



Follow the Cloud

August 24/27 – Valley Creek Church-Pastor John Stickl

Lesson #3 Scripture Verses

“God Grace Restores our Identity”

Key Verse: Luke 19:10

Exodus 6:6-8-(Additional Comments available)

Romans 5:17-19

Ephesians 2:8-9

2 Corinthians 5:17-(Additional Comments available)

Romans 10:17 & 6:14

Hebrews 8:12

Jeremiah 1:5-8-(Additional Comments available)

John 1:12

Matthew 3:17

John 5:31-32

Leviticus 26:13

Ephesians 3:8

Romans 8:15-16

Because “**repetition**” is so important throughout Gods Word – when we find **light bulb information**” we repeat it when we feel it is worth repeating.

Notes from John Stickl video outline:

- God leads us in small steps, not giant leaps
- We are drawn by grace and driven by expectations
- Understanding your identity is the foundation of a life of freedom
- We are beloved sons and daughters
- We are defined by what Jesus did instead of what we do
- When we UNDERSTAND who we are, it changes what we do
- We are more than sinners saved by grace.
- We are not the shame of our past!
- **Like the Israelites, we sometimes want to go back to Egypt BECAUSE it is easier to PERFORM for approval than it is to TRUST God for acceptance!**
- Life isn't about how much we achieve; it's about how well we receive.
- Next steps aren't expectations to fulfill, they are discoveries to be made
- Every next step we take helps us discover more of who we already are
- We will NEVER get to the end of discovering all of Him.
- We are no longer spiritual ORPHANS! We ARE beloved sons and daughters

Food for thought:

Where do you go when you mess up: Netflix, old habits, social media, worry/ How has Jesus met you in those places to restore your identity?

Lesson #3 Scriptures

Luke 19:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

Exodus 6:6-8 (NLT)

⁶ “Therefore, say to the people of Israel: ‘I am the LORD. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. ⁸ I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the LORD!’”

Romans 5:17-19 (NLT)

¹⁷ For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. ¹⁹ Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Romans 10:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Romans 6:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God’s grace.

Hebrews 8:12 (NLT)

¹² And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

Jeremiah 1:5-8 (NLT)

⁵ “I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.”⁶ “O Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I can’t speak for you! I’m too young!”

⁷ The LORD replied, “Don’t say, ‘I’m too young,’ for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you. ⁸ And don’t be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the LORD, have spoken!”

John 1:12 (NLT)

¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

Matthew 3:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

John 5:31-33 (NLT)

Witnesses to Jesus-³¹ “If I were to testify on my own behalf, my testimony would not be valid. ³² But someone else is also testifying about me, and I assure you that everything he says about me is true. ³³ In fact, you sent investigators to listen to John the Baptist, and his testimony about me was true.

Leviticus 26:13 (NLT)

¹³ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so you would no longer be their slaves. I broke the yoke of slavery from your neck so you can walk with your heads held high.

Ephesians 3:8 (NLT)

⁸ Though I am the least deserving of all God’s people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ.

Romans 8:15-16 (NLT)

¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children.

BFC-In depth study of **some** of our scriptures (bfc)

Words you SEE over and over and over (**Jesus teaches by repetition!**)

- Reorientation
- Becoming (3) times
- Are
- Derives
- Have “already”
- Participated in
- Passing away
- Old age
- New Creation (6) times
- Arrival
- New things (3) times
- Have hoped
- New kind
- New way
- Words: if – is – in

2 Corinthians 5:17

Paul too preached that Jesus’ suffering as the Messiah changed his people’s lives: “If **anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**” (5:17a). But for Paul this change does not lead to a super-spirituality in ter

Rather than still belonging to this world and its ways, all those **in Christ are a “new creation,”** which means that **they have already participated in the passing away** of the old age and the arrival of the **new** (lit., “new things”). The “**new things**” that **have happened in** Christ, however, are not private, spiritual experiences, but a **new way** of life that **derives from** the **reorientation** described in 5:15.

Becoming a “**new creation**” does not refer to becoming a new kind of “super-spiritual” human being, but **to becoming like Christ.**

Against the backdrop of [2:14–4:18](#), the “new creation” of a people who live for Christ by living for others **is the beginning of the restoration of God’s people under the new covenant.**

This point is made abundantly clear by Paul’s allusion in v. [17b](#) to [Isa. 43:18](#) “Do not remember the former things, and do not discuss *the old things*. *Behold I make new things*” ([Isa. 66:17](#)), which is an exhortation for Israel to forget their past sin and judgment but to look to God’s work of restoration/**new creation**.

David Guzik-Commentary:

4. (17) The resurrection life of Jesus gives us new life. Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

If anyone: This is a promise for **anyone. Anyone!** It doesn’t matter what class, what race, what nationality, what language, or what level of intelligence. **Anyone** can be a new creation in Jesus Christ.

He is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Paul here teaches the great principle of *regeneration*. Jesus Christ changes those who come to Him by faith and who are **in Christ**. The saved are not “just forgiven.” They are changed into a **new creation**.

