

Introduction. If the resurrection of Christ teaches us anything, there is more to life than the present world. Man was not created to live without God. He is created in the image of God and it is in God that he finds his definition and the meaning of his life. Without God he is like a light bulb removed from its socket; or an automobile without fuel. The light bulb looks like a light, but it is dead and lifeless. The engine will not spring to life, although all its parts are there. So the soul is without God. It is without strength. The Scriptures says it is dead in trespasses and in sins.

The godless soul is without strength,, simply because it is godless. The symptoms of godlessness: God is not in his thoughts; doesn't reference God; He does not pray and does not give God glory. He imagines that he is the source of his success. He admits mistakes, but does not admit sin. He relies on his own wisdom and the wisdom of the world. The Scriptures are a closed book and he esteems them irrelevant or foolish. He lives for his earthly desires and is without God and without hope in the world. Just like a Lamborghini without fuel, he has marvelous and valuable features and abilities, but is helpless toward God, who is spirit and life for men.

This is the condition of all men outside Christ Jesus. He put it this way: Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. Without Christ man is doomed to being lost, deceived, and dead. His godless condition is completely without strength.

- I. BUT. Our text says that though we were without strength, Christ died for us. He died for us that we might be justified and have peace with God, according to verse 1
 - A. We have been given immense gifts.
 - 1. We have peace with God, because of Christ. Our debt is paid. God does not impute our sins to us because of faith in Christ.
 - 2. We have Hope and Rejoice in the glory of God.
 - 3. We have the Holy Ghost to teach us to love God and our neighbor.
 - B. We have access by faith. Faith is the means; not the end itself. Justification is the beginning. You are counted godly, and the seed of godliness is planted in you.

- II. But note this; In due time. There is a time element to everything on this earth. Now that you have been justified and have received the Holy Spirit, you are

called to put off the old and put on the new. God wants you to be strong as a Christian and that requires the putting off of ungodly ways of thinking and habits of behavior.

A. See Titus 2:11,12

1. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
2. We are weak when we chose worldly lusts and ungodliness, and we have war within us
3. We are taught to live soberly—in our right mind as Christians.
4. We are taught to live righteously—according to the law of God. This is explained in the last part of the catechism.
5. We are taught to live godly: living for the glory of God; seeking His wisdom, living in fellowship with Him and with His people. Worshipping Him alone. Confessing Him before men.

B. But Note: 2 Peter 1: 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

III. God sent His Son.

A. To shed His blood to bring us forgiveness of sins and peace with God.

B. To ascend to the right hand of the Father to send us the Holy Spirit. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. This is the power of the resurrection.

C. He has provided all things for us: 2Peter 23 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

D. 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

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