

# New Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church

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## 2020 FUEL LESSON

### Accountability

Actions toward or involving others that reflect the integrity of the person you want to be.

## Month of January

# 6

Steps to  
Accountability

- 1 Self-honesty
- 2 Value others
- 3 Keep records
- 4 Take responsibility
- 5 Do the right thing
- 6 Act promptly with care



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## Welcome to Flight #2020

We are prepared to take off into the New Year. All passengers are asked to board at Gate 2020.

Please make sure your Attitude and Accountability are secured and locked in an upright position. All self-destructive devices should be turned off and stored away at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement on what happen on flight 2019, should be putt away. Should we lose Altitude under pressure, during this flight reach up and pull down a Prayer. Prayer will automatically be activated by faith. Once your faith is activated, you can assist other passengers. There will be No BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. If you are having trouble with anxiety, please look at the back of the seat in front of you. There will be several treasure chest items. You will find Emeralds of Everlasting life, Enthusiasm, along with the Expectation of the Endless Love of God. Also you will find Opals of Obedience to God, Opportunities to Serve God and the Ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. We have on board the Gold of Godliness, Goodness and Gratitude. Please view the screen in front of you to see the Silver Salvation, Security in Christ, and Surrender to the Lord for Flight 2020.

The Captain (GOD) has cleared us for takeoff. Destination ... GREATNESS!!!

**WELCOME**  
*We're Glad You Are Here*



## Accountable to Obey and Honor God

### **Month of January**

Colossians 3:17


And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Everything in the Christian's life rests on obedience! Obedience always unlocks the activity of God in a Christian's life. Obedience is the heart of experiencing a life on mission with God in the world.

It is encouraging to know that the Holy Spirit has been assigned to assist us in honoring God as we obey God and His call on our lives. Often we can get discouraged or afraid when we see the assignments ahead of us. However, it is important to realize that we are only instructed to follow one step at a time and be concerned with one day at a time. Remember that Jesus has warned us not to worry about tomorrow (Matthew 6:34), but to simply turn each day over to the Lord and release our lives to obey whatever He commands.

As believers, we should live each day with the understanding that we are accountable to God for every word we say and every thought we think. We should always be listening for the Lord to say, "Well done," as we live out our Christianity before a watching world.

A time of accountability with God will come. Jesus clearly indicated this to His disciples; Matthew 25 has several examples. It will be a serious time before God, and He will reward everyone according to his or her faithful obedience to the Master.



As you read the following passages, notice Paul's sense of accountability and urgency to honor God in the call He had placed on his life.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

—1 Corinthians 15:10


### **The Word of Christ (Col. 3:16)**

This means, of course, the Word of God. The false teachers came to Colossae with man-made traditions, religious rules,, and human philosophies. They tried *to* harmonize God's Word with their teachings, but they could not succeed. God's Word always magnifies Jesus Christ.

It was not the word of false teachers that brought salvation to the Colossians; it was the Word of the truth of the Gospel (Col. 1:5). This same Word gives us life and sustains and strengthens us (1 Peter 1:22-2:3).

The Word will transform our lives if we will but permit it to "dwell" in us richly. The word *dwell* means "to feel at home." If we have experienced the grace and the peace of Christ, then the Word of Christ will feel at home in our hearts. We will discover how rich the Word is with spiritual treasures that give value to our lives.

However, we must not think that Paul wrote this only to individual Christians; for he directed it to the entire church body. "Let the Word of




Christ dwell among you" is a possible translation. As it dwells richly in each member of the church, it will dwell richly in the church fellowship.

There is a danger today, as there was in Paul's day, that local churches minimize the Word of God. There seems to be a lack of simple Bible teaching in Sunday School classes and pulpits. Far more interest is shown in movies, musical performances, and various entertainments than in God's Word. Many saved people cannot honestly say that God's Word dwells in their hearts richly because they do not take time to read, study, and memorize it.

There is (according to Paul) a definite relationship between our knowledge of the Bible and our expression of worship in song. One way we teach and encourage ourselves and others is through the singing of the Word of God. But if we do not know the Bible and understand it, we cannot honestly sing it from our hearts.

Perhaps this "poverty of Scripture" in our churches is one cause of the abundance of unbiblical songs that we have today. A singer has no more right to sing a lie than a preacher has to preach a lie. The great songs of the faith were, for the most part, written by believers who knew the doctrines of the Word of God. Many so-called "Christian songs" today are written by people with little or no knowledge of the Word of God. It is a dangerous thing to separate the praise of God from the Word of God.

Psalms were, of course, the songs taken from the Old Testament. For centuries, the churches in the English-speaking world sang only metrical versions of the Psalms. I am glad to see today a return to the singing of Scripture, especially the Psalms. Hymns were songs of praise to God




written by believers but not taken from the Psalms. The church today has a rich heritage of hymnody which, I fear, is being neglected. Spiritual songs were expressions of Bible truth other than in psalms and hymns. When we sing a hymn, we address the Lord; when we sing a spiritual song, we address each other.

