

# Sermon Notes

by Pastor Jamie Tonge



## To know God - A Christ Centered Life.

### ***Colossians: 1:27 'Christ in me the hope of glory'.***

Christ in you, therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. It's that simple. (The Message)

The world around us every day offers a way of life, but Christ has given us better than the world could ever know. Is that your experience? Remember last week we looked at our experience as a Christian, now we will look at it in more detail.

### **Personal Life, Family Life, Work Life, Church Life, Community Life.**

### ***2 Corinthians: 9:14-15. "the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift".***

The word surpassing, Greek word *huperballo*, (hoop-er-bal-lo) means 'to throw beyond the usual mark', To surpass. Found five times in the NT.

### ***2 Corinthians: 3:10; 9:14, Ephesians: 1:19; 2:7; 3:19.***

Jesus said; ***"I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly"***.

It is God's desire that we live life fully and that we are a people who 'throw beyond the usual mark', the expected norm: This in no way means a life with no problems (they are part of life), but a life that knows God in every part and aspect of life. *Huperballo* is the Greek word from which we get our word excellence

What excellence is: - Excellence is found in doing our best for the sake of others.

What excellence is not: - Excellence is not perfectionism.

Perfectionism is the cruel counterfeit of excellence, which flows from a religious spirit.

Excellence means to surpass, this we can do by the surpassing grace God has given us. We can be people who live in God's excellence.

Excellence is not the goal of our life in Christ it is the result.

The goal is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ in me the hope of Glory will bring His excellence into our life.

We are going to look at these five areas of life and see how the bible teaches us to live by the power of God - a life of excellence.

When Billy Graham was driving through a small southern town, he was stopped by a policeman and charged with speeding. Graham admitted his guilt, but was told by the officer that he would have to appear in court. The judge asked, "Guilty, or not guilty?" When Graham pleaded guilty, the judge replied, "That'll be ten dollars -- a dollar for every mile you went over the limit."

Suddenly the judge recognized the famous minister. "You have violated the law," he said. "The fine must be paid--but I am going to pay it for you." He took a ten dollar bill from his own wallet, attached it to the ticket, and then took Graham out and bought him a steak dinner! "That," said Billy Graham, "is how God treats repentant sinners!"

Charles Spurgeon and Joseph Parker both had churches in London in the 19th century. On one occasion, Parker commented on the poor condition of children admitted to Spurgeon's orphanage. It was reported to Spurgeon however, that Parker had criticized the orphanage itself. Spurgeon blasted Parker the next week from the pulpit. The attack was printed in the newspapers and became the talk of the town. People flocked to Parker's church the next Sunday to hear his rebuttal. "I understand Dr. Spurgeon is not in his pulpit today, and this is the Sunday they use to take an offering for the orphanage. I suggest we take a love offering here instead." The crowd was delighted. The ushers had to empty the collection plates 3 times. Later that week there was a knock at Parker's study. It was Spurgeon. "You know Parker; you have practiced grace on me. You have given me not what I deserved; you have given me what I needed.

### *Christ in Me the Hope of Glory.*

#### **1. My Personal Life.**

The Christ who saves me, The Christ who talks with me, The Christ who purifies me, The Christ who answers my prayers, Christ in His word, The Christ who empowers me, Christ and my personal time.

#### **Christ Who Saves Me.**

Jesus said: *'I am the way the truth and the life no one comes to the Father except through me' John 14:6*

The only way that Christ is in us, is by our acceptance of His gift of salvation. Christ in us can only start with us receiving Him.

#### **The Christ Who Talks With Me.**

Talking to and listening to God. It is God's desire to talk to us, but he wants more than casual greeting across the garden fence – "Good morning nice day" there are some examples in the Bible. Mary, Zacchaeus, Moses, Jacob, Abraham.

