

November / December 2022

*B*raman
Foundation of Charities

Biblical Studies

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My son, thou canst not possess perfect liberty unless thou wholly renounces thyself.

THOMAS A. KEMPIS



Dear Friend,

In the November / December issue we are exploring forgiveness, self-denial, and putting on our new nature.

Forgiveness:

Matt 18: 21,22

Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times” Jesus said to him, “I do not say for you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”

Colossians 3:13

And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on the heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another forgiving each other, just as the Lord Christ has forgiven you.

Denial of Self:

Matt 16:24

Then Jesus said, “If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.”

Thomas Kempis “The Imitation of Christ” Book 3, Chapter XXXII

“Of self denial, renouncing every evil appetite.”

Putting on Christ, Casting Aside the Oldself:

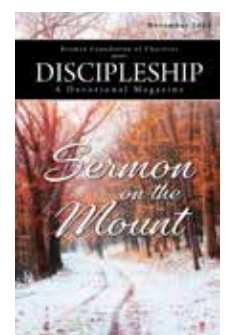
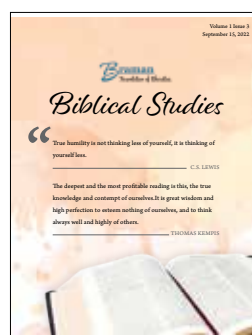
Ephesians 4:21-24

“In reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Colossians 3:10

“And have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.”

Are you receiving
the three teachings
and mailings?



Welcome!

As we wind down this series of Biblical Studies we will study, discuss the exercise of putting off the old self and putting on the new self.

Many of us realize this as sanctification and that we strive to do this daily, following God's ways. Christ our ever present example — Yet others seem to be perfectly fine being saved by grace and rarely if even grow in this exercise of putting off the "old self". Often, others say that we continually need to read scripture, set our time apart for study, and meditate on Christ to grow in this truth. Why?

For some, we become very comfortable, especially in the west, of living satisfied and seek to maintain a lifestyle that is pleasing to ourselves. Yet in truth we rarely understand that we are here but for a moment and move on to the next life.

So how much time do you ponder trying to satisfy worldly desires, disguised as noble or good?

In this study we explore some of the conditions of self that hand us back in the ways of this world and bind us to the flesh and its lusts. Its difficult to understand that whether married or single,

divorced or widowed, the Lord is seeking that we grow in solitude and become wedded to Christ.

In our current era, we have more temptations and distractions than ever before. So we encourage you to grow into a life set-apart, just as Jesus did while here on Earth.

Examine your life, and ask yourself, "How much time, thought, and effort do I use in pursuits of work, money, earthly pleasures, watching sports, or tv in general? And more importantly, why do I consider being with family and friends more important than being wedded to Christ?"

What did Christ say when He made the comment, "There are many mansions in my house,"?

Friend dive deeper, renounce worldly habits, and grow in Holy listening as you put off your old self and put on the self of Christ!

Continued Blessings,
BFC



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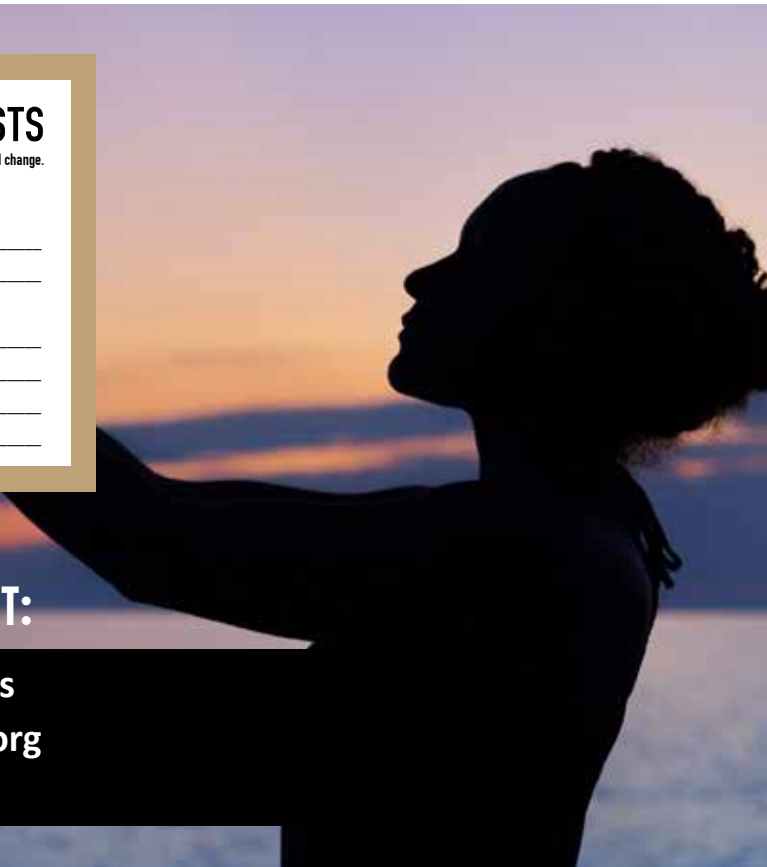
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Forgiveness

