

Meeker Christian Church
1-19-25
NEW LIFE

Clarification from last week and The New Covenant Hebrews 8:8

8 Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— refer to the Jews in the Northern Kingdom = Israel and the Southern Kingdom = Judah. The New Covenant was certainly for all the Jews - but I am of the persuasion that gentiles are also included as the sermon was focused. For a number of reasons starting with John 12:32 Jesus speaking of himself at the crucifixion and resurrection: 32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” --I interpret the “all peoples” to include we gentiles.

I always invite comments, questions, suggestions, or corrections for my sermon content. Please help me to be faithful to that calling.

Today our scripture is from Romans 6:1-14 with the title of New Life. I am going to start by reading that passage from The Message Bible version: it describes the new life:

6 1-3 So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we’ve left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn’t you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land! 3-5 That’s what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we’re going in our new grace-sovereign country. 6-11 Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer captive to sin’s demands! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ’s sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that

means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did. 12-14 That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you've been raised from the dead!—into God's way of doing things. Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.

From the New King James version just verse Romans 6:4: 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Do you remember when you received a special award, special recognition, won a big match or game or had a loved one tell you how much they love you? We used to call that feeling twiterpated!!! I don't know exactly how to describe what it means, but I sure know the feeling of joy, peace, new life, and pure delight that goes with it... Brothers and sisters that is what is being expressed here for us, accepting Jesus as Lord and being baptized is the experience of new life. The new life begins when a person accepts Jesus as Lord of their life and that new life will never end but inherits the eternal reward of dwelling and serving with God forever in heaven. This new life, Our new life is the result of the sacrifice, resurrection and ascension Jesus accomplished for us - but we have to accept Him as this passage describes.

This newness of life explanation continues --. When we are baptized it means we are to think and act in terms of having put off or "died to" the life of susceptibility to the destructive qualities of sin and be raised with a life slate scoured clean "so we also should walk in newness of life." Newness of life means thinking, living and serving righteously around the clock, through the calendar, and into eternity thinking and being righteous in spite of every attack and influence of satan. Paul writes of that later in Colossians 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

We can go to an earlier experience in the Bible to see more about this new life in Acts 5:17-20 to see the Apostles response to an angelic decree:

17 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, 18 and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. 19 But at night an

angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 “Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.” In the NIV this 20th verse is translated: 20 “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.”

My application for Christians to become, as it were, reinfected with the magnitude of mercy bestowed on us at baptism and like the apostles share with all we encounter in this life until they think we are peculiar ---

Did you ever think you would desire to be identified as peculiar?

Listen to these verses: KJV Titus 2:14: Jesus "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." NKJV uses the phrase “special people” instead of peculiar. But when our Christian faith is demeaned by those who deny God - being called “peculiar” feels like an honorable title.

KJV 1 Peter 2:9: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Make note of this following incredible slave illustration in Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with HIM, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Come on Christian now you know and are reminded that you were a slave wallowing in the existence surrounded and controlled by sin – and do not miss this --- as a slave of sin, //satan controlled your thinking and responses! It seemed like it was an easy life in the sense that you only responded to the input of satan without consideration of any ramification for others by your example, much less your own eternal destiny!!! After all, it was what most everybody else was and is doing – becomes the excuse satan puts in your mind. It is diabolical that when sin attacks us, we are more concerned with being accepted by our friends than we are about being accepted and pleasing to the ONE who created us! That was/is the old life.

For a person to chose to depart from sin slavery by being baptized is a symbol of going through what Jesus went through to rescue and redeem us because of our Holy Spirit directed decision is THE world shaking most important decision and action of your existence and why you were given life by Holy, Sacred, Creator, God Almighty. When you chose baptism you have been symbolically crucified and raised with Jesus and no longer a hopeless, helpless slave to sin.

Let me explain something here: Being freed from sin means being forgiven by the grace of God – it does not mean you will never be tempted or stumble in sin! It means a fresh slate and that God keeps an eraser handy to keep the slate clean when you inadvertently, accidentally, unwittingly, carelessly do stumble AND the Holy Spirit causes you to recognize and realize the error of your action to sincerely ask forgiveness and learn more and more how to defeat satan on his own ground, which is the battleground of our new life on earth.

Look at Romans 6:8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.

Please give appropriate attention to the word “if”. As a qualifier the word if means that our conversion and baptism was the real thing: our meaning is that we have chosen and deliberately and courageously will live with Jesus our Savior’s gift of new life for ever on earth and in heaven. That means on earth the Holy Spirit is indwelling, guiding and going through the chaos of this life with us in preparation for the order of the inheritance of eternal life in paradise!.

This invitation hymn is three-fold:

First - if you have never accepted Jesus as Lord, do not hesitate to come forward and make a public confession of your faith and plans for baptism,

Secondly during this invitation – if you are Christian but not a member of Meeker Christian Church, then as a practical matter of service during the time you are here and to vote for our leadership and other decisions, please come forward.

Thirdly – this invitation is for everyone of us where we stand to please allow the Holy Spirit to show us what God has put into our lives individually and corporately as part of the new life end times privileged remnant to be serving HIM?