

Responsibility - The Grace Believer

a study for the College and Career Class at Gulf Coast Baptist Church

by Steve Thomas 12/26/21

Introduction

The believer has been given the authority of a priest, with access to the holiest of holies... God's right hand. He is told to approach the throne of grace boldly to find grace to help in time of need. The believer is a son with privilege who has been given eternal life. He has God's quality of life as a present possession. His authority stems from his position In Christ. The old man represents the believer's position in Adam. There are verses which describe the old man.

Rom 6:6 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.

Eph 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

The position that the believer had in Adam was crucified on the Cross of Christ. That position and the thinking that comes with that should be "put off".

The main responsibility of the believer regards his walk, or his manner of life, how he deports himself. In order to live the life that God intended for the believer, he must order his life in a certain way. For this to happen, the old man must be put off.

The believer's walk

The scriptures have much to say about the walk of the believer. There are some 35 verses which give revelation concerning the way the believer is to deport, or arrange his life. Terms like walk by faith, walk in the spirit, walk in the light, walk in love, and walk worthy are enlightening for the believer. The believer should be intentional about arranging his life in these ways.

Col 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Paul to the Colossians reminds them to arrange their lives in a similar way to how they were saved initially. Rooted and built up In Christ and "stablished" in the faith - that doctrine that is revealed that enables the believer to overcome their spiritual enemies.

Paul directs the mindset of the believer to his position and to revealed doctrine. These mindsets are vital to the arrangement of the believer's life. The result of this type of thinking is stability, growth, and security.

The opposite of these results is being “spoiled” or robbed by typical world system thinking (2:8). When we are put under any type of law which seeks to restrict our behavior, it robs the believer of the benefits of living powerfully in their position. When the believer arranges his life understanding who he is In Christ, he is free and powerful. When he behaves a certain way based on the expectations of others, he is robbed of these benefits. The behavior is not the most important factor here, but the motivation for that behavior. The believer should be offering the sacrifices of the believer priest, with the motivation of serving with gratitude because of the riches of the grace of God, not conforming to someone’s standard.

Conclusion

Whatever the believer is led to do (by the Spirit) it should come from a thinking that is based on the believer’s position In Christ. The life that is flowing from this type of thinking is not conforming to someone’s standard, even if those standards are biblically based. The believer understands who he is after being placed in the Body of Christ, and places this position in his thoughts often. He then arranges his thoughts as such and receives the benefits of stability, strength, and growth.