



## KING FOREVER

### Week 5 | Raised to New Life

#### | KEY THOUGHTS

- Christianity is often associated with a change of lifestyle. But too often, we try to bring about the change ourselves - we watch other people who seem successful, imitate their behaviors, and call it our new life in Christ.
- We cannot skip **the central piece to new life: Christ**. Salvation in Him alone by grace, through faith, not through anything we can do ourselves.
- This new life in Christ is marked by...
  - **A new identity**, which leads to...
  - **New behaviors** and...
  - **A new response to life**.
- This new identity isn't like the usual analogies (joining a new team, relocating, entering the witness protection program), but **dying and being raised to new life**.
- The Greek verb tense means **it's already happened and yet is still happening**, like a broken bone that's been realigned and is still healing.
- These new behaviors reflect a change in character, as **the Holy Spirit supernaturally transforms us from the inside out**.
- The new response to life is one of **thankfulness** (Paul refers to that 3 times in vv. 15-17).
- **Thankfulness and joy always travel together as a pair**.
- Believers aren't thankful and filled with joy because nothing bad happens, but because they know they've already been **rescued from the worst that can happen, and the best is still yet to come**.
- This response happens as we **let the word of Christ (the gospel) dwell in us richly** —invite the gospel of Jesus Christ to move in and live with us continually.

## | SCRIPTURE

<sup>1</sup> If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup> But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Colossians 3:1-17 (ESV)**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)**

## | PRACTICAL

- When you try to put the new behaviors *before* the new identity, you're chasing the form and missing the substance. That's following a religion, not being transformed by faith.
- Jesus is the only person who ever lived out His true identity. If we want to live as we were created to live, we must be identified as His.
- When we skip over this new identity to get to the changed behaviors, we find ourselves trying to "fake it until you make it." But that's not a transformed life; that's hypocrisy.
- Invite the gospel of Jesus Christ to move in and live with you! One way to do that: read the Gospel of Mark, one chapter a day, and each day, ask yourself what that chapter reveals about God, about who Jesus is, what he's done for you, what kind of identity he's given you, how he lived out his true identity perfectly.

## | REFLECT

- How do you respond to success? Do you celebrate *your* effort, or do you thank God for it?
- How do you respond to life's challenges? With worry and stress? Or do you lean into and trust God, realizing that everything that happens is for your ultimate good and to bring Him glory?
- Life is renewed through knowledge of the Creator, not through life hacks.
- Do you understand that God knows the depth of your sin (even more than you do yourself!), but He loves you so deeply that He paid the eternal price for it? Will you accept that free gift and allow it to transform you?

**MYLIGHTHOUSECOMMUNITY.COM**