Our theme: Becoming a Godly Christian Pt 2 - Investing in Eternity

(March 2026) redo on 13-8-26

So far, we have looked at a range of important Biblical truths which are essential for Christian growth and maturity. Putting these truths into practice, to become more like the Lord Jesus, is an investment in eternity and nothing could be more important than that.

Let us continue this theme.

● Previously we talked about the vital importance of developing a 'Biblical Perspective' in the way we think and behave.

In **Psalm 119:11** we read *"Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against you."*

So how do we please God? By hiding God's Word in our heart, by meditating upon it so it becomes integral in our everyday living. By putting on those Biblical glasses, by thinking Biblically, our vision and understanding becomes more and more aligned with God's will. And you don't need a degree in theology to do that!

Aligning our will to God's will is done through Holy Scripture and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in our heart and mind. It is not something we can do ourselves. When God's Spirit indwells us, He teaches us to walk in a godly way, this empowers us to live a life that truly pleases God.

Now in this study we will focus on a number of key truths including discipleship, aligning your life with God's will, making the right choices, what to 'put off' and what to 'put on', the danger of humanistic philosophy in science and learning and the importance of thinking like a Christian in a corrupt world.

● **The apostle Paul, in Ephesians 1:18** prays that *"the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to **you** (that's you and me) **the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him**, that the **eyes of your understanding being enlightened**; that you may **know** what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of **His inheritance** in the saints."*

These are amazing words that reveal what God is doing with you and me.

The apostle identifies a number of key truths that are essential to maturity. He speaks about:

- the spirit of **wisdom** and **revelation** in the **knowledge** of Him (Christ).
- that the **eyes** of your **understanding** being **enlightened**. (that's our heart & mind)
- that you may **know** what is the **hope of His calling**. (that's our position in God's purposes)
- the **riches** of the **glory** of His **inheritance** in the **saints**. (that's our eternal destiny that God has planned)

Notice these words again: Wisdom, revelation, knowledge, understanding, enlightened, hope, calling, riches, glory, inheritance.

● The fact is that God has more to develop and change in you and me than in the world. Think about that. This world will not change because it does not want to change. But God has a lot to change and develop in you and me.

Therefore, we must fully cooperate with God's Spirit who wants to enthuse and invigorate every aspect of our lives with His presence. **This is truly wonderful**.

God has called us to full maturity in our thinking, understanding and comprehension. He wants you to know the greatness of your redemption, the greatness of your position in Christ, the greatness of your eternal inheritance, the greatness of the eternal riches that are already yours through His love and compassion, and that is just the start!

If you really want to get the full power of Paul's prayer, read **Ephesians 1:17-23** after this session.

- It is amazing to realise that we have an eternal inheritance in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is also amazing to think that God Himself has an eternal inheritance in you and me.

It is a joint inheritance for all eternity. God wants you to know and understand this along with the assurance of His love and blessing so that you can truly rejoice in the eternal glory of His saving majesty.

- But sadly, there are numerous reasons why some Christians do not have a good level of understanding of these important truths. This includes a lack of proper **discipleship** in their early years as a Christian, poor **leadership** from mature Christians, poor **guidance**, poor **teaching**, lukewarm **fellowship**, the list goes on and on.

Now, if you have good leaders and shepherds in your fellowship, please utilise and learn from their maturity and wisdom. Every Christian has a responsibility to lean; to grow and to develop their life and experience to a good level of maturity to ensure they are stable Christians. We cannot delegate or give that responsibility for someone else to do.

In **Ephesians 4:14** Paul says that *we should no longer be immature children who are tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine*.

- With pastoral care, you have the principal responsibility to study God's Word, to learn God's ways, to develop your spiritual gifts given to you by the Lord and to follow Him. Christ alone is your **Shepherd**, your **Guide**, your **Leader** and your **Lord**. Do not let anyone or anything take Christ's position in your life.

Consistent progress in understanding these things is essential to achieve a high level of spiritual maturity through the work of the Holy Spirit who indwells you.

You have to work hard at this, **if you want to be truly blessed, don't accept any lesser standard**.

- Ultimately, it is the wise Christian who will ensure that the focus of their life is upon Christ and His eternal kingdom in a new heaven and a new earth. Everything in your life should be brought into alignment with God's ultimate purpose, and, in light of this, our greatest aim is to live for Christ.

Paul says in Philippians 1:21: *"For to me, to live is Christ"* That type of living cannot be an occasional lifestyle when we feel like it.

Our whole life then becomes a journey in **transformation** to be more like our Lord, and it is good to know that He is so patient with us.

● On this journey the apostle Peter says that we are to "*grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,*" **2Peter 3:18**. Christian **transformation** is never one-sided. It is never grace **or** knowledge but grace **and** knowledge.

