

# **THE EXCHANGED LIFE A NEW CREATION**

**DR. MICHAEL WELLS**

**For best results:**

- 1. Watch the session with your group. Do not take notes or attempt to follow the speaker with the study guide. The study guide is not intended as a transcript for the video.**
- 2. Use discussion questions provided at the end of the session during the group meeting.**
- 3. During the following week, review the session using the study guide, read and pray about the applicable Scriptures (be a “Berean”), and complete the applicable homework questions for discussion at the following meeting.**

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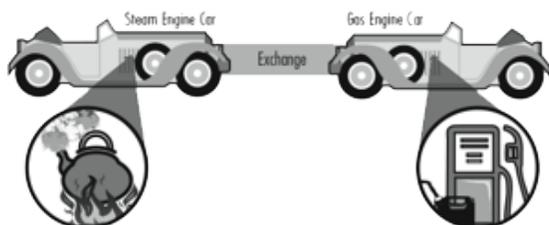


Luke 1:31

Do you remember the car called the Stanley Steamer? They have one at the Stanley Lodge in Estes

Park, Colorado. The Stanley Steamer is a beautiful looking car. The problem is, it has a defective engine. It has a steam engine. Steam engines are defective in that they don't have power when you go up a hill. And they're out of control when you go down a hill. They're loud, they smell and they're always hot. The Stanley Steamer is a beautiful car, with a defective engine.

## Exchange

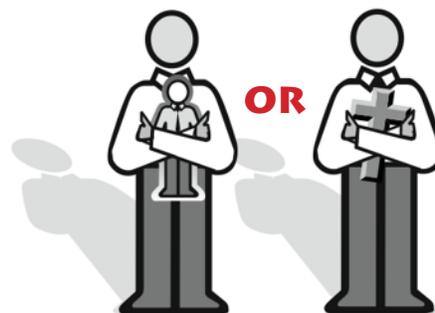


Once the gasoline engine was developed it became very hard to find an original Stanley Steamer, because people would exchange the old steam engine with the new gasoline engine. They put a new engine in the old car.

## THE INNER-MAN, THE

### OUTER-MAN

God created man with an outer-life and an inner-life. Adam's inner-life was defective and was overcome by sin, by Satan and by the world. He didn't have a life that won, he had a life that would lose. So, what God decided to do was not to destroy the outer-man, but instead, He created a "new engine" in a new man - that new man was Jesus. His life is the life that wins, it overcomes sin, it overcomes Satan, and it overcomes the world. It conquers everything.



When the gasoline engine became available, the smart thing to do was to exchange it. When you see this new engine what should you do? The solution is simply this: Why don't you get a life? I truly mean it, **Get a Life!**

I will now say something that is confusing, but if you'll stick with me, you'll see that it's really not confusing because we stand or fall by our definitions:

## Heaven is going to be full of unsaved people.

Here's what I mean: If you study the Scriptures, you will find that the word "salvation" applies to our freedom and our victory today. *And the angel said to Mary, "You will bear a child, and you shall call him Jesus, because He will save the people from their sins."* He forgives us of our sins, and He delivers us from our sins.

I don't know if you are like me, but I reached a point in my life where forgiveness was no longer enough. I just wanted to stop sinning. I wanted to be free but I wasn't free, I felt that I was still a slave. Paul says that the cross is foolishness, but to those of us who are being saved, it's the power of God. Well, I thought I was saved, I thought I was going to heaven. What gets you into heaven is being born again and getting a new life. If you believe in Jesus, then you've been born again, you've got a new life, and you're getting into heaven when you die.

## Born Again = Getting into Heaven

### SALVATION

But salvation is a term that applies to my daily living in victory. When Israel, standing on the city wall sees the enemy coming and they say, "Where's the God of our salvation?" They're not saying. "Is He taking us to heaven today?" They want to know if He is going to come and deliver them from their enemy today. I want more than just forgiveness, I want deliverance. So, what I'm saying is that word "saved" means freedom today. There are many people who are born again and they're going to heaven. But they've never been delivered or saved from a single thing.





## The reason that Christ becomes my life is to deliver me from my daily hell.

I often work with unbelievers. At one point I'll say to them, "I told you when you came into the office that I would tell you how you act and why you act that way. Have I told you how you act and why you act that way?" They will say, "Yes."

I've had secular psychologists try to buy my materials because they see how well it works up to this point. The problem is, it isn't working, simply understanding how you act and why you act that way is going to do absolutely nothing for you unless you get a life. It really doesn't work. It describes the actions of the flesh, the actions of the Adam-life, why you are feeling the way you are, but it won't fix anything.

