Recently I heard about an old farmer, his wife, and their son who had never been to the big city.

So they decided to jump into their old pickup truck, drove to the city, and the finally found a place to park.

The farmer’s wife decided to wait in the truck while her husband and son walked in side a towering skyscraper to take a closer look.

As they entered the massive lobby, they watched as a set of mysterious doors opened and an elderly woman stepped inside. Then the doors closed.

After a few moments, they heard a “ding”, the doors opened, and a beautiful young woman walked out!

The old farmer turned to his son and said, “Quick! Go get Mama!”

Within the life of every Christian exists two books. BC & AD

Book one tells the historical account (verifiable by many witnesses) of the old you/BC: Everyone has a BC…

Before you came to faith in Jesus Christ.

Before He took your sin away.

Before He adopted you as a child, into His family.

Before He filled you with His Holy Spirit and made you Holy.

Before He gave you gifts to serve Him faithfully in His Family business.

Before You died to your self-serving desires and made Jesus Lord of your New Life by entirely setting yourself apart to serve Him, His Will, and the advancement of His Kingdom, above your own.

Book two tells the (verifiable) historical account of the new you/AD:

After you laid your mess of a life, filled with uncertainty, insecurity, hopelessness and insignificance (which manifested itself through various kinds of pride and unbelief) at the foot of the cross of Christ… and Jesus miraculously turned your mess into a masterpiece of faith!

Book two is the account of how “walking by faith and not by sight”, you have seen Christ turns your tests into testimonies, your trials into triumphs and your brokenness into beauty.

The account of how you turned to Jesus as a victim and allowed His Spirit and His Word to lead you into victorious Christian living… a life that reveals Christ-like characteristics in the various areas of life.

Of how you came to Jesus a “good person” and He made you a “Godly person”

Depending on when you devoted your life to Jesus, book one can be very thick or thin. Mine was 31 years thick.

Beyond a doubt, God wants it as thin as possible! But where book one ends and book two starts is completely up to you.

Some of you may be still writing book one, hoping to have a great testimony someday about how God saved you, and pulled you out of a self-destructive, self-serving lifestyle…

A lifestyle that is causing hurt and pain, not just for you, but the lives of the people around you. Victims of your “second hand sin” if you will…

The best testimony of all, however, is the one who turned to Christ, lived by faith, allowing Jesus to save them from falling into a lifestyle of sin, hurt, shame and serving yourself above others.

Not understanding the New Life that Christ died for you to live, will only keep you filling the pages of book one in your life.

1 Peter 4:1-11

1. “New You” starts with a new attitude. V1-2

Not an attitude adjustment, but a replacement! The same attitude that Jesus had/has, suffering to advance the kingdom of God…

It’s not something that the Holy Spirit forces upon us.It’s something that book 2 people choose to seek the Spirit for after they have died to their book 1 ways.

The attitude of Christ “says no” to things that are counter productive to building God’s Kingdom… It’s not easy and it does involve suffering.

But Peter reminds the believers in V3 “you’ve spent enough time writing book one…

Doing what the book one people are doing.

Peter gave them the answer in V1 - “arm yourself with the same attitude of Christ had”.

Otherwise your faith provided as much security, as purchasing a home security system or car alarm and then never intentionally arming/activating it.

Some believers think it’s okay to live like the rest of the world… Which isn’t what the Bible says… book 2 people live different lives

Peter tells us that…

1. The New You will stand out from the world… V4

Did Jesus stand out? Did His attitude attract attention?

* John 5:19
* John 6:38
* John 4:34 (I’ll bet that Christian lifestyle will produce healthy, productive Christians).

When the world see’s someone faithfully living for Christ, not joining in their reindeer games, they will laugh and call you names.

There is suffering involved!

Two ways

How do we overcome? By remembering you are already an “overcomer” by the blood of the lamb and the word of your testimony. Revelation 12:11

You have already won! You do not need to cave to the world and it’s desires. You still have worldly/unbelieving friends, as I said last week, only you choose to live by God’s Word, rather than the way your friends live,

Peter tells them how they can ease the pressure that’s gets put on them by the world… V5

He’s not saying be happy that you’re saved and they’re not…

He’s saying remember you are on the winning team…

and never forget that your life is a missions trip, that God can work through to help others in the world;

* Have a little talk with Jesus.
* Be saved by God’s Amazing Grace.
* So all of their hope can be in Jesus.
* So He can make something beautiful of their life.
* That some glad morning when this life is o’er, they too may “fly away”.

The attitude of Christ is a “proactive attitude” amen?

In keeping with the “New You” theme, Peter moves on to more practical, everyday living.

V7 – Time is short, Jesus is coming back, so sober up and pay attention!

Are you ready to meet Him face to face?

V8 - Love each other deeply – clothes, food, water, visitation, etc….

The real test of your faith is… Can you do those things, and show love to people who have shown themselves to be your enemy? Jesus did

If you possess the attitude of Christ, you can, and you will.

V9 – Offer hospitality without grumbling or complaining. To not just believers, but pre-Christians.

V10 – Use your gifts to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in it’s various forms.

 Now, it would be nice if we rolled out of bed every morning and we always acted like book two people. 1 John 1:9

I can only speak for my wife and say that somedays, she is definitely book one!

Christian living is a daily process whereby we proactively give ourselves to growing in Holiness/Faithfulness/Blameless.

When you are living a good, proactive, book 2 Spiritual life, a lot of the other areas of life fall into place and we are blessed.

That’s the attitude of Christ. He wants our lives to be blessed!

But when we choose not to live a proactive spiritual life, there are many struggles and daily drama…

Live proactively… and your physical health will likely improve, kicking your bad habits to the curb that are keeping your body hurt and unable to serve God in greater ways.

Remember: God has entrusted you with your body and He has a purpose and plan for you. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

* Pick up/clean up after your self…
* Wipe the toothpaste off of your mirror!
* Make your bed everyday.
* Put your dishes in the dishwasher.
* Put your dirty laundry in the hamper.
* Help with the weekly cleaning/chores.

Keep the spaces around you cleaner and see how much better you and the people around you feel. It is a major boost.

Why? “It’s the same attitude that Christ had.” Colossians 3:17

Living a proactive social life doesn’t meaning dating as many people as possible each month (It is seeking those Godly relationships that will benefit your soul (J.C. Ryle).

Proactively keep your word/promises/commitments… James 5:12

That’s the attitude of Christ.

Get a day planner, live a proactive, balanced life!

It is also helpful to write down an important verse that God revealed as you spent time with Him, so you can meditate on it.

Proactively honor, be kind, and obey others (Parents/spouse/teachers/boss/law/etc…).

That’s the attitude of Christ Jesus… Don’t be one of those Christians that say you support law enforcement, while disregarding the speed limit and various other laws that you choose not to agree with.

Living proactively will keep you from getting into trouble with the vary people God has you here to live a Godly/positive/proactive example for, and lead them to faith in Christ.

Live a proactive financial life. Be a “good steward” of God’s money that He has entrusted you with so He can entrust you with more?

Make sure you tithe to the Lord first! Mal 3:8-10 That’s is the attitude of Christ.

If you need budgeting tools I can help.

If you know how to use Excel, I have spreadsheet that will change your financial future.

As you give yourself to becoming the “New You” that Jesus died for you to be, He will bless your life like never before…

And be quick to start… don’t procrastinate… Jesus is coming soon!