

The Abiding Word Online

Biblical Principles for Christian Growth

Online Bible Study

The following article is part of a series of study notes, outlines and discussions on Biblical Subjects. The goal is to deal with and express Biblical Principles for Christian Growth.

This material and all study notes may be used freely for personal use and the study of God's word. None of this material may be sold or used for financial gain.

All is presented for the glory of God and His son Jesus Christ.

Edward E. Healy

No.1 - A New Beginning

When God created, He made something new. From nothing He created that which He called "very good". God provided all that man would ever need or want. Everything was for man and nothing was held back from him.

Man was blessed with the ability to choose and enjoy all of Gods' creation including the "Tree of Life" which provided the blessing of long life free from sickness and death.

You see, death was not in this creation of God. It was held back by Gods' protection and loving care.

Only one boundary existed, the command to not eat of the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" for it was that one rule, that one boundary which by design made man more than a robot. It made man by design, with the ability to choose.

All of mankind has had this ability. It is one part of our design that sets us apart from all of the other living things in this creation. As the first man choose to push the limit of his freedom so we also today choose to do that same thing when we see "how far we can go" before breaking the rules of society.

When man chose to disobey Gods's command everything changed. The introduction of the "Knowledge of Good and Evil" became part of mankind and the creation was affected.

Because of the sin of man, death entered into the world. However, even before man's disobedience and fall God knew what man needed, "a new beginning".

Throughout the scriptures we can see the revealing of God's plan and the provision for that new beginning, a new beginning that would provide what man lost when disobedience, sin and death entered. Time after time God shows man throughout history how He provides if only man would observe, hear and choose God's provision.

In Genesis 3:15 we can read the prediction about the seed of woman regarding a great conflict that would result in the redemption of man, the prediction that the offspring of the woman would be victorious yet must receive an injury. But the serpent, with whom this conflict would manifest itself would be crushed with a final blow to the head.

Later in Genesis 6 we read about Noah the faithful man who was used by God to prepare for the preservation of a remnant, as God planned to destroy the whole world with a great flood of water because mankind had chosen to become very sinful following the desires of their own minds rather than the commandments of God.

Once God cleansed the world of evil in the flood there was a new beginning for man and the creation. God placed the rainbow in the heavens as a sign.

Abram in Genesis 12 was called by God out of his homeland to travel to a new place where God would have a new beginning for a new family tree called the children of Abraham.

As time passes in the lives of Abraham's children, God works a plan to preserve and grow this small family into a great number of people that one day would inherit the new homeland God had promised Abraham.

But again as God is always working throughout history in the lives of mankind, we read in the book of Exodus of Moses, a man called by God to lead the children of Abraham out of slavery in Egypt to a new land, a new nation, a new law and a new hope.

Time after time these people God was blessing turned their back on God, the God who always provided all they needed just like He did for Adam and Eve in the garden. They chose to look to themselves and follow their own desires rather than the commandments of God. So we read in the Book of Judges seven times, seven cycles, that God provides a deliverer to give them a new beginning.

You might think that these people would learn and remain faithful to God, but not so. The prophets, preachers, are sent to the people by God with a continuing message that sounds like a broken record - Repent of your evil and rebellious ways and return to me and I will bless you with a new beginning. No, No, No, they continue to do just as they desire rather than obey the commandments of God.

All these examples and more we can read about in the Bible of how God's patience was long-suffering because He had a plan that was bigger and beyond the sight of man, the ultimate new beginning, the reunion of mankind to the tree of life.

In the fullness of the time, at the right time, God sent His son to be born in the world as a man with the mission to redeem or buy back mankind so that we, mankind, might have the hope of a new beginning.

Today, as in the past, God is providing redemption and a new beginning for man. Man needs this redemption because, as in the past, we by our own choice sin and separate ourselves from God and His glory. We all choose to disobey God and follow our own desires and refuse to follow the commandments of God.

In Hebrews 8:6 we read, “But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.” (NIV) We have a new promise with a new and better covenant than the one given to Abraham and Moses.

Our new beginning is possible because of our new power found in the person of Jesus Christ.

Heb 9:11-22

11 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. 14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

16 In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, 17 because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. 18 This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. 19 When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. 20 He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." 21 In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. 22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (NIV)

Jesus Christ is our mediator of this new covenant, our new beginning, based upon His priesthood (v11) and His blood offering (v14).

The blood of Jesus which was poured out on the cross was the value that purchased the church.

Acts 20:28

28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (NIV)

The scriptures reveal the church as the body of Christ of which Jesus is the head.

Eph 1:22-23

22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (NIV)

Through His blood Jesus reconciles sin burdened, lost man to the father.

Col 1:15-23

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. (NIV)

With our new beginning there is a new position grounded in the person of Jesus Christ who is our new hope.

Rom 6:3-4

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (NIV)

With our new beginning we are brought near by the blood of Christ.

Eph 2:11-22

11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)— 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel

and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (NIV)

With our new beginning we are a new creature in Christ.

2 Cor 5:17-21

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (NIV)

With our new beginning we have a new walk to begin.

Eph 4:17-24

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (NIV)

With our new beginning we have Jesus as our new motivation.

1 Peter 2:1-10

2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,"

8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message — which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (NIV)

In order to have a new beginning that is lasting and purposeful, Jesus must take first place. Jesus must be the foundation on which we can build a life with eternal security and blessings. Today, now, is the time for a new beginning. We must choose to draw near to the person and the cross of Jesus Christ. It is the only way to start on a new journey with heaven as our destination.

Are
YOU
building for
Eternity?

*- EEHealy
July 7, 2007*