However, being a new creation doesn’t mean that we are perfect.

It means that we are changed and that we are being changed.

d. **He is a new creation**: Who makes us **a new creation**? This is something God alone can do in us. This isn't just "turning over a new leaf" or "getting your act together." Yet the life of a **new creation** is not something God does *for us* but *in us*. So, we are told to *put off... the old man* and to *put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness* (Ephesians 4:22-24).

Living as **a new creation** is something God works in us, using our will and our choices. So, we must both *receive the gift of being a new creation* and be challenged to *live the life of a new creation*. All this is God's work in us that we must submit to. This reminds us that at its root, Christianity is all about what *God did for us*, not what we can or should *do for God*

All things have become new is the language of God's perfect, recreated work (Revelation 21:5). **God wants to do a new thing in our life.**

Men may fight for Him, die for Him, and not be IN Him. To be IN Christ we must love Him.

It is a growth, and all growths are gradual.

Conversion **is** always SUDDEN, for it **is** simply turning round. But

REGENERATION IS gradual, for it IS growth.

Paul was converted **IN** a moment on his way to Damascus. He changed his mind about Christianity. He **BEGAN a NEW LIFE.**

But **it took him a long time to BECOME** a Christian.

Thus, **IF** we are **IN** Christ, **we grow INTO new convictions.**

Belief puts us with Christ, but not IN Him. *But IF we are IN Christ, we have new convictions.*

Spiritual things **BECOME** more real to us.

God **BECOMES** to us more real.

We grow in new affections and have a change of heart

Again, if we are **IN** Christ, **life BECOMES new.**

Exodus 6:6-8 (NLT)

⁶“Therefore, say to the people of Israel: ‘I am the LORD. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment.’ ⁷I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. *Then* you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. ⁸I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the LORD!’”

- Exodus (6-8) God’s promise of the seven “I wills” to Israel.
- I am the LORD: God went to the furthest length possible to confirm this covenant with the children of Israel. In seven separate I will promises, God said, “I’m going to do it. You can count on me.”
- The promises were glorious, and equally so in their spiritual application to believers today:
 - · I will bring you out.
 - · I will rescue you from their bondage.
 - · I will redeem you.
 - · I will take you as My people.
 - · I will be your God.
 - · I will bring you into the land.
 - · I will give it to you as a heritage.
- There is a strong contrast with the later five I will statements of Satan in [Isaiah 14:13-15](#). The great difference is that Satan was powerless to make any of his “I wills” come to pass. God is more than able to fulfill each of His promises.

David Guzik on Isaiah 14:12-15 – The Fall of Lucifer

- The fall of Lucifer.
- “How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!
For you have said in your heart:
‘I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
 I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
 On the farthest sides of the north;
 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
 I will be like the Most High.'

Yet **you shall be brought down to Sheol,
 To the lowest depths of the Pit."**

- How you are **fallen from heaven**, O Lucifer, son of the morning: Here, the prophet identifies the king of Babylon as **Lucifer, son of the morning**. Some debate if **Lucifer is a name or a title; the word means morning star or day star**, referring to a brightly shining object in the heavens. Whether it is a title, or a name makes little difference; **this once brightly shining king of Babylon is now fallen from heaven**.
- There **was** a far more **brightly shining being** who inhabited heaven and **fell** even more dramatically – the *king of spiritual Babylon, Satan*.
- **Fallen from heaven**: In fact, **there are four falls of Satan**, and this refers to his final, fourth fall.
- **Satan fell from glorified to profane** This is what Jesus spoke of in [Luke 10:18](#) when He says (1) **He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven**. **This is the only fall of Satan that has already happened**.
- (2) **Satan will fall from having access to heaven** ([Job 1:12](#), [1 Kings 22:21](#), [Zechariah 3:1](#)) to restriction on the earth ([Revelation 12:9](#)).
- (3) **Satan will fall from his place on the earth** to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years ([Revelation 20:1-3](#)).
- (4) Finally, as mentioned here in [Isaiah 14:12](#), **Satan will fall from the bottomless pit to the lake of fire**, which we commonly know as *hell* ([Revelation 20:10](#)).
- **Son of the morning**: This is a title of glory, beauty, and honor, which fit Lucifer well before his fall.
- **Jesus Himself is called the Bright and Morning Star** ([Revelation 22:16](#)). **Satan, though a created being, had some of these glorious qualities in himself. No wonder that Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light** ([2 Corinthians 11:14](#)), **deceiving many with his apparent glory, beauty, and goodness**.
- **For you have said in your heart: I will**: The pride, the grasping selfish ambition, the self-will of the king of Babylon is powerfully expressed in five **I will** statements. This is the essence of the self-focused and self-obsessed life.

