in our own minds) to please God. Now good works are not a bad thing, but we cannot base our trust in God on two different systems. Either Jesus is sufficient or He is not. The function of safety lines and life preservers is to help when other means fail.

Things that fail need the extra backup device. You have heard it said that Jesus never fails. If indeed He is the Son of God, then He will be able to do all that He promised. Do you really believe that? This is hard for mortals like you and me to grasp. Jesus told us that He is the way and no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). When we went to Minnesota, all we had to do was to get on the right plane and relax, wait until the pilot was cleared to



take off, and then watch the things on the ground fall away. One hour and thirty six minutes later, we were in Minneapolis. That

was not my doing at all. The pilot did what he was trained to do, and we arrived safely.

Trusting Jesus is like that. We can only get to Heaven by dying with Jesus and being born anew in Him. He is like the plane and the pilot. If you are in Christ, then you are certain to arrive where He is. You will begin to love what He loves and despise what He despises.

This comes through the Spirit He puts in us.

Continued on next page

Parachutes, Continued

At one time I thought people who spoke a lot about Jesus were too religious. Now I love them.

The Bible says that if we live with Him we will die with Him. Jesus in me, and I in Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:17: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* The secret of obtaining passage to heaven is like getting on the right plane at the right time and sitting back while the pilot does what he does best. In the meantime, we can read a book or knit socks. There is absolutely no doubt in our minds that Jesus has made it to heaven. The New Testament accounts prove that. So if we are in Him, and He is in us, our arrival is surer than my arriving in Minneapolis. We like having safety lines to ensure accidents are not going to kill us. When Nik Wallenda walked across

Niagara Falls in June 2012, he had to attach a safety line by orders of his sponsors. Others before him had walked it with no safety line. If he had fallen, a safety line would have been appreciated. As it turned out, it was not needed. It is hard not to carry the idea of



safety lines over to our spiritual lives. The book of Galatians is aimed at people who believed in Jesus as the redeemer, but who tried to be extra safe by insisting they also had to obey the laws given by Moses. Paul addressed the issue giving a clear explanation of what salvation by grace is.

We know that we cannot remove the crutch that people lean on without risking a fall. There has to be total trust in Jesus in order to rely on His provision of righteousness. If we remove the rules that people lean on and do not first instill complete trust in Jesus, we will fail. Parachutes, safety lines, and seat belts are good things to have, but they do not show trust. I would have looked ridiculous wearing a parachute when boarding that plane. Let us not do that in our spiritual lives. It is hard to adjust our thinking to a way of life eternal that will not fail, but we live in the age of the Holy Spirit and of salvation by faith. Extra efforts, aimed at taming the human mind and soul, can and will fail. Aim your trust-building efforts at Jesus and who He is. Jesus died for people just like you. There is no need to wait until your life is in order before you trust Him as your Savior. He is patiently waiting.

—Eli Stutzman

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Happy Mother's Day!

Why God made moms—Answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my Mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

What kind of little girl was your mom?

1. My Mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.

If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.

Plowman's



Academy

Designed for older teens and adults!

- Do you want to know the Bible better?
- Do you like to get mail?
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- Do you want to be more like Jesus?
- Do you have questions about the Bible?

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Some of the topics are:

1. **The ABC's of Christian Growth:** Assurance, Bible, Church, Daily Walk, Enemy, Family, God, Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, Missions, New Birth, Prayer, and more!
2. **Foundational Study:** Anger, Doubt, Everlasting Life, Separation, Salvation, God, Brokenness, The Christian Home, Temptation, Spouse, Spiritual War, and more!
3. **Topical Study:** The Bible is the Word of God, How to Pray, Faith, Hatred, Doubt, Discouragement, Loneliness, Temptation, Controlling the Mind, Adversity, and more!
4. **Verse-by-Verse:** John, I John, Ephesians, Colossians, Titus, and more!

Are you ready?

Then fill out the form on the right and send it to us:



Christian History Corner

Polycarp (69-155 A.D.) was a disciple of the apostle John and bishop of the church of Smyrna (today, Smyrna is found in the modern nation of Turkey). He was faithful to Jesus Christ unto death. Polycarp was arrested and martyred at the age of 86. May we, too, be faithful to Jesus and to the word of God all the days of our lives!

