

The Invitation of Christ

Introduction

1. **Mankind reacts to certain invitations based upon the incentives that are afforded.**
 - A. **Our hard work, long hours, and discipline are really not that difficult when we have an attainable goal to pursue.**
 - B. **In most cases we as human beings could even do more to reach goals that are set before us.**
 - 1) **However, many stop their pursuit when they begin to feel tired or inconvenienced.**
 - 2) **But even then we can reach down deeper within ourselves, catching that “second wind” and move on toward our goal.**
2. **Jesus offers man the greatest invitation of all.**
Matthew 11:28-30
Colossians 3:1-4
 - A. **Jesus has provided man **all the motives** he needs to fulfill His invitation and become a child of God, living faithfully unto death.**
3. **This morning we want to consider Christ’s invitation and the benefits that are ours when we accept His invitation.**

Abundant Life

1. The words of Jesus are so encouraging as we read in John 10:10:

John 10:10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they **may have life**, and that they may **have it more abundantly**.

A. We learn more about this life in 1 John 5:12:

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son **has life**; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

B. We know that the abundant life, the life that all of mankind strives to attain can only be found and realized when we accept Jesus.

C. To accept Jesus is to obey Jesus.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

- 1) To obey Jesus we must have faith which is only acquired by hearing (reading) the Word of God Romans 10:17.**

2. To gain the abundant life we must love Jesus and as a result we will obey His commands which means we will want to clothe ourselves with Christ. How is this done?

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

A. Once we put on Christ, then and only then, can we enjoy the benefit of the abundant life.

1) We enjoy the beauty of serving, contentment of labor, and joy of hope --- all by accepting His invitation.

Ephesians 1:13-14 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory

Freedom from Sin

- 1. There are many concepts of sin in the world today. But what we need to know is that anything that we do that is contrary to God's divine guidance in our life ---- IS SIN**

- A. Sin is lawlessness**

I John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

- 2. Man must realize the reality of sin:**

Romans 3:23 for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God,

- A. That there will be divine punishment for all those who abide in sin.**

Romans 6:23 For the **wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- B. Our conscience should be pricked due to sin.**

I John 3:18-21 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And **by this we know** that we are of the truth, and shall **assure our hearts before Him**. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

Hebrews 9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

3. Even though man is dead in his sin, he is made ALIVE in Christ.**Ephesians 2:1-5****A. How are we made alive in Christ? How do we gain this freedom from the burden of sin?**

Mark 16:16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

B. When one obeys the gospel of Jesus Christ then and only then have they:

Romans 6:18....been set free from sin, (and have become) slaves of righteousness.

1) Christ's invitation offers us freedom from the burden of sin!

- **Finally, accepting His invitation offers us:**

Eternal Life

1. **If we will accept Jesus' invitation to enjoy the abundant life and be free from sin, then we will be able to enjoy eternal rest with Him.**

2. **Quite frankly, I don't understand why all men don't accept Christ's open invitation to abide in Him so that they can be assured of an eternal home with Him.**
 - A. **We live in a troubled world and Jesus understood this. As a result, He died for us and returned to Heaven to prepare a place for us.**

John 14:1-3

 - 1) **Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.**

3. **If we will overcome and remain "faithful until death," then we will be able to enjoy this prepared place that has no death, sorrow, pain, or tears.**

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

4. **There really is no secret on what we must do to be saved. The gospel plan of salvation has been revealed to us hundreds of years ago.**
 - A. **Jesus just asks us to accept His invitation to live a happy, motivated life for Him now and then He will deliver upon His promise to bring us to a prepared Heaven to live with Him forever!**

Matthew 11:28-30

Conclusion

The benefits of Christ's Invitation:

- 1. Do we believe in God? Do we really believe and love God's Son, Jesus? If so, then we'll obey Him (John 14:15).**
- 2. God loved us so much that He allowed Christ to die for our sins. Not His sins----our sins!**
- 3. We should all be motivated this morning by the incentives that Christ has offered us to accept His invitation ---- and share in that abundant life forever.**
- 4. Our hard work, long hours, and discipline in the Lord's work today are surely worth it as we look to attain our goal of Heaven!**

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- 5. Heaven is just an "Invitation" away. Let's accept Christ's invitation now before it is everlastingly too late?**

