

April 3, 2022

# Viewpoint from the Valley Grove Church Of Christ

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## “What It Means To Be A New Man”

By Dee Bowman

Jesus said, “*Except ye be born again, ye cannot see the kingdom of heaven*” (Jn. 3:3). What does it mean to be born again? It means one who has been forgiven of his sins and born into a new relationship “by water and the Spirit” (vs. 5). It means he is baptized into Christ, a new man. This person is then admonished to “*grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ*” (2 Pet. 3:18).

There are certain noticeable characteristics that become evident in this new creature. He has a new Lord, a new mentor, a new example to emulate in this new life. He has a new attitude, a different disposition about what is important and what deserves his concentration. He has new goals and new ways of accomplishing those goals. He is a new man.

What is involved in being a new man?

“*Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things have passed away, behold all things have been made new*” (2 Cor. 5:17). And so, this new man — first of all — has done away with the old things, things having to do with the flesh. He has a new vision of himself because he has a new vision of the Savior — he is “in” (is connected to) Christ. This new relationship has promises that the carnal man cannot have, that the flesh cannot provide. He is now connected to Him who was resurrected from the dead by whom his own resurrection is assured. “*Beloved, now are we the sons of God and it doeth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him. . .*” (1 Jn. 3:2). This realization will put a new accent for this new man — an emphasis on the eternal instead of the corporeal. It will join this new born-again believer to the eternal through Jesus Christ, the resurrected one.

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***Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our worship together and hope to see you again.***

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*“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth”* (Col. 3:1-2). First of all, his aspirations have taken on a new flavor, one that has eternal implications. He is no longer connected to the world. He will seek those things that have a genuine quality and substance. And he will set his affections, the things for which he has genuine care and concern, on the things that transcend where he is and are solidly fixed in heaven.

And notice the practical, everyday implications of this new relationship with Christ.

**The new man will put giving above getting.** *“It is more blessed to give than to receive,”* he is told (Acts 20:35) by his Master. Now that takes some getting used to. It’s a learned attribute. You have to work at it. But once a man knows the joy of giving — giving expecting no reciprocity, he begins to realize what Jesus meant when He said “it’s more blessed to give than receive.” The new man extends himself to be available to others, whatever their needs — and not just giving into the church treasury, but personally giving from the abundance of his own blessings. And he gives more than money — he gives time, he gives talent, he gives attention. And all these things are given without regard to the fact that the recipient has done nothing at all to deserve them.

**The new man puts serving above ruling.** The new man is a servant. Why? Because his Master was a servant. After washing the disciples’ feet, Jesus said, *“I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you”* (Jn. 13:15). There is no room in His kingdom for pomposity, ego, or inordinate self-importance. The new man has a new mission in life — to put himself at the disposal of others, to be of service where ever and whenever he can. Hear Jesus again: *“If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet.”* That needs no elaboration.

**The new man puts forgiving before vengeance.** *“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you”* (Eph. 4:31-32). This new man has the same spirit of forgiveness as does his Master. He looks for ways to reconcile, not ways to separate. He wants to forgive, not avenge. *“Recompense to no man evil for evil. . . If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men”* (Rom. 12:17-18). He does not, and he will not, compromise the truth, but he nonetheless looks for ways to give what he has been given — forgiveness.

The new man. The forgiven man. The servant man. The forgiving spirit. The inveterate follower of Jesus Christ. That’s the new man.

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# When Did Jesus Pray?

By Jerry Fite

Jesus, from the beginning of His ministry to His last breath on the cross, was a man of prayer. At His baptism, He prayed to His Father in heaven, and *“the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form, as a dove upon Him, and a voice came out of heaven, Thou art my beloved Son: in thee I am well pleased”* (Luke 3:21-22). Jesus came to do the will of His Father in heaven, so it is only fitting as He began His ministry he would be praying connecting His will to the Father’s will (*cf. John 5:30*). He immediately received miraculous confirmation of a pleased Father in heaven. Complying with God’s will led Jesus to the cross where Jesus expressed in prayer the heavy weight He felt in being sacrificed for man’s sins, and He beseeched in prayerful trust for His Father to receive His spirit as He gave His last breath (*Mark 15:34, Luke 23:46*).

Jesus sought to be alone with His heavenly Father in prayer. With the word spreading concerning His miraculous power, multitudes sought to hear Him and be healed. *“But He withdrew Himself in the deserts, and prayed”* (Luke 5:16). Feeling the pressure of duty, and wanting to just “get away”, when was the last time it drove you to prayer, instead of planning a “getaway weekend” or “vacation”? When was the last time you separated from the crowd and had prayer with close family members? Jesus separated from the multitudes to pray with His disciples (*Luke 9:18*).

Jesus prayed when He faced an important decision. Before choosing the twelve apostles from His many disciples, Jesus *“went out into the mountain to pray; and He continued all night in prayer to God”* (Luke 6:12). These apostles would be men given to Jesus by His Father (*John 17:6*). Apparently, answered prayer was behind His being able the next day to choose those men He named as apostles (*Luke 6:13-16*). Do we spend much time with God in prayer before we make important decisions as to who we will marry, or the wisdom of taking the new job offering?

Jesus took time to offer up “*thanksgiving*” to God. No, I am not speaking of merely of the times He gave thanks for the food before Him, which He did consistently (*John 6:11, Matt. 15:36*), but when He saw God’s wisdom being worked out in the seventy He had sent out, rejoicing, he said, *“I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou didst hide these things from the wise and understanding, and didst reveal them unto babes: yea, Father; for so it was well-pleasing in thy sight”* (Luke 10:21). When was the last time you spoke to God, not asking for something, but just thanking Him for His eternal plan of salvation in Christ which was the wisest of the world could never have

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authored, but the simplest of men can know?

Jesus interceded in prayer on behalf of others at critical times. He prayed for Peter, that his “*faith*” would “*not fail*” (Luke 22:32). Jesus sought God’s help through prayer to keep others spiritually strong. Do you pray for other’s spiritual strength? May we, like Jesus, pray regularly.



“The Bible is the one supreme source of revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God and the spiritual nature and need of men. It is the only guide of life which really leads the spirit in the way of peace and salvation.” *Woodrow Wilson*



Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. — *Ecclesiastes 12:13*

*Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our worship together and hope to see you again.*

***The Bible:  
Read it, Believe it, Obey it!***

**April Birthdays:** The 2nd Jeanette Cooper; The 11th Wesley Hisaw.



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**Sunday**  
Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.  
Worship . . . . . 10:30 A.M.  
Worship . . . . . 5:00 P.M.

**Wednesday**  
Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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