Paul described a local church worship service (1 Cor. 14:26; Col. 3:16). Note that the believer sings to *himself* as well as to the other believers and to the Lord. Our singing must be from our hearts and not just our lips. But if the Word of God is not in our hearts, we cannot sing from our hearts. This shows how important it is to know the Word of God, for it enriches our public and private worship of God.

Our singing must be with grace. This does not mean "singing in a gracious way," but singing because we have God's grace in our hearts. It takes grace to sing when we are in pain, or when circumstances seem to be against us. It certainly took grace for Paul and Silas to sing in that Philippian prison (Acts 16:22-25). Our singing must not be a display of fleshly talent; it must be a demonstration of the grace of God in our hearts.

Someone has said that a successful Christian life involves attention to three books: God's Book, the Bible; the pocketbook; and the hymn book. I agree. I often use a hymnal in my devotional time, to help express my praise to God. As a believer grows in his knowledge of the Word, he will want to grow in his expression of praise. He will learn to appreciate the great hymns of the church, the Gospel songs, and the spiritual songs that teach spiritual truths. To sing only the elementary songs of the faith is to rob himself of spiritual enrichment.




Before we leave this section, we should notice an important parallel with Ephesians 5:18-6:9. In his Letter to the Ephesians, Paul emphasized being filled with the Spirit; in his Letter to the Colossians, he emphasized being filled with the Word. *But the evidences of this spiritual fullness are the same!* How can we tell if a believer is filled with the Spirit? He is joyful, thankful, and submissive (Eph. 5:19-21); all of this shows up in his relationships in the home and on the job (Eph. 5:22-6:9). How can we tell if a believer is filled with the Word of God? He is joyful, thankful, and submissive (Col. 3:16-4:1).

### **The Name of Christ (Col. 3:17)**

In modern society, we pay little attention to names. But the ancient world held a man's name to be of utmost importance. Often, during Old Testament days, God changed a person's name because of some important experience or some new development. As Christians, we bear the name of Christ. The word *Christian* is found only three times in the entire New Testament (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). The name was given originally as a term of contempt, but gradually it became a name of honor. The name of Christ, then, means *identification*: we belong to Jesus Christ.

But His name also means *authority*. A man's name signed to a check authorizes the withdrawal of money from the bank. The President's name signed to a bill makes it a law. In the same way, it is in the name of Jesus Christ that we have the authority to pray (John 14:13-14; 16:23-26). Because Jesus Christ is God, and He has died for us, we have authority in His name.






All that we say and do should be associated with the name of Jesus Christ. By our words and our works, we should glorify His name. If we permit anything into our lives that cannot be associated with the name of Jesus, then we are sinning. We must do and say everything on the authority of His name and for the honor of His name.

Bearing the name of Jesus is a great privilege, but it is also a tremendous responsibility. We suffer persecution because we bear His name (John 15:20-21). I have noticed in conversations that you can tell people you are a Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, or even an atheist, and there will be little response. But if you tell people you are a Christian, and bring the name of Christ into the conversation, almost immediately there is some kind of response, and it is usually negative.

Every parent tries to teach his children to honor the family name. In just a few minutes, a person can disgrace a name that it has taken his ancestors years to build. For example, the Hebrew name *Judah* is a respected name; it means "praise." The New Testament equivalent is "Judas"—and who would name his son Judas?

Note that Paul again mentioned thanksgiving in this Colossian letter. Whatever we do in the name of Christ ought to be joined with thanksgiving. If we cannot give thanks, then we had better not do it or say it! This is the fifth of six references in Colossians to thanksgiving (Col. 1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:15, 17; 4:2). When we remember that Paul was a Roman prisoner when he wrote this letter, it makes this emphasis on thanksgiving that much more wonderful.





As we review these four spiritual motivations for godly living, we are impressed with the centrality of Jesus Christ. We forgive because Christ forgave us (Col. 3:13). It is the peace of Christ that should rule in our hearts (Col. 3:15). The Word of Christ should dwell in us richly (Col. 3:16). The name of Christ should be our identification and our authority. "Christ is all, and in all" (Col. 3:11).

Since we are united with Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit, we have all the resources we need for holy living. But we must be spiritually motivated. Because we have experienced the grace of Christ, we want to live for Him. Because we have enjoyed the peace of Christ, we want to obey Him. We have been enriched by the Word of Christ, and ennobled by the name of Christ; therefore, we want to honor and glorify Him.

Can we desire any higher motivation?

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

**—Colossians 3:23-24**

To live without a real sense of accountability is to lose a major motivation in serving our Lord! Just to know that not a thing we do goes without His notice and love brings comfort. To love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength brings with it such an intimate relationship and spontaneous, joyful accountability. All those who have been greatly used of God lived this way.


Obedience is a by-product of our accountability to God. As we grow in our accountability to the Lord, we will unhesitatingly and immediately obey Him. Note what Jesus says about obedience:

“If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

—**John 14:23-24 (NIV)**

### **Closing Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, may I live my life today “as to the Lord and not to men,” and may I do it with a deeply grateful heart to You. Amen.



**SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE DO  
WHAT THEY NEED TO DO  
WHETHER THEY LIKE IT OR NOT.**

