

John Newlin Ministries

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

The Bible is a spectacular, wonderful book. Magnificent. I do not have the words adequately to describe it.

The words are all written by God. Words from God for his created people, put down on paper by different people over hundreds of years as guided by the Holy Spirit.

All are worthy of study. At times in your life, various particular verses may take on special meaning only to you on a particular issue you are involved in. It is always amazing to see that happen, to experience the guidance of the Holy Spirit while reading the scriptures.

Now having said all that, over the years I have found there are several absolute fundamental scriptures that every believer needs to have deep in his heart and in his mind. Scriptures that not only come to mind from time to time but are readily there in our consciousness every day. Yes, God will bring to your attention particular scriptures that are unique to whatever you are going through at a moment, or perhaps when you are engaged in discussion with someone. But that is not what I am speaking of here.

What I am talking about are verses that are fundamental to our very faith and life every day and must be in our understanding all the time. Just like breathing. Just like our knowledge of gravity.

To that end, I have thought that in the trying time we are living it would be good to list some of these verses with a comment or two. I will need more than one newsletter to cover all this, so more will be coming in the future. This is fundamental “equipping the saints,” being at the ready for yourself and for encounters with those God puts you in touch with.

Here below are a few. You should know these verses inside and out, deep in your heart. They are truth and they are life. Your life.

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
– John 14:6

It doesn't get more important than this verse. Jesus is the only way to God. He is God of course, part of the Trinity, and he is the way to his Father. No one gets into the Kingdom of God except through Jesus. In our modern day there are all sorts of people proclaiming all sorts of ways for

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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people to live and reach some higher power or other. Well, there is only one way to God, and Jesus is it.

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” –

John 11:25-26

Victory over death and over separation from God. Eternal life with Jesus and his father. That is what Jesus brings. He said this just before raising Lazarus back to life.

take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. – 2 Corinthians 10:5

No doubt from time to time in your life you might have a troubling thought, maybe one which you wonder where it came from. Why did you think that? Well, it is likely that some demon has sent that thought to you, spoken it into your mind, trying to get you to focus on it and get distracted and slip into some darkness. And I suppose there is also the possibility you might have a troubling thought from some past time pop up just from your own mind, a thought about an issue you thought you had handled. In any event, taking it captive to make it obedient to Jesus is an excellent step to take. Stay in the light, in the truth. Let Jesus handle it. Everytime you get such a thought just say I take all thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ. Demons can't hang around light.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. – Psalm 23:1

That's it, isn't it. Peace, assurance, provision, protection. If you know the Lord, if he is your shepherd and you are one of his sheep, then you shall not want for what is needed in life. The shepherd takes care of his sheep. That doesn't mean life will be without struggles and difficulties; but it does mean that in the end, the Lord will take care of you. I've always liked Jesus' words elsewhere when he says he will never lose us (believers)

it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

This great gift is from God to an undeserving people. Certainly none of us could ever do enough to deserve his total absolute forgiveness and acceptance into the Kingdom. But Jesus took care of that. The perfect sacrifice. He substituted himself for us on the cross, took upon himself all our sins, and took the punishment away from us. The great gift of salvation is an unmerited gift from God to you and me. All we have to do is realize who Jesus is and accept him as our Lord.

by his wounds we are healed. – Isaiah 53:5

by his wounds you have been healed. – 1 Peter 2:24

Jesus took upon himself all our sicknesses and diseases and iniquities and pain, and he overcame all that. By his stripes – or wounds – he suffered in going to and through the cross, we are healed. In all ways. This is fundamental to all he accomplished. On that cross and his victory

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over it in rising to life again, Jesus accomplished so many things. Elsewhere I have described sixteen things Jesus did in our CDs and videos on this subject. There are more. And you surely have heard these verses quoted as part of receiving healing from God.

Here I've grouped together several extraordinary scriptures said by Jesus regarding salvation so we can look at them together. Each by itself is wonderful and true, and they of course must also be considered together. They are not exclusive of each other or in contradiction to each other; these are all descriptive of the requirement to be in God's kingdom. They are all true.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16

The most famous verse in the Bible. The key word of course is believes. That word means hard, absolute belief, such as believing there is enough oxygen in the room where you are to keep you alive – otherwise, you would be out of there! Close to this verse in the same chapter are these landmark verses:

no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. – John 3:3

no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. – John 3:5

You must be born anew even to see the Kingdom of God. To get in, you must be born of water and the Spirit. This for some is difficult to understand. There are various ways of expressing it, but consider just this: Your past sins, your impurities and all are washed away and you get a new spirit. The old has gone and the new has come. John the disciple explained this in John 1:12-13 (Good News Translation) as indeed moving to a place where God himself becomes your father. So, while you still have the same old body and mind, suddenly you have a new spirit. And life thereafter is one ideally of working to renew your mind and body to get it in line with your spirit.

But Jesus didn't stop here. He had more to say:

Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. – Matthew 18:3

What are little children like? They believe what their parent tells them. Absolutely.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. – Matthew 7:21

Some have described this last verse as the most frightening verse in the Bible. But remember, Jesus is love. Obviously he wants you to live in the will of his Father. And he is going to help you do that. If you keep your eyes on him.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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The verses above are all from the NIV. You should read them in whatever good Bible translation you like. Obviously there are more scriptures like these powerful ones that are fundamental to the life of a believer. Again I will put them in an upcoming newsletter. But this is a good start. Focus on them. Pray about any you might have questions about.

Our thanks again to all who contribute to this ministry with your financial donations as well as to all those who pray for us and assist in other ways! *(All contributions to John Newlin Ministries, Inc. – whether money or material goods or stocks or bonds – are tax deductible. John Newlin Ministries, Inc. is a 501 © 3 nonprofit corporation.)*

Remember, always keep your eyes on Jesus!

John

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