

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

05 March 2023

Living at a New Address

Are you comfortable with your Kingdom address?

“But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning.” *1 John 3: 5-6.*

Being a Christian is like living at a new address.

A Christian is someone who has moved from the house of sin and death into a new home with Christ.

This new relationship to sin is the second gift made possible by Christ’s victory over death.

Are you aware that you have died to sin?

The Living Christ brings death to sin.

You know that Jesus conquered sin and death but do you know that through him you have died to sin?

Sin no longer has any power over you.

Free in Christ is free indeed.

Jesus is our remedy for sin. *1 John 3:5*

Humankind has always sought relief from the crushing weight of wrong.

I remember hoping that the bus would get started for home before the principal came and drug me off of it for something I had done that day.

What a relief to get home safe from another day at school.

Sin brings guilt, death, and shame.

And so does bad behavior.

How do we handle our sin problem?

One way is to blame someone else.

Politicians like to do this.

It is always the other guy's fault.

Life is found in taking responsibility.

Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent.

But the responsibility belonged to all of them.

They all conspired to place themselves equal with God.

Another way to handle our sin is to attempt to do enough good to balance the scale, but new sins keep upsetting the balance.

Presenting a sacrifice to appease the offended individual is another futile effort to get out from under the burden of sin.

John declared the absolute remedy for sin: “He (Jesus) appeared so that he might take away our sins.

The angel prophesied about the work of Jesus: “He will save his people from their sins.” *Matt. 1:21.*

John the Baptist introduced Jesus as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Jesus’ critics were right when they said that only God can forgive sin.

His death and resurrection are the only adequate remedy for sin.

Jesus’ resurrection assures us of this.

Since death is the wages of sin, a dead Christ would be powerless over sin.

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”

His resurrection means victory over sin and death.

The defeat of the devil.

Sin is a work of the devil, "because the devil has been sinning from the beginning."

Jesus came to defeat the work of this prince of darkness.

When the Seventy returned from their successful evangelistic assignments, Jesus exclaimed, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to overcome all the power of the enemy."

Christians have power to resist and defeat the devil's temptations.

Satan continues his work of deception, but King Jesus is more powerful than the prince of evil.

Sin in a Christian life.

Christians are not perfect.

The assurance of victory over sin and Satan is quickly countered by the evidence of sin in the life of professing Christians.

Wouldn't it be nice if when we gave our lives to God through Christ we were unable to sin?

But we are still sinful humans though redeemed by Christ.

How are we to reconcile this reality with the truth that "no one who lives in him keeps on sinning"?

Power over sin does not mean sinless perfection, and the Christian who claims to have reached such a state is guilty of self-deception.

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us".

1 John 1:8 and 10.

A different pattern of life. *1 John 3:6-10*

On the surface, it appears that John contradicted himself.

In chapter one he admitted sin in the Christian life; in chapter three he declared, "No one who lives in Christ keeps on sinning."

The verbs in this section are in the perfect tense and refer to continuous, habitual action.

Genuine Christians exhibit a new pattern in their lives.

New desires, direction, and destiny are clearly evident.

They live at a new address.

They have a Kingdom address; yet live on earth.

Victory over sin.

Walk in the light. *1 John 1:7*

The way to daily victory over the pull of the old life is to "walk in the light."

The closer we are to the Lord, the further we will be from sin.

Continual confession and cleansing. *1 John 1:9*

Whenever we sin, we need to confess it to the Lord and accept his cleansing.

His grace is greater than all our sin.

He will forgive us and purify our hearts.

The apostle Paul expressed well what every Christian has experienced: "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ."

What a great gift we have been given, as well as a great responsibility to bring others to Christ.

What is it to "continue the work of Jesus"?

It is a nice thing to say but what does doing it involve?

It is telling people how wonderful and loving God is.

It is serving God with heart, soul and mind.

It is loving as we have been loved.

What is the most loving thing we can do?

To tell a person the truth about life.

Where life is found and where death is found.

Life is found in God through Christ by way of the Holy Spirit.

Death is found in following your own desire and opening the door for Satan to rule your life.

It might appear good but it is death.

To life is Christ, to die is gain.

Speak the truth, life the truth and life now and forever is yours