

It is common among Christians to testify that they grew up in church, were baptized at age (fill in the blank), and wandered away only to return years later. Unfortunately, some never return, yet they would declare to have received Christ as their Savior. Too many times, as a minister of the gospel, I have heard this during the visitation of the family of such a person after they have died. While it is impossible for us to honestly know that soul's destination, the fruit is an indicator. We know they missed the incredible joy of knowing and experiencing Christ. Though a list of the effects of faith on a believer is inexhaustible, three sail to the top: a clear conscience before God, a new identity, and an invincible hope.

It is of first rank that a person made new in Christ receives a clear conscience; that is, they are cleansed of their sins as they obey through the believer's baptism. Peter's first epistle states baptism is an appeal for a good conscience.<sup>1</sup> This is the freedom of Christ; his death, our atonement, now has loosed us from the consequence of sin. Furthermore, Scripture says that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us of our unrighteousness.<sup>2</sup> It is unimaginable the gracious gift of deliverance from all sin; Christ's death is sufficient; the work is complete. This is not our work but his. Christ became our substitute, just as the sub for a teacher stands in his or her place; Christ died the death we deserved, and we are acquitted. That is a pillow that we all can lay our heads on.

<sup>1</sup> All Scripture, unless noted, is from the English Standard Version. 1 Peter 3:21

<sup>2</sup> 1 John: 1

Moreover, we receive a new identity. This is particularly esoteric in my case. A child of a difficult divorce, not worth divulging here, I struggled with identity and sought comfort through inebriation. It became my identity. Then, as an adult, my wife and I were not successful in having children and were blessed to adopt two beautiful children. Though I was not an orphan in the sense of deceased parents, I heard a psychologist say that anyone who was not with their paternal parents, whether they lived with relatives, were given to public care, or adopted, were orphans. But (my favorite conjunction), I was adopted into a new family by God's grace. Not a biological one but a spiritual one, ransomed from a captor and redeemed unto the Savior. No longer a drunken sinner with an identity crisis but a new creation in Christ.<sup>3</sup>

Once without hope and destined for destruction, following the way of the world now turned to walk the narrow path that leads to eternal life. This hope will not put us to shame, for God himself secures it. My Father is the Sovereign Supreme of all heaven and earth; he is invincible, and I am through his providence, too. The Lord God has measured my life in the span of his hand; he has numbered my days. I cannot add one hour to, nor will anything else shorten, the days of my life.<sup>4</sup>

The list above is certainly not exhaustive. The limitations of paper and your attention would fail me if I attempted to list all the beneficent gifts accompanying faith. Yet, I cling to these: a clear conscience, no one can bring a charge against God's elect, a new identity like Saul, I am no longer who I was, and an invincible hope; there is nothing in all of creation that can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

<sup>3</sup> Ephesians 2:4

<sup>4</sup> Romans 8:31 ff



# October Newsletter

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## Sunday Schedule

8am Men's Prayer  
8:45am Sunday School  
10am Worship  
5pm Men/Women's  
Bible Studies

## Wednesday Schedule

5:45pm Dinner  
6pm Bible Studies



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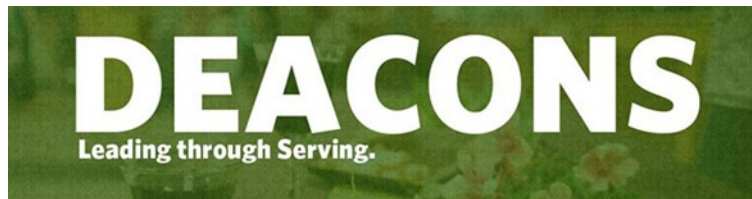
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What does the Bible say about accountability?

How many times in your life have you heard the terms; accountable or accountability? Most of us associate that with our jobs or even our marriages. When we are dealing with our relationship with God it becomes much more important than the way it is used in our society. We should strive to be accountable in all we do, not just personal relationships or with our relationship to God. Scripture teaches that we will be held accountable before God. We will one day stand before God and will be held accountable for how we lived. We are not meant to live as islands. But Pride and temptation can keep us from seeing the truth.

2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Here are some ideas/ways to become more personally accountable in our life journey:

1) Know your role and understand your responsibilities to be accountable for them

You're only accountable for those things you are responsible for, if you go beyond that you're adding stress to your life.

2) Set pride aside, be honest.

Look at Proverbs 11:2 – Bible answer to that.

3) If something goes wrong, and you're responsible

Apologize, say sorry. (Humble)

4) Use your time wisely and don't over commit

The sure way to fail in your responsibilities is to take on more of them than you can accomplish. Concentrate on success at task at hand, better to complete it then fail cause of overload.

5) Finally, Reflect.

If you failed, what went wrong in the plan to succeed? If you were successful what went right and who helped you along the way. Recognize you did not act alone. Again be humble.

There are two primary ways in which accountability shows itself in our lives:

1) The most important one being our accountability to the Lord

2) Christ calls us to hold one another accountable

Matthew 12:36 tells us: But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.

God Bless you this month and always, we are ready to serve you anyway we can.



Here are just a few reminders for you to consider as we move into the fall season. How beautiful the world becomes in this season, so many colors.

John 16:33 - "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

Proverbs 3:5–6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

John reminds us that no matter what we face in this world, God overcomes it and so will we. In Isaiah we are promised that He is always with us and will strengthen us, so we need not fear. Roman's tell us that we are called to His purpose and should work together doing good things.

Finally, Proverbs says for us to trust God in lieu of ourselves and he will make life's path straight for us. All of this should inspire us to serve our Lord with all heart, mind, and body.

We will have our Senior Adult Luncheon on October 19th at 11am and will be at Woodcraft Café in. We hope you can attend and share in this fellowship. We pray you all have a great fall season and enjoy time with your family, your friends, and your church family. There are many things being planned at NHBC, so get involved and enjoy serving our God and church in different ways.

God Bless,

Ron & Donna



As I have been preparing to write for the newsletter this month, nothing really seemed to come to mind. As I sat thinking almost out of time, I recalled a conversation I had not long ago with one of the youth. We were talking about the differences we have seen over the past few years in the dynamics of the Youth Group.

The statement they made was "Most young people are not interested in seeking God. They just don't care if they attend church or not. That should bring sadness to everyone who reads this. As parents and grandparents we should be doing everything we can to change this, not only in our own homes but in the homes of those in our neighborhood and spheres of influence. All believers have been commissioned to share the Gospel. To share the Hope that is found in us. And if we don't get serious about this, I am scared we are going to wake up in the not so near future and realize we have raised a "generation that knows not the Lord".

Thank you all for your support of the Youth Ministry. Please keep our youth in your prayers!