Let's look at Abraham as an example: *Genesis 15:6-21*

See how God speaks to Abraham

- There is faith (*v6*)
- Abraham prayed to gain knowledge (*v8*)
- God calls him to a place where Abraham can hear God without distractions (*v9*)
- The difficult time (*v12*)
- God speaks in more detail (*v13-21*)

He wants to talk with us, to do this we must give Him time and our attention.

#### **The Christ Who Purifies Me.**

In *Mark 7* Jesus is confronted by the Pharisees about the fact that the disciples did not wash their hands before eating.

Putting the hygiene issue aside, Jesus makes the point that the cleanliness of the heart is more important than the washing of hands. In *v15* He says *"Nothing outside a man can make him unclean by going into him. Rather it is what comes out of him that makes him unclean"*.

So why does God see that what goes on in our inner life is so important?

Nicky Gumbel in the Alpha Course says in the session on 'How can I be sure of my faith'?

'God only asks us to give up what is ultimately harmful to us'

We know that every action starts in the mind, just a thought can be the beginning of either the best or the most destructive thing in our life.

Steve Wright said in this context "that things that grab our attention can become distractive and ultimately destructive".

One of the greatest hindrances to our relationship with Christ is that of impurity, God's Holy Spirit will not dwell in the same mind that constantly feeds on what is ultimately opposed to God.

### How can I develop a pure life?

(quote Paul Borthwick Leading the way)

Both his quotes here

Quote ref; sex (**1Corinthians; 7:4** who has a right to my body)

We need to: 'Check up from the neck up to eliminate stinking thinking'

### The Christ Who Answers My Prayers.

It is so easy to stop praying. We become so busy that we get up in the morning and the day starts and we miss the opportunity to pray, prayer makes the difference.

John Wesley said 'More things happens by prayer than this world has ever dreamed of'

### Christ in His Word.

**Psalm: 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path".**

**By your words I can see where I'm going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path.  
(The Message).**

- Use a good version to study with, one you can understand and read easily.
- Make time to read with no distractions.
- Believe that God will speak to you through the Bible and pray to that effect.
- Apply its truth in to your life, see what Jesus said about hearing and doing **Matthew: 7:24-27** and heed its truth.

For more help on this, see the teaching on 'reading the bible and applying its truth

### The Christ Who Empowers Me.

**Acts 1:5 "For John baptized with water but in a few days you will be filled with the Holy Spirit".**

**Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you".**

It is His promise to empower us it was not just for those first believers at Pentecost it is for all God's people everywhere and in every generation. **Ephesians: 5:18 "be filled with the Holy Spirit".**

The gift of the Spirit is for us and we need Him in our daily life.

### Christ and My Personal Time.

This is a little talked about subject, yet we live in an age and nation that has more free time than any in the past. We love our "me" time and it is important what we do with it.

Having hobbies and interests are important to life and health. We can give our interests to God, they are not sinful.

- Don't let them become an obsession.
- Don't let them take all your time and money.
- Do see them as something that God has given you.
- Do make sure that what you do is building you up in body mind and soul and your family too.

### Christ in My Personal Life the Hope of Glory.

- **The Christ who saves me.**

- **The Christ who talks with me.**
- **The Christ who purifies me.**
- **The Christ who answers my prayers.**
- **Christ in His word.**
- **The Christ who empowers me.**
- **Christ and my personal time.**

A husband and wife didn't really love each other. The man was very demanding, so much so that he prepared a list of rules and regulations for his wife to follow. He insisted that she read them over every day and obey them to the letter. Among other things, his "do's and don'ts" indicated such details as what time she had to get up in the morning, when his breakfast should be served, and how the housework should be done. After several long years, the husband died. As time passed, the woman fell in love with another man, one who dearly loved her. Soon they were married. This husband did everything he could to make his new wife happy, continually showering her with tokens of his appreciation. One day as he was cleaning house, she found tucked away in a drawer the list of commands her first husband had drawn up for her. As she looked it over, it dawned on her that even though her present husband hadn't given her any kind of list, she was doing everything her first husband's list required anyway. She realized she was so devoted to this man that her deepest desire was to please him out of love, not obligation.