

WEEK THREE

DYING TO SELF

But if it dies, it bears much fruit...
-John 12:24 RSV

This week you will be studying passages in the Scriptures that show so clearly what the real problem in life is. The problem is the "old self" that lives for itself. Jesus Christ calls for the old self to be crucified, and he promises to raise up a new and very different "self." It is in dying that we find life.

Day 15-The Power of Dying _____

1. Turn to Luke 9:18-26. Read this passage through at least twice, underlining or making notes on what you believe are the key words and phrases. Write an explanation for verses 23, 24 and 25.
2. Now turn to Luke 18:28-30 and look at the promise that is given to those who accept discipleship. How do you expect this to work out in your life?
3. These two passages will become very important as you share your life in Christ with others. Why is this true? Remember where they are and think about how you should share them with someone else.
4. Be sure to spend time in serious prayer each day. Later in this study we will examine prayer, but don't wait until then to begin to develop a great prayer life. You are God's son or daughter and he wants you to talk with him.

Day 16-Co-Crucified with Christ _____

1. Begin today by reading Galatians 2:20. Set aside some time to memorize this verse.
2. The word in Greek in this verse actually means "I have been co-crucified with Christ." How do we use the prefix "co"? What is a "co-leader" or "co-worker"? And so what is the message for Christians?

3. Among other things, the crucifixion of Jesus meant he voluntarily gave up his rights for the good of others. What "rights" do you think you might have a tendency to hold on to? How do you need to give them up for others?
4. The crucifixion of Jesus meant he put others' welfare above his comfort. How can you share in his crucifixion? What was the result of his crucifixion? What will be the result of yours?
5. Why is Matthew 7:12 a description of the "crucified life"? How are you making this part of your character?

Day 17-From Old to New _____

1. Turn again to Romans 6:1-4. Read and study this carefully. Each time you come to the word "we" or "us" substitute your own name. (For example, v. 2-"By no means. John died to sin; how can he live in it any longer?")
2. Write down some things about your old self that caused it to deserve death.
3. God has made you a "new self" How do you need to express your new self to others? How will they know you are *new*?
4. How do you specifically plan today to put v. 13 into practice?
5. Study verses Romans 6:15-23.

Day 18-Life in the Spirit _____

1. Before you start today's study, ask yourself a very important question: "Am I making every effort to be in close contact with other Christians?" This is crucial, and in Week Four the studies will all focus on the importance of relationships. Most of us have some tendency from time to time for various reasons to pull back from others. Spiritually, this can be fatal. Even when you don't "feel like it;" stay in touch.
2. Turn to Romans 7:14-24 and read how powerless you are to live this new life without God's help. It is clear why we must "disown" the sinful nature. Especially note v. 24.

3. But now go on to Romans 8 where we see how we can do through Christ what is not possible alone. You were probably assured at your baptism into Christ that you would receive the Holy Spirit upon your obedience to the Gospel. Now study some of what that Spirit means in our lives. Read vv. 1-17, making notes on the things that impress you the most. Remember to keep substituting your own name for pronouns.

Day 19-Taking Correction _____

1. As you have questions about things that you are studying or things that are happening to you, seek out some of your older brothers and sisters and let them help you. They have been through many things you will go through. Lean on their wisdom and understanding.
2. When we are children, we need to be taught things we don't know, and we need to be corrected when we are wrong. You are a baby in Jesus Christ. There is much you don't know and there are some areas where you need correction. That is true of every new Christian (and every older one!). *How you take correction is going to make all the difference in your growth in Christ.*

Turn to Proverbs 2:1-8. Next look at Proverbs 12:15. Go back to 10:17. What is the message? How does this relate to the idea that we have died to the old self?

3. Write down your own attitude toward being corrected. Distinguish between those things that are left over from your earthly nature and those things that Jesus Christ is putting in your heart. Read Proverbs 15:9-10 and 12: 1
4. Go to the New Testament now and read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and answer this question: Why are other brothers or sisters to bring the Word of God to you? What is going to be your attitude when they do?

Day 20-A New Attitude _____

1. Below are listed several verses. As you read them write down what you think the passage has to do with putting off the old self and



WEEK THREE HIGHLIGHTS

putting on the new.

- a.) Philippians 2:14-15
 - b.) Philippians 3:7-11
 - c.) Philippians 4:4
 - d.) Philippians 4:11-13
2. Write a response to the following statement: "In Jesus Christ we have all we need to maintain a great attitude.' True or false? Why or why not?
 3. What do these passages have to do with having a great attitude?
 - a.) John 16:33
 - b.) Romans 8:28
 - c.) James 1:2-4
 4. What will be the effect on others when you allow God to give you a great attitude in all circumstances?

Day 21-Life from Death _____

1. Read John 12:20-26.
2. Notice in v. 23 that Jesus says the time has come for him to be "glorified.' What do you think of when you hear that someone is about to receive "glory"?
3. In v. 24 Jesus most likely surprises his disciples. He indicates that the way he will find his glory is by becoming that seed that falls to the ground and dies. What does he say will be the impact of the seed that dies?
4. How do we know that this principle of being the seed that falls to the ground and dies applies to us who are disciples of Jesus? Particularly notice v. 26. Why is this an exciting principle?
5. In your life right now, who do you need to "die" for so they can become a disciple?