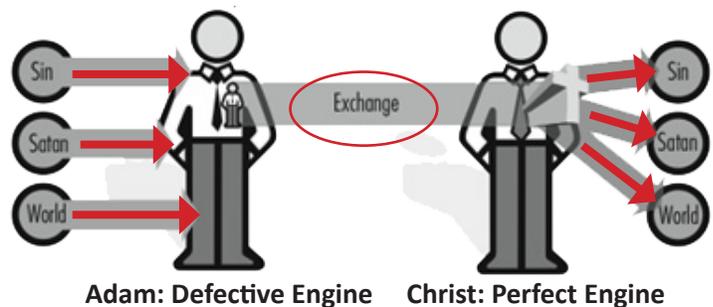
At this point I will say to the unbeliever, "Listen, I'm not a Bible thumper, but I've got an answer for this, and it has to do with Jesus. If you want to hear about Jesus, you need to make another appointment and come back." Every person came back hoping, "Maybe there's a solution to my daily hell."

I don't believe the message of fear, telling people, "One day you're going to hell" will work any longer. Because a lot of people are living in hell today. But the message that He came to get me out of my daily hell and to give me a life that's abundant IS going to work.

So, what we're saying is: **"JUST GET A LIFE!" - that is the solution.**

Are you tired of your life? You can't patch it up. You can't fix it. You've poked at it long enough.

Here's what it means to "Get a Life!". My outer-life and my inner-life together makeup what I am, what you are. If your outer-life died right now, you'd ruin our meeting. If your inner-life died right now, you'd ruin our meeting, because either way you're going to fall over dead. If I take the inner-life out of you, and give you a new inner-life, what do you become? You become a brand-new creation. This new inner-life that we get is Christ's life (exactly).



### IMPLICATIONS

What are the implications of this new life, this "new me"? It means that what the "old me" did, the "new me" never did. What happened to the "old me," never happened to the "new me." What I was, I can no longer be, I become something completely new. I can prove it to you.

The way I can prove that you're a new creation is not through your victories, but through your struggles.

I often give all the men in the room a challenge saying, "Here's what we'll do to prove that you're a new creation. It's a very simple thing to do. It's not that hard to do. All I want you to do is for one week wear women's clothes, the undergarments, a dress, etc. For one week wear women's clothes. I want you to go to work with women's clothes on. I want you visit your relatives, ones who haven't seen you for a while and have on women's clothes." How comfortable would you be with those clothes on? Generally, how comfortable are you going to be wearing women's clothes? You're not going to be comfortable, and yet your sister, your mother, your daughter, your aunt and grandma wear those clothes and they're comfortable. Why aren't you comfortable? What is the struggle revealing to you? It is revealing that you are not a woman, you're a man.



Go out and sin and tell me how comfortable you are now (the "new you"). Are you really comfortable with that? Are you actually comfortable feeling worthless, unacceptable, unlovable, a failure and guilty? Are you comfortable with that? Are you comfortable working all the time trying to change what you are? Are you comfortable falling into the idolatry that you have? What is all of that telling you?

## DELIVERANCE

I prayed for years for deliverance of certain things in my life. One day God spoke to me and said, "I have already delivered you. Why don't you receive it?" Don't you see that you've been delivered? You wouldn't be this miserable if you weren't delivered. You've been delivered from all of those things.

We have a revelation, wake up in the morning and see the clothes that we used to wear (our bitterness, our anger, our depression). We see all that laying there. And we say, "I could put that on today, but it doesn't suit me anymore. It just doesn't fit. It's not worth it anymore. It's too much of a hassle for me."

On New Year's Eve several years ago, I was out preaching and witnessing, going to all the gay bars I could find in the downtown area of Denver. It was quite an experience because I would get into the bar and start preaching and the next thing I knew guys were throwing me out the back door of the bar. At one place they absolutely wouldn't let me in. They had a guard there, a policeman. The policeman paid the \$3 cover charge for me and said, "Let him in or I'll shut you down." So, the policeman ushered me into the place. I didn't last long there either. I got the boot out the back door there too. So, I was walking around, talking and sharing. I kept walking by this one bar where this blond-haired woman would come out and put her arms around me and invite me to come into her bar. But I was really more interested in working in the gay bars. So, I would just move on. When I'd come by there again, she'd put her arms around me and ask me to come in. I still didn't go in. About the third time she invited me, I went into the bar. I go in and find it's all women. They're standing around the bar, some of them are playing pool and the music is loud. I get out my Bible and start preaching at the head of the pool table.