Matt 18: 21,22

Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say for you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

And so Jesus is saying always be ready to forgive regardless of how you are hurt. Always, on this side of heaven be ready to let go.

Hurt can come in expectations. It is best to live with no expectations. This is very difficult to understand as many live in dependency of one another. Yet the Lord says, "Me, me, and only me." Love me, love thee.

When you can walk in forgiveness you are always ready to restore love with one another. It is not the divine nature that is hurt, but your illusioned sense of self or what we refer to commonly as ego. This is your pseudo soul. Most, remain in this state, carry out in this state, and rarely comprehend their divine nature. And so great levels of limitation ensue. Hurt compounds, and the hurt is stored in the memory and as current events unfold the pain is relived as if it just happened.

And this is the human condition called "normal". An acceptable fragmented form of consciousness in which many walk in hurt, resentment, bitterness, and never achieve a true divine nature experience.

We just do not believe, and then blame this darkness on the "end times". As if someone, somehow we are in the end times. As if you know?

Reflect on the turmoil in your mind as you lack forgiveness from past hurts. And so ask yourself, "Is it God's will for me to be bitter, hurt, and to walk in such a fragmented state?"

Honestly, why would you be attached to that brand of Christianity? For we are taught that the Christian is brought out of bondage, chains are gone, and only love ensues. Friend, learn to forgive and forget. Christ remembers not your sin, why do you recall the pain of the past?

Colossians 3:13

"And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on the heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another forgiving each other, just as the Lord Christ has forgiven you."

You have within you the power to forgive all past hurts. Yet, you are comfortable in your struggles with bitterness, hurt, and pain. Frequently, we enjoy visiting self-help groups, and when it's our

turn to share, love to recall the pain, to identify with past sin, darkness, as if we find solace in the recollection. Scripture suggests, over and over, to forget your past. Let it go and move on, "can you not feel or see that I am trying to do a new thing?"

Christ is saying to you put on the heart of love, compassion, and characteristics of the Holy Spirit. Practice this art of "putting on the characteristics of Christ", own its heart of compassion. Learn to weep when you witness a man or woman down and out in homelessness, instead through pride, you decide not to help a brother or sister. Why not love them and speak with them? Are you better than they? All are here to work out a salvation. Weep and have compassion for those around you. You know living here on earth is an experience of salvation learning to come back to Christ and so it is hurtful for many. So be gentle with others as Christ is with you. Open your heart to deepen understanding.

Much of the time you just are not going to "get" your way with others, so practice patience. Wait on the Lord to move into the heart of others. Then watch that unfold. Practice patience with others shortcomings for Christ has been patient with you. Practice holiness and being peaceful to others and even in the face of ridicule. Learn to be Holy as this is part of your divine nature. In holiness you must learn to be set apart from the world. Be blessed, but more importantly, bless others.

Self-Denial

Matt 16:24

Then Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me."

So what is your cross to bear? Can you renounce yourself and serve only Jesus? What is self? The characteristics that are contrary to Christ's likeness. You are made in divine nature. All persons are and putting off self is their sanctification. These characteristics are contrary to love. So with that said it is not okay to say, "I am a disciple and continue to sin, in selfishness, and all the worldliness of human nature. We are to set ourselves apart and be a light unto the world. This is to be done 7 days a week and all day long. It is not acceptable to live in self.

