

Three Absolutes

I have been thinking lately about the concept of successful Christian living. And not successful from the world's point of view, but rather from God's point of view. Consider for a moment just our little gathering here. We have different abilities (or gifts), different capacities, different interests, different concerns, different careers, different living circumstances, and on and on.

Now think about expanding that diversity to the whole Body of Christ, born-again believers all over the world. There are different skin colors, different physical characteristics, different languages, different cultural backgrounds, different worldviews.

And yet, with all these differences and all this diversity, God is the same God for all and for everyone. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). So, since God does not change (Malachi 3:6) and Jesus Christ is the same; there must be some things common to us all despite the differences and diversities. Some things that we can build a successful Christian life on despite the differences in outcomes or appearances. That is what I would like to explore a little bit with you today.

I want to share with you three basics that I believe are fundamental to successful Christian living. Let me first say that this is not intended to be the comprehensive be-all and end-all of this discussion. These are three things that I could think of; there may well be more. Additionally, you could spend a whole lot more time than we are going to spend here now in considering each of these points.

So, with all of that said, let's begin on these three ideas. I call them "Three Absolutes". And, by the way, that is the title of this teaching.

THE ABSOLUTE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF GOD'S WORD.

This is important as a first absolute – because man is always going to believe something. The question is what will man believe. If it is not God's Word, then what is it going to be? And I know that God's Word is not a science book or a history book. But I believe that where God's Word speaks on any of these points, you will find that there are no arguments with true science or history – as long as you have the Word rightly-divided and have the scientific facts or historical points properly understood.

Jeremiah 2:13

Whenever anyone forsakes or leaves God and His Word, they will hew out for themselves a belief system that holds no water. Man is designed to believe something and if it is not God and His Word, then it will be something else.

Numbers 23:19

When God speaks – which gives you His Word – He is going to do it, He is going to make it good. The fulfillment of God's Word is not up to me or to you. It is up to God and He can be relied on to back up His Word.

Now it is up to us to make sure that what we have is God's Word; not what I may think or say nor what you may think or say. What does God's Word say is the issue.

I Samuel 15:29

Psalms 119:89; 138:2

Isaiah 55:8 – 11

Hebrews 4:12

I Peter 1:23 – 25

THE ABSOLUTE REALITY OF JESUS CHRIST'S COMPLETED REDEMPTIVE WORK.

The second “absolute” is the absolute reality of Jesus Christ’s completed redemptive work. I called this his redemptive work because that work is all done. There is still some work that Jesus Christ is doing and will be doing, but the work that was needed for redemption and salvation has been completed.

This is important as an “absolute” because if you are not convinced of this, you are susceptible to sincere, well-meaning, religious people that will try to make you think that there are still things that you need to do to be (or stay) saved. But like the familiar song says, “There’s nothing more that I can do, Jesus paid it all”.

Hebrews 9:11 – 15

Hebrews 10:12,13

Hebrews 12:1 – 3

Romans 3:19 – 26; 5:19

Galatians 3:1 – 5

I John 2:2; 4:10

Colossians 2:6 – 10

THE ABSOLUTE REALITY OF YOUR STANDING IN CHRIST AS A CHILD/SON OF GOD.

The third “absolute” is the absolute reality of your standing in Christ as a child of God. You are what the Word of God says you are; you have what the Word of God says you have. This absolute is important because, absent this, you could be talked out of all or some of the rights, privileges and abilities that you have as God’s child.

Romans 8:14 – 18

I John 3:1,2

Ephesians 2:19, 20

Romans 8:35 – 39

So, there you have them. Three Absolutes that will provide any believer with a good basis for building a successful Christian life.