The woman who had been inviting me in comes over to me and says, "I didn't know you were going to preach." I said, "Yeah, that's what I've been doing." She said, "Well, I want you to leave." I replied, "I'm not leaving. You invited me and I'm staying." She said, "You don't get it, do you?" I said, "Get what?" She replied, "We're not girls, we're all guys dressed like girls." I was in a female impersonator club, my male ego took a bit of a dip and I wasn't so happy about him/her hugging me every time I went by there, but anyway... I stood there and I said, "Well, that's all right, it doesn't bother me any." I just kept preaching. I look over to the corner and there's the big black fellow, probably 6'4" - 240 pounds, sitting there wearing a dress. He is sitting in the corner with his arms crossed and I can tell that he's listening to me. His arms are so big that he's got these V's cut in the sleeves of his dress. I told my wife, Betty, "That's the only woman I've ever been afraid of." The guy was huge. I stopped and went over to him because I noticed he was listening. And I said, "You know, the rest of these guys look like girls, but you look shocking. Your wig isn't working. Your makeup isn't working. The dress is terrible." And I started taking him off like that, just teasing him. He said, "Well, I spent a lot of time getting ready tonight." I replied, "Maybe you didn't spend nearly enough time. You need another trip to the powder room. You look shocking. You look like a bottle of Aunt Jemima syrup. That's what you remind me of sitting there."

He starts laughing. I'm having a go at him. We're really kind of hitting it off. He gets out his wallet and says, "Here's a picture of my wife and kids. She thinks I'm out with the guys tonight." I said, "Well you're out with the guys but I don't think she's got a clue what the guys look like." I sat next to him and kept sharing. His friends were coming by making fun of him because he was even listening to me, but I saw the conviction of God, at the perfect time and the perfect place.



I said, "Do you want to get a life?" And he said, "Yeah." We got down on our knees together with people mocking us, and he prayed and asked Christ into his life. Now, when we stood up, I looked at him and gave him a series of commands: "Lose the wig, get rid of the dress, throw away the makeup, and put on men's clothes." Did I give him those commands to change what he was, or to reveal what he was? It was to reveal what he was.

## FIRST, KNOW WHO YOU ARE

In all of his writings, Paul first tells you who you are: You have Christ in you and you are a brand-new creation. Because of that, what's true about Christ is true about you. He establishes this before he ever tells you what to do. But we reverse those two. We're always going to the last half of what Paul says and telling people what to do, before they ever know who they are. And they feel that it's a very unnatural thing to do. But it isn't an unnatural thing to do.

We put off so we can put on, because we've been made something completely new in Christ Jesus. Accepting Christ isn't getting something, accepting Christ is becoming something that I never was before. And isn't it wonderful that what I did, I never did.

A man brought his wife into my office. He was carrying her and laid her down on the floor in the fetal position. The reason she was in that shape is that 15 years ago she had an affair. They both came to the Lord after that. During the last 15 years, he repeatedly harassed her and condemned her over that, until finally she was under that much guilt and that much suffering. I looked at him and said, "Brother, you're more wicked than your wife ever dreamed of being."

I explained to her that the day she accepted Christ, she became a brand-new creation. I said, "In fact, there's no part of your body that any other man has ever touched. It doesn't exist, because we're being renewed all the time. You're a brand-new creation that never did any of that. One of the reasons you feel so bad is that you're imposing on a new life something that new life never did, and it's making you feel quite sick."

Do you know when you think about the things you did before you were Christian, all the sudden you get a pit in your stomach. Why is that pit in your stomach? Because as a new creation you wouldn't do that, it doesn't fit you. We ought to just say, "Thank you Lord that I'm something new, and that's not anything that I would do now."



**Accepting Christ is becoming something I never before was.**

**PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

- 1.** Do you "confess" and struggle with the same old sins over and over? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, why do you think you need to do that? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2.** Have you tried over and over to improve yourself to become the person the Scriptures describes that a Christian should be? \_\_\_\_\_ How has this made you feel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3.** Is this teaching of the "exchanged life" new to you? \_\_\_\_\_ If you accepted it as truth, what changes would it make in your life (in a practical way)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## APPLICATION & COMMITMENT



James 1:22-25 NIV *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does.”*

John 15:5 NIV *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

Don't try to do this alone ...

Prayerfully consider what was taught in this series how you could best be used for God's purposes as you apply what you have learned. Select one change in your behavior as a result of your prayer time.

Date Series Began: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Series Ended: \_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

A Biblical truth (principle) I learned from the lessons was: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I intend to apply this truth (principle): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

With the help of the Holy Spirit, I will begin applying this truth immediately. I ask and expect my group to hold me accountable for this and to check with me periodically to determine if I am doing so. Please ask me: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

