

## In God We Trust Authority in Christian Living

There is no shortage of Christian living teaching. It seems most Christian books written today cover enriching our lives on earth, gaining prosperous lives, healthy lives, living our best life, finding empowerment, excellence in every sphere of life and the list goes on and on.

In contrast to this is the Christian life that many of our greatest Christian leaders have found to be constant struggle and suffering in this world. Spurgeon suffered greatly with depression; so did Martin Luther. Many were poor, many were sick, many imprisoned, and many martyred. Surely there was more to Christianity for these people than what they might enjoy or succeed in within this world.

We can easily end up being more focused on how we can obtain better lives for ourselves in this world and how God can help us do that, rather than how we can obediently serve and worship God in preparation for our eternity with Him.

### **Living On The Basis of Biblical Authority - The Christian Life Now**

“Love God and do as you please.” - Augustine - If we truly love God, our pleasure will be entirely in Him. Our desire will be to glorify Him, desire Him, love Him, serve Him, obey Him, live for Him, worship Him, pray to Him, read His Word, etc. (Matthew 22:37).

(Gal 1:4). Through Jesus Christ we are delivered from this present evil age. This world seeks after it's own desires. Some of which may seem good. The Christian has a new vision - Christ alone. We are converted from this present age and we now live for Christ and the age to come.

Romans 1-3 discusses the impact of sin on our lives. Romans 4-5 moves to the impact of the gospel. (Rom. 5:1). Romans 6-8 then look at actually living as a Christian.

Romans 6 - (Rom. 6:6-13)

We now belong to God. We no longer serve ourselves and our own desires, passions, or expectations because we are God's. We now live a life of pursuing God and His holiness. We are no longer slaves to sin and are free to love and serve God through Christ.

(Luke 12:30-31). We must not turn this around and seek things then tack God on afterward.

No one is saying that happiness or wealth or health in this life are not good but a Christian life should be one that has all physical, emotional and spiritual investment in God and His eternal glory.

## Romans 7 - (Rom. 7:21-25)

The Christian life *now* is a life lived in a sin-corrupted world. We are by no means perfect in this world. We take on the righteousness of the one who is. While chapter 6 explains that we are dead to sin and alive to Christ, in chapter 7 we are told that sin will always be present. (Gen. 4:6).

It is a great reminder to us that we have no authority over sin and that we need to rely on the living authority of Christ in our lives.

## Romans 8 - (Rom. 8:1-3)

It is because of chapter 7 that chapter 8 is so wonderful. We are worthy of condemnation but receive such great mercy. We live in this pardoned state. It is overwhelming and amazing, and it is only possible to believe on the credible authority of Scripture.

Despite any sadness, depression, lack of wealth or status, or even without any control of our earthly destiny, we can have eternal joy (as opposed to temporal happiness). Our success is measured only in our obedience to our Lord. We should have it no other way.

(Rom. 8:31-39). There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus because there is no higher authority than Jesus.

(1 Cor. 4:3-4). No matter the accusation, no matter what amazing argument one might put up, Jesus Christ is our eternal, accepted substitute. The Great Judge has spoken.