

On Your Mark, Get Set, Grow!

1 Corinthians 2:11-3:3

Introduction:

- A. There are different classes of Christians
 - 1. Those who live a g_____ life – these are focused, joyous, and conscious of what God wants.
 - 2. Those who live a mediocre life – these people are not s_____ with their Christian walk.
- B. Our text reveals the key to accessing the great life God wants us to have.
 - 1. It will inspire you to get on course (if you are not on it)
 - 2. It will inspire you to stay on course (if you are on it)

On your mark (2:10-14)

- A. Every Christian starts at the same place – b_____ into God's family (Jn 1:12)
 - 1. All immediately receive the S_____ of God (v. 12)
 - a. God's Spirit made our spirit a_____ (Eph 2:5)
 - b. God's Spirit j_____ with our spirit connecting us to God through Christ (1 Cor 6:17)
 - 2. Prior to receiving the Spirit all were in their born condition which Paul calls the n_____ person (v. 12)
 - a. The natural person DOES NOT a_____ the things of the Spirit because they are foolish to the natural person (e.g. place faith in Christ to be saved).
 - b. The natural person CANNOT ex_____ the things of God because it is spiritual (many translations say understand, but the word goes beyond intellectual knowledge. It is referring to a personal knowledge).
- B. The metaphor of a foot race on a track
 - 1. Prior to accepting Christ, you were not even on the t_____.
 - 2. Upon accepting Christ, the Holy Spirit put you on the s_____ line of the Christian life by making your spirit alive and joining with that spirit.
 - 3. Initially, you were grateful, joyous, excited. But we are not to just bask in our salvation.

Get set (2:15,16)

- A. The spiritual person is one who is f_____ on the things of God.

1. Only the Spirit of God personally k_____ the things of God. (v. 11)
 2. Believers have God's Spirit and so can have the m_____ of Christ (v. 16)
 3. A spiritual person evaluates, judges, discerns all things through the filter of the Holy Spirit and does not see himself/herself through the eyes of p_____ (v. 15).
- B. How do we know what the Spirit is saying?
1. The Spirit could speak a_____ (Acts 8:29), but this is rare.
 2. The Spirit could speak i_____ (Rom 8:16), but often times we confuse our feelings with the Spirit.
 3. The Spirit primarily speaks through the s_____ (Matt 22:43; 1 Tim 3:16; Jn 14:26; 2 Pet 3:16)
 - a. The Scriptures are God's words to us.
 - b. The Holy Spirit interacts with the scriptures and teaches us as we come to it with an attitude of s_____ (Rev 2:7; 1 Jn 2:27)
- C. Now you are set! You have the scriptures!

Grow (3:1-3)

- A. Paul called the Corinthians, carnal (fleshly, worldly) because they were still b_____ in Christ when they should have grown past that stage.
1. He had to feed them m_____ (he had to keep correcting their behavior – v. 3)
 2. They were not ready for solid f_____ (positive instruction)
- B. Chart your spiritual progress since becoming a new believer in Christ
1. With regards to open sin – are you still sinning openly?
 2. With regards to sinful habits – are you striving to conquer them and progressing?
 3. With regards to your focus – are you constantly thinking about what God wants?

Conclusion - God wants you to g_____

- A. On your mark – have you received Christ?
- B. Get set – are you receiving God's word?
- C. Grow – are you pursuing what God wants?