

OLD LIFE – NEW LIFE

*“Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be **dead** unto sin, but **alive** unto God in Christ Jesus,”* Rom.6:11. The Word of the Lord teaches me there are things that must be **left behind** and things to be **added** when I become alive in Christ Jesus! Where I **once walked** is not where I **now walk**! I have come out of the world (Satan) and now I am in the Lord, (Christian). The two differences is describe by a preacher as being “a place where I used to be; but am no more.” Before one obeys the Gospel he is **dead in sin**. After he obeys the Gospel, he is **alive in Christ Jesus**.

The world is described as “*for **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*” Rom. 3:23. Concerning the people of the world, “*the **whole world** lieth in the evil one,*” I Jno. 5:19. Before one obeys the Gospel he is lost and separated form Christ and is without God in this world, Eph. 2:12. This person is described as being like the Gentiles, in Rom. 1:18-31. This person is apart from God and is lost! He **must find another way of life** should he expect to dwell eternally in heaven, Rev. 2:10.

Peter and the apostles told the people on the day of Pentecost to: “*Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins,*” Acts 2:38. When the Lord was giving the great commission he said: “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned,*” Mk. 16:15-16. From these two passages we learn, the whole creation needs to **believe, repent and be baptized**! In I Tim. 6:13 Jesus witnessed: “*The good confession before Pontius Pilate.*” This confession is said to have been made “**with the mouth,**” Rom. 10:10. The good confession is made with the mouth unto salvation! So, it is recorded in Acts 8:37, “*And Philip said, If thou believeth with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,*” (KJV). When you put all of this together, one will note: **Faith, Repentance, Confession and Baptism**. When one does this Paul says he **arises and walks in “newness of life!”** Rom. 6:4.

When one begins his life as a Christian, all of the old sinful deeds and acts are **abandoned** and he takes on a “**new life**” – a life following the Lord. This “**new life**” looks to the Lord as his example and becomes like him in his life, I Cor. 11:1. Now, with him, he is concentrating on building a character that **will be fit for heaven** – that is his goal, Jno. 14:1-6.

Listed in Gal. 5:22-24 are nine qualities designated as the “**FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.**” The Christian’s actions are in that direction. In II Pet. 1:5-7 there is a list of qualities that should be a part of a Christian’s life; so, he gives careful consideration to these qualities. Paul in Phil. 4:8-9 list a number of qualities and says one should “**think on these things.**” In Col. 3:12-17 we have a list of qualities and an admonition to “**do all in the name of the Lord,**” Col. 3:17.

In Col. 3:5 all of the former things are to be “**put to death.**” All of the new traits and qualities associated with New Testament Christianity are to be “**put on.**” Col.3:12. So, for the Christian there is a “**putting off**” and a “**putting on.**” I heard a preacher say, many years ago, when former friends and associates come calling at your door – just holler out to them, “**I used to, but I don’t no more!**” Caa

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