- · **I will ascend into heaven:** “Heaven will be my home and my place of honor.”
- · **I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:** “I will be enthroned and will be exalted above all other angelic beings.”
- · **I will also sit on the mount of the congregation:** “I will sit in the place of glory and honor and attention.”
- · **I will ascend above the heights:** “I will continue to rise, even in heaven, until all see me in my bright shining glory.”
- · **I will be like the Most High:** “I will be glorious, and be set equal to God, far above all other created beings.”
- We see in **these statements** not so much a desire to exalt one’s self above God, but the desire to exalt one’s self above one’s *peers*. From this passage, it seems that Satan’s desire was not so much to be above God, but to be honored and regarded as the highest *angel*, **above the** [other] **stars of God**, receiving the glory and attention one would receive being next to God, equal with God, **like the Most High**. We don’t have to want to be exalted higher than God to be like Satan. It is enough to want to be exalted above other people!
- Lucifer was certainly a glorious angel (*day star, son of the morning*, and also called *the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty... the anointed cherub who covers* in [Ezekiel 28:12](#) and [14](#)). Yet, there came a time when despite all his beauty and glory, he departed from the heart of God by wanting to exalt himself above his peers.
- “It is a strange paradox that nothing makes a being less like God than the urge to be his equal, for he who was God stepped down from the throne of his glory to
- **Yet you shall be brought down:** Despite Satan’s desire to exalt himself, he will not be exalted at all. Certainly, there is a sense in which he is exalted right now, but this is but an eye-blink in the scope of eternity. Satan, like all those who desire to exalt themselves, **shall be brought down**.
- [1 Peter 5:6](#) expresses the true path to being exalted: *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.* In [Mark 9:35](#), Jesus said If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.

Romans 5:17-19 (NLT)-¹⁷ For the **sin of this one man, Adam**, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for **all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death** through this one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Yes, **Adam's one sin brings condemnation** for everyone, but **Christ's one act of righteousness** brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. ¹⁹ Because **one-person disobeyed God, many became sinners**. But because **one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous**.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)-⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the **good things we have done**, so none of us can boast about it. (You can never ever, ever, ever, do enough good works to merit Gods salvation or entrance into Heaven – Its not about US! Its not about our performance or behavior – He did it ALL, nothing left for us to DO).

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)-¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (This one verse created a question in my mind, so this study has in depth research materials in the first part of these pages-bfc)

Romans 10:17 (NLT)-¹⁷ So **faith comes** from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Romans 6:14 (NLT)-¹⁴ Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

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⁷ The LORD replied, "Don't say, 'I'm too young,' for **you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you**.⁸ And **don't be afraid** of the people, **for I will be with you and will protect you**. I, the LORD, have spoken!"

David Guzik- Jeremiah 1:4-5 God's call to Jeremiah.

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Then the word of the LORD came to me: Jeremiah had a personal encounter with the LORD. He was apparently raised in a godly, priestly home – yet he had to have a *personal* encounter with God and His word.

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you... I ordained you a prophet to the nations: Jeremiah was already a young man, but God wanted him to know that his call went back even further than his youth. **Jeremiah existed in the mind and plan of God before he ever existed in his mother's womb. God told Jeremiah this so that he could walk in God's pre-ordained plan by his own will.**

This information wasn't given just to interest Jeremiah or to entertain him. It was given so that he would know God's will, be encouraged by that, and therefore align his will with God's revealed will.

John 1:12 (NLT)-¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

Matthew 3:17 (NLT)-¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

John 5:31-33 (NLT)-Witnesses to Jesus-³¹ "If I were to testify on my own behalf, my testimony would not be valid. ³² But someone else is also testifying about me, and I assure you that everything he says about me is true. ³³ In fact, you sent investigators to listen to John the Baptist, and his testimony about me was true.

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Lesson #3 - Study Review Questions

1. What do we see a lot of throughout Gods Word? _____
2. In Johns Lesson notes he said: We are _____ by what Jesus did instead of what we do.
3. In Johns Lesson notes he said: Like the Israelites, we sometimes want to go back to Egypt because it is easier to _____ for approval that it is to _____ God for acceptance.
4. In Johns Lesson notes he said: We will _____ get to the end of discovering all of Him.
5. In Luke 19:10, what did the Son of man come to do?

6. In Romans 5:17-19 who and what caused death to rule over many? _____ AND in verse 19 what happens?

7. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 what does “become” mean to you? _____

8. After our study on this verse, were there any “light bulbs” that came on, and if so, what were they? _____

9. What does Romans 10:17 say? _____

10. What does Romans 6:14 say? _____

11. What does Hebrews 8:12 say? _____

12. Did God know you before you were even born? Read Jeremiah 1:5-8; any comments or revelation you want to share here? _____

13. In David Guzik commentary notes on page 7 of our lesson, what does David tell us growth is? _____

14. What did David say on same page that if we are in Christ, we grow into what? _____

15. When we studied Exodus 6:6-8 on page 8 of our lesson, what are 3 of the "I will" statements that speak to you the most?. (Making them personal) _____

16. On Page 9 of our lesson, what are the 4 falls of satan?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____