Polycarp had entered the amphitheatre where he was to be executed. The Stadtholder admonished him to deny Christ. Thereupon Polycarp gave the following candid reply, "I have now served my Lord Christ Jesus eighty-six years, and He has never done me any harm. How can I deny my King, who hath hitherto preserved me from all evil, and so faithfully redeemed me?" Polycarp was then threatened with death by fire. Polycarp answered, saying, "Thou threatenest me with a fire, which will perhaps burn for an hour, and then soon go out; but thou knowest -not the fire of the future judgment of God, which is prepared and reserved for the everlasting punishment and torment of the ungodly. But why delayest thou? Bring on the beasts, or the fire, or whatever thou mayest choose: thou shalt not, by either of them, move me to deny Christ, my Lord and Saviour."

The story was taken from **Martyr's Mirror**



Name: _____

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City: _____ Age: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Yes! I want to know the Bible and God better! I want to be more like Jesus!

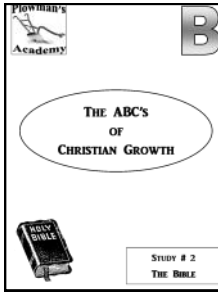
Please send me course number _____

The course name is _____

Thank you!



1. The ABC's of Christian Growth



Imagine a wall. It needs to be torn down.

- The drywall on this side is made from false religion and lies we believe.
- The dry wall on the other side of the wall is made from lack of vision.
- The header is made of bitterness, the studs of unbelief, and the footer of lack of trust.

At first it makes no sense. How are those things even related? But when one looks closer and realizes what the lie is, then one begins to understand.

I have personally been working on tearing down an old wall.

- For years, I have been frustrated, trying to push it over.
- For years, I have felt like God was unfair, requiring so much more from me, while giving others amazing encounters.

I felt as if I had to work like crazy for every spiritual breakthrough I

got, requiring a much higher standard than others, with God requiring perfection before blessing me. The truth is that God does not require perfection. He likes when we come into His presence, which is not possible when unbelief, bitterness, etc. are involved.

God has good plans for us. He is good. He is GOOD. He knows what will capture our hearts and draw us to Him. He is chasing our hearts, but our defenses are up. We keep running and holding Him out at arm's length!

When we have this view of God, we keep

ourselves in the outer court, where illegitimate children abide. We need to believe that God is GOOD, lay down our defenses, and allow Him in all the way. When we trust the Father (who is safe, by the way), we can get into the inner court, where true children abide; or even better yet, we can get past the veil and into the forbidden Holy of Holies, where only the priest is allowed. Jesus became our High Priest and tore the veil so that we can enter into true intimacy with our Father. —Norma



Bitterness

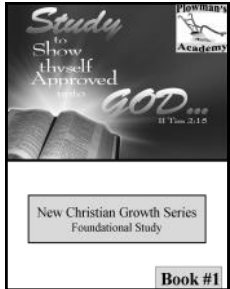
Lies

False Religion

False Religion

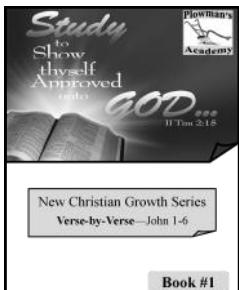
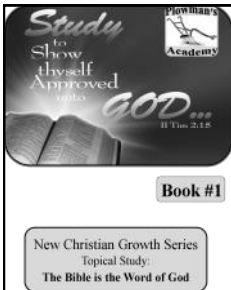
Lack of Vision

Lack of Trust



2. New Christian Growth Foundational Study

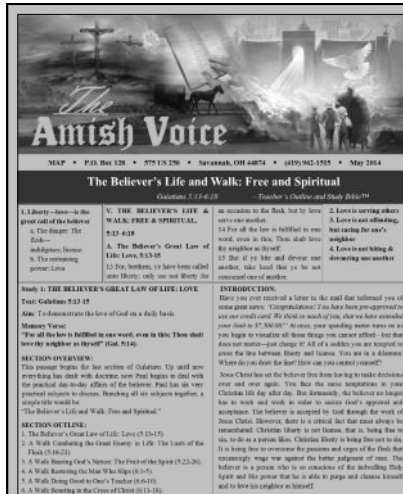
3. New Christian Growth Topical Study



4. New Christian Growth Verse-by-Verse Study

Cut this form out and mail to:

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P.O. Box 128
Savannah, OH 44874



Comments Welcome!

1. If you have any comments, ideas, suggestions, questions, prayer requests, or might want to contribute a possible article for the Amish Voice, please let us know.
2. If you enjoy the Amish Voice and would like to help us with the cost of printing and postage or if you know of others who might benefit from the Amish Voice, please contact us.
3. Please pray for us and with us that we would all grow nearer to God.