What mansion in heaven are you going to when you make your transition? Do you just want "to get by" and live in a hut in heaven or do you want to walk the road with golden bricks, and talk with Moses, Paul, and David? Come on get on with it. Renounce those tendencies that are holding you back. Can't figure out your flaws, then ask Jesus to reveal them and watch out. Because if you are sincere in your relationship and ask that question, oh boy! You are in for a real lesson. Get prepared. "On self denial, and renouncing every evil appetite."

**The Imitation of Christ, Book 3, Chapter XXXII
Of Self-denial, and Renouncing every Evil Appetite
Thomas Kempis**

"My son, says the Lord, you cannot possess perfect liberty unless you wholly renounce yourself.

Bound in fetters are all they who seek their own interest, and are lovers of themselves—covetous, inquisitive, wandering in a circle, seeking ever soft and delicate things, not the things of Jesus Christ, but oftentimes devising and framing that which will not stand. For it shall perish altogether, whatever is not born of God.

Keep this short and perfect word: Let go all, and you shall find all; leave desire, and you shall find rest. Weigh this thoroughly in your mind, and when you have fulfilled it, you shall understand all things.

O Lord, this is not the work of one day, nor children's sport. In this short word is included all the perfection of religious persons.

My son, you ought not to turn away nor be cast down when you hear the way of the perfect; but should rather be stirred up to higher things and at least in desire to sigh after them.

I desire that it be so with you and that you were no longer a lover of yourself, but that you stand merely at My bidding, and at his whom I have appointed over you. Then you would exceedingly please Me, and all your life would pass away in joy and peace. You have yet many things to part with, which unless you wholly resign to Me, you shall not attain the world and yourself.

I said that you must buy mean things instead of things that, among men, are precious and exalted. For true heavenly wisdom seems very mean and small and almost given up to forgetfulness, because she has no high thoughts of herself nor seeks to be magnified upon earth. Many indeed praise her with their mouths, but in their lives they are far from her. Yet she is the 'pearl of great price', which is hidden from many."

Putting on Christ Casting Aside the Old Self

Ephesians 4:21-24

"In reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

You know that the old self must be cast aside and the new self, which is in Christ Jesus put on. This is done through a renouncing of your old ways and taking on new. Shed your defects of character and your shortcomings through surrender. Get on your knees and ask Christ to reveal your sin nature and now promise Christ that you will overcome and not only will He forgive, but Christ will help you with a new nature, your true nature of divine love.

For many believe there is no effort needed, yet the saints of old

have told us that these take time to put in the light of Christ. Grow in your relationship and learn to let go of the self. Thank God for this opportunity.

Practice Righteousness, Holiness, and Truthfulness. These characteristics can come out of you as you put on the likeness of Jesus. It is in your relationship with Christ that you put off your self nature and put on Jesus. In our sanctification, this process continues, yet as some of these self, egotistical desires are mastered through grace, what showed forth is love of others, love of self, and a respect for who you and others are in Christ, in God.

For most, in this realm, what we believe to be so real is not permanent. There is a fabric woven, a deceit that overshadows the truth of who you are and what is meant by "being a light to the world." Its roots are in desire of ego gratification, avoidance of lessons learned, and ignorance. What is real is that all souls that incarnate to earth come here to work out their salvations in God.

It is not a matter of religion, rather an understanding that to put on Christ, a conversion must ensue of what is commonly referred to as "being born again". Only then does this Holy Spirit reside to take hold and reveal the process of sanctification. Putting on the real and removing and overcoming the lie.

Colossians 3:10

"And have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him."

This process of sanctification will only occur when the soul comes into the realization that it is He and He alone in Christ that the relationship must unfold. A process of continual repentance of the lie, the illusion that this realm and even our lives here on earth are real and unending. In this realm we are here to first come back to the Lord through the process of being "born again". The process of sanctification begins and in this are the methods being taught to put on your new self. Therefore, grow in this process, accept the pull of the Holy Spirit to work in you and through you to protect and renew your mind.

Finally, friend, make the effort. Stop believing that all you need to do is show up to a church, or religious service, place your tithes in the offering, attend a weekly bible study, and yes these are useful and helpful, yet it is the relationship in which you are developing with Jesus, your teacher, in the sanctuary of silence in your home in which your greatest strides will be made with His grace and mercy.

As we close this short study, always remember your main purpose for this incarnation is to learn how to come home to Christ. Work to overcome all the trappings or illusions of this realm and know His ever-present love, joy, and peace!

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2022 BFC Scripture.

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31



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