

Doctrine of Christian Living

The Goal of Christian Living

1. It is a basic tenant of Christian theology that history is moving to a conclusion that will involve the removal of sin. Life will be enjoyed in a new heaven and new earth wherein dwelth righteousness.
2. It is important to keep this big idea in mind.

Special Note.

Dr. R. C. Sproul tells the story of a businessman who shared with him that in Japan, in the world of finances, goals are set that reach two hundred years into the future. The purpose of this far reaching planning is to have “the big idea” always in their mind. Then, the businessman asked Dr. Sproul, “What is the big idea of Christianity?” It is a good question.

3. When the Reformers crystalized their movement and what they were doing, Martin Luther spoke of the Christian life in terms of Coram Deo, “before the face of God.” All of life is to be lived in the presence of God.
4. Sometimes Christians behave differently in the presence of an audience than they normally act. Sometimes Christians behave in secret in a manner they would be ashamed of if their behavior was made known.
5. The Prodigal Son went away before he squandered his resources.
6. The Reformers said that all of life was to be lived in “Coram Deo”, meaning life is to be lived in the presence of God.”
 - *Psalms 139:7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*
7. Luther said that Christians should not have a secret life, but have a consciousness of God from moment to moment.
8. To the idea of living before God is to be added the twin concepts of living under the authority of God, and to live for the glory of God.
 - *Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*
 - *John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

9. It is not easy to live such a meaningful and spiritual life. Nevertheless, the bend of the heart must be towards a life of devotion to God.
- *Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*
10. To please God is to press forward through those times we are paralyzed and frustrated in our spiritual growth.
- *Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*
11. In life, we tend to be excited about living the Christian life, until we are tested, and then we stop. But the higher we go, the better we do.
- *James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*
12. If there is to be any growth in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, we must have an objective. That objective is provided by Christ. It is reaffirmed by the apostles. It is renewed by the Reformers. “Coram Deo.”
- *Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
13. Jesus went on to teach that those who enter into the kingdom of God must be taken by violence, just as a military commander will storm an objective. Christians must not be casual, or cavalier about the Christian life.
- *Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.*
14. The kingdom of God is so valuable, it is like a pearl of great price.
- *Matthew 13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*
15. The kingdom of God is so precious, it is like a shepherd who seeks after a lost sheep.
- *Luke 15:4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? 5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me;*

for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

16. The kingdom of God is so important that, like a lady seeking for a lost coin, everything will be done to find it.

- *Luke 15:8 Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? 9 And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. 10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*

17. The kingdom of God is like a son who goes to a far country, and returns home after coming to himself.

- *Luke 15:11 And he said, A certain man had two sons: 12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. 13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. 21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. 25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. 28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. 29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: 30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. 31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. 32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.*

18. Each of the parables speaks of the kingdom of God thereby teaching its importance. The kingdom of God is worth pressing into. It is worth taking by violence. It is worth every diligent search. It is worth selling everything in order to obtain it. The goal of the kingdom of God must never be moved downward. There must be a breakthrough those periods of paralysis and plateaus.
19. What pleases God is someone who prays every day, "Thy kingdom come." The seeking of the kingdom of God is not something unbelievers do, it is the chief business of Christians.
20. While the King is away, the Lord seeks those who want to be loyal to Him in His absence, to honor Him and to please Him. That is the goal of the life of the Christian.