

# This New Life

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## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL: AUGUST 1-6, 2022

### PSALM 107:1-9, COLOSSIANS 3:1-11

#### MONDAY - August 1, 2022

**Psalm 107:1-2** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.

**Colossians 3:1-2** Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

**REFLECTION:** As Christians we need to repel the inventions of humanism (human importance over God's sovereignty) that cripple the truth of the Gospel. God teaches us how to live our lives with inspiring words and a most excellent way to live. We are made new,

raised to new life with Christ, so that we set our sights on the realities of heaven. No human philosopher or scientist can offer us this magnificent outlook on life. When Jesus grants us a clear vision of our future, joy becomes real and it is backed with enthusiasm. No person can ever give us such delight. Paul tells the Colossians to take time and meditate upon the heavenly life. Why should we take the time to do this? It helps us to confirm in our hearts the holiness of our lives in Christ. Let's be clear, all of human life with its traditions will vanish. As Christians we die to this life, and our real life is hidden with Christ in God. Then how should we live? We should live as people who exercise a superior love which is caused in us by accepting God's redemptive plan. Being raised with Christ means we are members of God's eternal family. With confidence we can acknowledge that we ascend into heaven because Christ has gone before us. As true sojourners in this world we are now bound for heaven, with our minds absorbing the intensity of unity with God. Let's be free to draw in the heavenly realm, for Christ sits at the right hand of God. Find a place of worship this Sunday and bask in God's glory.

**PRAYER TIME:** *I give thanks to You, O Lord, for You are good. Your faithful love endures forever and You redeemed my life. Help me to live this week out of these truths. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

#### TUESDAY - August 2, 2022

**Psalm 107:3-5** For he has gathered the exiles from many lands, from east and west, from north and south.

**Colossians 3:3** For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

**REFLECTION:** A main theological theme of being a Christian is understanding the belief that no one can rise again with Christ if they have not first died with Christ. The consequence of dying with Christ is becoming a new person created by God's love. Learning to die to self and to the world around us is difficult. Let me explain. When you catch yourself about to tell a lie or embellish a story, you become aware of your sinful nature. These are the things that cause death. I was listening to a lecture recently. They were discussing whether or not lying was okay. As people who have Christ's wisdom in our hearts we know the answer, but it is not clear to everyone. In today's culture lying is an acceptable practice. Will I ever lie again? Sure, but I know I will feel the sting of shame when I do. That is why we are taught to seek things from above. Do not speak and act as people of the flesh but people of truth, compassion and mercy. As we become dead to the world we become more alive in Christ. What does this look like? A praying person lives with more love. Creating a family system bound by love in Christ is so true. Death to self comes before the



resurrection with Christ. A good way to understand this is to set aside pride and ego and humbly seek God. I have found that dying to myself is one of the most difficult parts of my faith. When we die to Christ, His true life appears to us and we come alive in a most powerful way.

**PRAYER TIME:** *God of mercy and kindness, You have rescued me from a foreign land. You have given me new life which was once hidden from me. Gracious God, You have revealed Your Son, Jesus Christ, to me. He lives in my mind and what a wonderful thing it is! Blessed are You, O God, for anointing me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

### WEDNESDAY - August 3, 2022

**Psalms 107:4-5** Some wandered in the wilderness, lost and homeless. Hungry and thirsty, they nearly died. **Colossians 3:5** So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world.

**REFLECTION:** Paul is speaking about his contempt for the way the world understands life. To counter the world's ways, Paul says we need to put to death our worldly ways and accept God's invitation to new life. Let us be willing to seek a higher doctrine of life, far above humanism and the canons of an immoral world. As I grow to trust God's love for me I become more uncomfortable in my flesh. This is a good thing. Why? Because I am becoming a real human being who is in Jesus Christ. Christ is the second Adam made one with God. As we begin to die to self and the world, we begin to understand more about our will and how it often runs counter to God's wisdom. Growing in faith is learning how our corrupted nature is made up of many different vices. In other words, we come clean and to the end of ourselves. Our vices live in our old conscience wanting us to return to earthly things and not to our heavenly home. I am invited to heed God's grace. **Colossians 3:2** *"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."* I don't know about you, but that is hard to do! The only thing I find that helps is taking time to be with my Father in heaven. My vices want to have control over me and threaten my freedom. When I stop and remember that my flesh has been put to death, I begin to be more steadfast, not falling into temptation. Those in Christ are made anew in a heavenly way. Our minds are being renewed by the Spirit. As we grow to love God we begin to worship the gods of the world less and less. Does that make sense to you?

