

Sabbath School Lesson #11 – Living With Christ – 7-13 March 2026

Christ would have us all His followers bound by love. “And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness” (Colossians 3:14). “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35). This love is “shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Romans 5:5). It is that when we believe we are “sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession” (Ephesians 1:13-14). “And because we our sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father” (Galatians 5:6). “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God; and if children then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:14, 16-17).

Sunday: Heavenly-Mindedness – Read Colossians 3:1-4; what condition does Paul indicate is necessary for us to be heavenly-minded? It is simply to live a life in Christ, who sits at the right hand of God in heaven. A Christian is a learner, His Master in the school is Christ, whose yoke he has taken, and from whom he learns; his leader in the battle is Christ, who, as Captain of the Lord’s host, has all power in Heaven and earth to impart to His faithful followers, so that they may be more than conquerors through Him who loves them; and in the race that is set before them, they are to run with perseverance, “looking unto Jesus.” We all “with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Christ came to give life to those who had forfeited their life to Satan. But to get His life, which is proof against Satan, we must acknowledge that our life is lost. Knowing that this life is not ours, we must be willing to surrender it into the hands of Christ, to receive His life in exchange. This is most reasonable. It is a question of whether we will give our life to Satan, and get nothing in exchange, or to Christ, and get His life instead. It is a struggle for many because giving up this life means giving up all that pertains to it. All that is of self must go with the earthly life. Says the apostle Paul: “They that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof” (Galatians 5:24). But at last, the surrender is made. We give ourselves to the Lord and take Him instead. How do we get Him? By faith. “Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26). Christ dwells in the heart by faith (see Ephesians 3:17). All that there is to do on our part is to give up, to yield ourselves fully to the Lord, desiring that His ways shall take the place of our ways, and believing that He will give Himself to us, according to His promise. Then we are buried with Him by baptism into his death, thus signifying the putting off of the old life, the crucifying of the old man, and the taking of Christ’s life, in whom we rise to walk in newness of life.

“But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me” (1 Corinthians 15:10). “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Romans 6:6). “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:22-24). “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God” (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). The scriptures state plainly that in becoming Christ’s we take His life in exchange for ours. It is not simply that Christ gave His life to purchase us, but that He gives His life to us; our life has been forfeited, and we are virtually dead, – dead in trespasses and sins, and He gives His life to us that we may have life. Henceforth, then, it is to be the life of Christ that meets the temptations of Satan, and labours to do the Father’s will. But Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever; therefore the life which is given to us will present the same characteristics that the life of Christ presented when He was on the earth in person; His life in us must be as strong to do and to resist as it was when He lived in Judea.

Monday: End Earthliness – Read Colossians 3:5-6 (see also Romans 6:1-7); how do we experience what it means to be dead to self and to earthliness and alive to “those things

which are above" (Colossians 3:1)? In these scriptures, Paul enumerates the evils that must be put away from the life of those who have risen to walk in newness of life. These evils include covetousness. But there is a root beyond covetousness which must be destroyed. Paul tells Timothy: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous" (2 Timothy 3:1-2). What results from men being lovers of their own selves? – Covetousness; and then all else follows. Selfishness, then, is the root of all. Paul calls selfish, covetous people enemies to the cross of Christ, because they want to serve themselves. Christ says, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24). Here Christ strikes at the root of the enmity against God – selfishness. "Let him deny himself." What was it brought sin into the world? – Satan became exalted with pride, love of himself. If, then, selfishness is the root, and covetousness is idolatry, we are doing one of two things – either serving ourselves or serving God. Which shall it be? let us compare the two masters: "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23), with which compare Romans 3:10-18. Now, as a contrast, let us read the character of God: "And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin" (Exodus 34:6-7). Can we hesitate? Shall we love God, or ourselves? Is He not purer, more righteous, better, more perfect in every element of goodness, purity, and truth? "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."

Tuesday: Renewed in Knowledge – Read Colossians 3:6-11; how does Paul continue with this train of thought? We yield to Christ, and the transformation is affected. We continue to yield, and renewing continually takes place. And now the devil comes to us again with his old tricks. He presents the long list of sins, but they do not appal us anymore. We can say to him, 'You have made a mistake; the man who used to live here, and who committed those sins, is dead, and I have no connection with him, and therefore cannot be called on to settle his accounts.' There is no more a "fearful looking for of judgment," for we shall not come into judgment, having passed from death unto life (John 5:24). The devil tries his old temptations, through the lusts of the flesh, but again he is baffled. He used to have no difficulty in leading us astray, but now he has another man to deal with, and to his astonishment he finds that his purposes fail. There is no condemnation to us, because we walk in the Spirit. This new man has never sinned, because it is "created in righteousness and true holiness," and kept eternally new. How often we have wished that we might get rid of ourselves. We may. The word comes to was, "Put off the old man, with his deeds," and with the word comes the power to put him off. And the new man cannot sin, because it is the very image of God. So that our part day by day may be to declare from the heart with the apostle: "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:19-20).

Wednesday: Character of the New Life – Read Colossians 3:12-14; how are believers described, and how do you think it relates to the qualities they are to "put on"? Observe that Paul says: "Therefore put on these things" "Therefore," – for what reason? – Because ye have been renewed after the image of him that created, and because of this renewal after the image of God, we are to put on these things. And mark you, the qualities that are herein enumerated, observe that everyone is an attribute of Jesus Christ. Therefore, put on Christ!

Thursday: Living the New Life – Read Colossians 3:16-17; what specifically enables Christ to be in control, and what role does music play in all this? We are warned: "In their efforts to reach the people, the Lord's messengers are not to follow the ways of the world. In the meetings that are held, they are not to depend on worldly singers and theatrical display to awaken an interest. How can those who have no interest in the word of God, who have never read His word with a sincere desire to understand its truths, be expected to sing with the spirit and the understanding? How can their hearts be in harmony with the words of sacred song? How can the heavenly choir join in music that is only a form?" {9T 143.2}.