

## "Christ in Every-day Life"

Scripture Lesson:-

Text:- St. John 15:5.

Introduction:- If Christianity is really worthwhile it must be something which transforms our lives seven days a week and twenty-four a day. It can be and should be a glorious experience which completely changes our perspective and our daily way of living.

At the moment what America needs is not more church members but more Christians. Church membership has been made too easy and its meaning so superficial that it assumes the aspects of a respectable club. Confusion exists inside and outside the church because so many are mislabeled and further confusion comes because so few Christians really know what it is to yield to the Lordship of Jesus in daily living.

To the Christians who truly believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that he is their Savior from sin and all its perplexities, I say, may the Lord bless you.

But what a tragedy that so often exists, that we find ourselves completely defeated in the everyday pressures of life. In our hearts we know that we believe in Christ, but deep down inside we find little comfort because Christ means little in the place where we find ourselves six days a week.

### I.

The immediate and natural reaction is that this just isn't so. We all know hundreds of men and women, doctors, lawyers, people in business, technicians, engineers, farmers, all of whom are successful and who make no pretense of being Christians or of taking Christ into their daily lives. But wait a minute; what is success? Is it money, or popularity, or power, or expertness in some chosen

field of endeavor. By the standards of the world these things constitute success but are the world's standards valid? Will they last for eternity? I do not think so.

There is nothing more important than that we get a right view on life. That view is given by God, not man. Man looks at the outside of men, while God looks at the heart; man thinks of time, God thinks in terms of eternity. Speaking of material success our Lord says, "For what shall it a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?"

Paul tells us that Christ has been laid as the one and eternal foundation, but that Christians may find themselves building on the foundations a very flimsy structure, one which will not withstand the coming fire-like testing. (I Cor. 3:11-15). This is an indication of our Lord's meaning, that without Him we can do nothing which will last for eternity.

## II.

This being the case, how practical is our Christianity? Are we taking it into our every day lives? Into our homes? Our business? Our professions? If not there is something radically wrong. In this let us not try to fool ourselves. Rather let us sit down and take stock. Ask God to probe into our lives. Stock-taking may be embarrassing but it can also be very profitable.

A man has said, that being a Christian is a matter of "believing, not achieving". To many, Christianity is a matter of trying to do something to merit the title. To many, Christianity is a matter of trying to do something to merit the title. . We are Christians or not, depending on whether we trust in Christ as the Son of God and our Savior. This does not make us saints, mature saints, but it starts us in the right direction.

Let us never forget that after becoming Christians we should live like Christians. Strange to say, if one asks the average church

member whether he is a Christian he will receive some inane reply, "I hope so", "I try to be" and so forth. Ask a man whether he is married and he knows whether he is or not. A Christian should have similar assurance of his relationship with Christ.

### III.

What difference does Christ make in our daily lives? Well, there should be a complete change for we no longer have to walk blindly, we have someone to go with us every moment of the day and night.

With Christ in our hearts we get an entirely new view; we begin to look at this world in the light of eternity; we commence to ask his guidance and help in decisions small and big; we find that we are no longer alone with our problems; we discover our interests and we realize we can talk with him any time and any place, and he talks with us.

This has a very practical bearing on every phase of our lives, our home, our social relationships, our recreation.

A Christian home, founded on faith in Christ strengthened by daily prayer and study of the Bible and cemented by love is a little foretaste of Heaven. A home without Christ and all that he gives can be a sample of hell itself.

When we take Christ into our business something immediately happens, honesty, truthfulness, and fairness take precedence over profits and become the basis on which profits are expected. Does this come as a shock? Just give him a try and you will find that he gives not only a clear conscience but also a sense of divine leadership and blessing which cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

All of us have social contacts. They are inevitable and are desirable. When Christ con-

controls our lives it makes such a difference that non-Christians will immediately sense it. Christians should be the happiest people in the world for they know where they stand now and where they will be for eternity. Love, consideration for others, courtesy, tact, patience, these and many other things should characterize the Christian as he comes in contact with others.

To make Christ the Lord of our lives means that we take him into our recreations and pleasures. He knows of these needs and wants us to enjoy life. The big difference for the Christian is that he really can have a good time. In all of this he will go only to those places and do those things in which he has a sense of the Lord's presence and blessing.

Conclusion:-- If Christ is our Savior then he must be the Lord of our lives. It is high time we clarify our thinking along this line. He will not be our Savior on Sunday while we serve Satan the rest of the week. Let us give him the green light in our hearts and he will do the rest. Will you do it this morning? Just now: "For without me ye can do nothing".