**PRAYER TIME:** *Lord Jesus, I once wandered in the wilderness and lost my way to You. But You, in Your mercy and compassion, found me and brought me back. Now I hunger and thirst for Your truth and wisdom. Praise You Lord! In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

### THURSDAY - August 4, 2022

**Psalms 107:6** "Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he rescued them from their distress.

**Colossians 3:6-8** Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

**REFLECTION:** The Greek interpretation for the word "lust" includes all allurements of unhallowed desires. It signifies mental uneasiness of all kinds. As the uneasiness of an individual goes up, so does the possibility of anger which can turn into rage. As a result, a person can form a distorted view of life, causing broken relationships. God does not tolerate this kind of behavior. These actions from humans run counter to God's plan for humanity. He created love and harmony, backed by unity and peace, in all our relationships. The judgements of God denounce such wickedness. His judgment will not be complete until the last day upon Christ's return. The wrath of God will come upon the unbelieving on that day. The promises of God's grace are brought to those who accept Christ. Every one of us has ears to hear the voice of God. Some hear it but ignore it. Let me ask you, are the allurements of unhallowed desires causing an unpleasant life? It is never too late to die to self and live in Christ. By extinguishing your corrupt affections, you will find you begin to produce fruits of true love, gracious mercy, and life changing compassion.

**PRAYER TIME:** *Lord, God of creation, the people You created in Your image are crying out in trouble. People are dying in senseless wars and are being manipulated by falsehoods. Help us to discern between the way of the world and Your truth. Send Your Spirit upon us to help. Rescue us Lord Jesus, for we are crying out for Your help. In Jesus' Name, Amen*

## FRIDAY - August 5, 2022

**Psalms 107:7-8** He led them straight to safety, to a city where they could live. Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them.

**Colossians 3:9-10** Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

**REFLECTION:** When we lie to each other, we make up a fake world where we want something to be true. That is how our old sinful nature worked. We were first born from Adam. What came from Adam was ruined lives, conflict and death. Just read the Cain and Abel story. Genesis 4:6 "Why are you so angry?" the lord asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected?" After being born in Christ a new person emerges. We are renewed by the Spirit of Christ and soon discover that a life of obedience and righteousness gives us a freedom we never experienced before. The fake world in which we once lived was focused on immorality. The new reality of life is now our unity with God. Each day we are being regenerated to be more like Christ.

**PRAYER TIME:** *Holy Spirit, guide my tongue and keep me on the straight road. Prevent me from wondering back into the darkness. I praise Your name, Lord Jesus, for Your great love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

## SATURDAY - August 6, 2022

**Psalms 107:9** For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

**Colossians 3:11** In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

**REFLECTION:** This new life of ours consists of a new and deeper knowledge of God. It comes from the illumination of the Holy Spirit, which enlightens our minds as we read and reread the scriptures. The Spirit causes a spark that lights the fire of truth, and it is seared into our conscience, never to be forgotten. We are literally being transformed into a whole new person. Think about that for a minute. What John Calvin is saying is this. We are being renewed once again in the image of God. By Christ's imputation of righteousness we are on the way to become complete again in the image of God. This all resides in the whole of our soul. The glorious day of our resurrection from the dead will be the end of our regeneration. On that first day of resurrection we will be made more like Jesus Christ. May His glory shine in us!

**PRAYER TIME:** *I am amazed by You, O Lord God. You have invited all the people of the world into one family. Your precious Son has brought us together by His glorious Divinity. Blessed is the name of Jesus. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*