Amish Voice
P.O. Box 128
Savannah, OH 44805

Salvation vs. Rewards (continued from back cover)

5:24). “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me HATH EVERLASTING LIFE” (John 6:47). “He that hath the Son HATH LIFE” (1 John 5:12).

5) Salvation is something that can never be lost.

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: And I give unto them eternal life; and THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH [Greek--“they shall never ever perish, no not ever”], neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand” (John 10:27-28).

6) The focus of salvation is upon SIN

(we have a SIN PROBLEM)

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for He shall save his people FROM THEIR SINS” (Matt. 1:21).

7) Salvation involves possessing CHRIST.

“He that HATH THE SON hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:12).

8) The sinner coming to Christ for salvation hears these words: “IT IS DONE!”

“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, IT IS FINISHED” (John 19:30).

9) Salvation was accomplished at Christ's first coming.

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world [at His first coming] to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15).

RESURRECTION OF THE JUST” (Luke 14:14). Believers will receive rewards at the first resurrection, and for church-age believers this will take place at the rapture.

5) Rewards can be lost.

“Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown” (Rev. 3:11). “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward” (2 John 8). “For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in My Name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward” (Mark 9:41).

This distinction is clearly seen in 1 Corinthians 3:14-15, “If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss [there will be loss of reward]: but he himself shall be saved [there will not be loss of salvation]; yet so as by fire.”

6) The focus of rewards is upon SERVICE (we have a responsibility to faithfully serve the God who saved us)

“With good will DOING SERVICE, AS TO THE LORD, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free” (Eph. 6:7-8).

7) Rewards involve possessing CROWNS.

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth THE PRIZE? So run, THAT YE MAY OBTAIN. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible CROWN; but we an incorruptible” (1 Cor. 9:24-25).

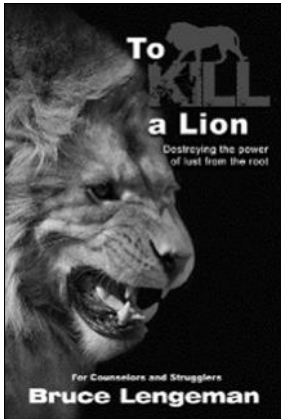
8) The faithful believer about to be rewarded hears these words: “WELL DONE!”

“His lord said unto him, WELL DONE, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matthew 25:23).

9) Rewards will be bestowed upon believers at Christ's second coming.

“Henceforth there is laid up for me A CROWN of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that LOVE HIS APPEARING” (2 Tim. 4:8). “And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me” (Rev. 22:12).

Salvation vs. Rewards will be continued in the next issue of the Amish Voice



Do you struggle with lust or other sins and addictions?

To kill a lion, written by Bruce Lengeman, designed to help men find the roots of their sexual addiction. The theme is “Men cry out, I know it is wrong, but why can't I stop!” The book is for both counselors and strugglers. To Kill a Lion will help men

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The Amish Voice
Conference Call Schedule
is listed on page 5!

Salvation

1) Salvation is a free gift and can't be earned.

“But not as the offence, so also is the FREE GIFT. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the GIFT by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is THE GIFT: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the FREE GIFT is of many offences unto justification” (Rom. 5:15-16; and see also Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 6:23; John 4:10).

2) Salvation is not something we deserve.

If God were to give us exactly what we deserve for the way we have lived and for the sins which we have committed, what would He give us?

“If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?” (Psalm 130:3) “The wages of sin is DEATH” (Rom. 6:23).

See also Psalm 103:10.

3) Salvation is not given on the basis of works.

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, but according to His own purpose and grace” (2 Tim. 1:9). “NOT BY WORKS of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us” (Tit. 3:5). “Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness WITHOUT WORKS” (Rom. 4:6).

4) Salvation is a present possession (it is something that the believer has now).

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE” (John

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Rewards

1) Rewards can be earned by faithful service.

“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord YE SHALL RECEIVE THE REWARD of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ” (Col. 3:22-24, and note that the emphasis of this passage is upon SERVICE).

2) Reward is something that the believer deserves.

“Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities” (Luke 19:16-17). This man was deserving of reward because his pound gained ten pounds and because he was faithful in very little. [Caution: The believer who labors faithfully for Christ must never forget what Paul said in 1 Cor. 15:10, “by the grace of God I am what I am...I labored...yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” So even in the earning of rewards the principle of grace is operative.]

3) Rewards are given on the basis of works.

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS” (Matt. 16:27). “And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man ACCORDING AS HIS WORK SHALL BE” (Rev. 22:12).

4) Rewards are a future attainment (they are something the believer will receive later)

“And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou SHALT BE [future tense] RECOMPENSED AT THE