When you were saved, you were regenerated and born into God's family. You have been cleansed of all sin and declared righteous through His grace. You are sanctified and separated from the world and, having become God's servant, you will naturally desire to obey and serve him. Christians do this because their heart and life has been wonderfully changed through the power of God's Spirit.

● It is through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, that the seed of God's word will grow in us and shape our lives. But this growth is in **direct proportion** to the **time** and **effort** you spend in God's presence in prayer and in His Word. There are no short cuts, it is a long-term investment.

This means that the empty philosophies of this world, its ideals, its values and priorities can never bring spiritual benefits to the Christian. The new life we have in Christ can never be nourished or sustained in a world that is in moral and spiritual darkness.

● However, time spent with God is an investment for eternity. Resources invested in the financial institutions of this world **may** bring a dividend, if you are lucky, but resources invested in heaven's economy, will never fail or falter.

To put it simply, God's stock market never crashes! Invest there and your reward will be given by the Saviour Himself when **you** meet Him! What a reward that will be.

● One of the **tragedies** of today, is what a Christian **becomes** through **poor** lifestyle choices and what they **could** have been **if** they had made the **right** choices in obedience to Christ.

For this type of Christian, the cares, the trials, the problems and priorities of this world have come in to distract their focus and change their heart's desires and aspirations back to more or less what they were **before** they were saved.

Due to poor choices, they have little or no time to serve the Lord, or read his word, or pray or meet with His people. Furthermore, a Christian who no longer walks with the Lord, will no longer want to worship Him.

● **Now if you recognise any of these issues in your life, you need to take firm action while you still can.**

Delay will produce further entanglement in this world's lifestyle. A lifestyle where sin and self-centeredness become the norm for your life.

Satan knows that once entangled in this lifestyle, you become trapped and you may not have the ability or even the desire to untangle yourself from this empty lifestyle. **The Lord never gives an empty life but a life full of joy, meaning and purpose**. I personally know this having come out of the dead end of atheism and evolutionary thinking, into the light of God's Word and everlasting kingdom.

But please don't find this out when it is too late. Don't become the person Satan wants **you** to be, become the person **Christ** wants you to be. The time for action is **now!**

Next, building upon the valuable truths we have considered include:

- **The importance of putting on Biblical glasses to align our vision and our understanding with God's word.**

In **Romans 12:2** we read that we are "*not to conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of our mind**.*"

This transformation and renewing of our thinking and behaviour is a constant ongoing process in us that uses our intelligence, our mind to walk in God's ways and apply God's principles to everyday situations. We are saved ONCE, but constantly transformed.

- Salvation is the beginning of a wonderful life in Christ, but we must strive to be the Christian God has called us to be.

One of the first things we must do is learn to develop a Christian worldview in our thinking and behaviour. We must remove the secular glasses we once wore and put on Biblical glasses to enable us to obtain a proper perspective of God's purposes from beginning in Genesis to the end in the book of Revelation.

- In Ephesians 4:22-24 Paul says that we are to *"**put off** concerning the former way of life, the old man, (the previous life you once had), which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And **put on** the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."*

At the point of salvation our new life in Christ started, everything changed the moment we were saved. That new beginning brought new life, eternal life, which in turn brought a completely new direction and outlook in our life. It is impossible to return to that old life because God has completely done away with it, it is gone, forever.

- To walk in newness of life we have to soak our mind in God's Word. The Holy Spirit has an important work to do in us by transforming our life from the inside out. He gives us the wisdom and strength to deal with those things that hinder our new life and keep pulling us back to our old life.

By allowing God's Word and the Holy Spirit to **transform** our heart and mind, will in turn transform our language, our behaviour and our outlook, therefore, we become a '**new man**', a **'new person'**. Only the 'new person' we have become and are developing into, has the strength and power to live a life that pleases God.

- Our new life in Christ's resurrection power is far stronger than our old life that was terminated at the cross.

Ephesians 4:23-24 says you are to *"be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that you put on the **new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."*

- This is because our new life in Christ generated **new** habits in our **new** nature and it brought a **new** focus in our objectives along with **new** priorities. **God's priorities become our priorities**. This **newness** begins at the start of every single day. This is important for every Christian to understand.

Putting on those Biblical glasses will enable you to see everything clearer through a Christian worldview as you walk with the Lord.

In our next session we will continue the theme '**becoming a godly Christian - investing in eternity**' by looking at further Biblical truths including:

- **Developing a Biblical worldview.**
- **Strengthening your Christian Life by developing good habits**
- **The importance of transformation - walking with the Lord.**

In summary, God has called us to full maturity in our understanding and knowledge. He wants us to know the greatness of our redemption, the greatness of our position in Christ, the greatness of our inheritance, the greatness of the eternal riches that are already ours through His love and compassion, and that is just the start!

May God continue to bless you in accordance with the riches of His grace.

Thank you.

David Raby

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