

ARE YOU TRYING
THE IMPOSSIBLE
TASK OF LIVING
IN A VACUUM?



WHAT'S A MAN TO DO?

By MAXINE WILLIAMS

ROBERT RIPLEY, in a column a number of years ago, described a "never-never boy." He had never smoked, never danced, never sworn, never gone to movies, never taken a girl on a date—and on and on went the list.

Is that living? To never do anything? For some Christians the height of Christian living seems to be to say: "I don't do this or that."

The Christian involved in living like this—emphasizing what he doesn't do—still finds unrest and dissatisfaction. In spending all his time putting off the old nature, he is, paradoxically, spending his time concentrating on his sins. Whoever found true satisfaction in sin? Or even in the absence of it? This person is trying the impossible task of living in a vacuum. He is constantly pushing out the old nature without replacing it; and back into his life come tumbling those characteristics of the old life.

Yet putting off the old nature is a scriptural practice. "Put off," said Paul, "the old man with his deeds" (Colossians 3:9). He named many of those deeds, too: lies, anger, exasperation, stealing, foul language, bitterness, wrath, resentment, quarreling, slander, malice, sexual impurity (Ephesians 4 and 5). In other epistles the list is extended.

What's a man to do? He is to put off the old nature; but he is to do more. He is to *put on the new man*. Here is where he should spend the greatest amount of time and effort. As the new nature grows and grows, the old finds less and less room. That's where one's satisfaction lies; that's where he gains strength—not by putting off, but by putting on.

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God has often told us what to put on. Check again Ephesians 4 and 5. Notice that the same sentence that tells us to quit lying also says to tell the truth, especially with the realization that we are members of His body. (Would one part of the body try to deceive another part? Would one damage his own body?)

The man who used to steal is now to work instead. And he goes beyond merely working to earn the things for which he stole before; now he gives to needy persons. That's the new man. That's satisfaction. And he doesn't face the emptiness of merely "not stealing."

The coarse jesting, the foul language, the worthless talk are to go; and in their place comes wholesome talk—the kind that helps others know Christ better, talk that pleases God.

Years ago a woman was saved from a very rough life in which swearing was commonplace. In her new life the former words came unbidden to her lips. She went to God in her distress about this, and He spoke to her heart to praise Him instead. As a result she said, "Praise the Lord!" in strange places (for one would not always praise God in the places where he used to feel like swearing). She testified that in the end she lost the impulse to swear—and now the praise came un-

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IF I FOLLOW CHRIST

By ROBERTA LASHLEY BONNICI

If I follow Christ,

*My life is not my own;
My resources are at His disposal;
My time is His to occupy;
My thoughts are His to direct;
My emotions are His to control.*

If I follow Christ,

*My residence is not mine to choose;
Luxury cannot dictate my course;
Earth cannot entangle me;
Pleasure cannot entice me;
Prisons cannot discourage me.*

If I follow Christ,

*The lost must be my passion;
The broken man, my burden;
Human need, my cause for being;
The world, my sphere of service;
The cross, my motivation.*

If I follow Christ,

*I must stoop,
Labor,
Weep,
Bleed,
Die.*

"The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord" (Matthew 10:24).

SOUTHWESTERN JUNIOR COLLEGE NOW ACCREDITED

WAXAHACHIE, TEX.—The Junior College of Southwestern Assemblies of God College has recently received full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Announcement of the approval, on December 4, brought a surge of joy and thankfulness to students, administrators, and faculty. For the students it means that course credits earned can now be transferred more easily.

The advance of Southwestern Junior College in this area is hailed as a great milestone in the history of this college.

In making the announcement President Blake L. Farmer gave a brief history of the college. He noted that the first steps to provide academic education were taken in 1945 by adding the junior college to Southwestern. It thus became a pioneer in the liberal arts program in the Assemblies of God.

Southwestern also continues its

Bible college program which is accredited by the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges.



Blake L. Farmer, president of Southwestern Assemblies of God College, placed a phone call to the college announcing the accreditation of the junior college.



The hall on the main floor of North Central Bible College became the "general store" during Pastors Week.

NCBC PROJECT BLESSES PIONEER PASTORS

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—North Central Bible College students here recently gave cash and groceries amounting to almost \$1,000 to benefit 25 pioneer pastors in Minnesota and contiguous states.

The students implemented their project during Pastors Week, a yearly NCBC event sponsored by the Pastoral Studies Department of the college. Cyril E. Homer, pastor of Minneapolis Gospel Tabernacle, was speaker.

Pastors involved in various pioneer ministries visited the college

this year to lay the groundwork for Pastors Week. They gave effective challenges in chapel services and in specially called prayer meetings of the missions prayer groups.

To further emphasize the importance of and appreciation for the pioneer pastor, each year the students raise funds and collect groceries for them by means of "Ye Old Country Store." Through this novel method students purchase the groceries they wish to donate and simultaneously raise money for pioneer pastors.

WHAT'S A MAN TO DO?

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bidden. So she had done more than put off the old; she had put on the new.

Read the list in Ephesians 4 and 5. It might help you if you make two columns—one for the old nature and a second for the new. Whenever an opposite is mentioned, put it in the second list as a substitute for the old. Then look carefully at the second list. You will see how full and satisfying the new life is to be. It is a far cry from "never doing anything."


What's a man to do? Contrary to some gospel songs, he is not to be empty. There's no satisfaction, no power to emptiness. Nor does one have to wait out this life in a vacuum until he reaches heaven, there to be filled with the glory of God. It is a full life *now*; not just full in the sense of busyness, but full of joyful, satisfying Christlikeness.

A song of some years ago said, "I would be nothing, nothing..." But the new nature is *something*. It is positive, satisfying, joyous. We agree that the old self-life is nothing in the sight of God, but this is the new man—letting Christ express His life through us.

Wonderfully, we do not stand passively with Him operating through us. We are not the old persons with a separate sort of life flowing through us. We *become* new men. That new man, however foreign to the old one, is *really you!* You are not what you were.

How many testimonies speak of us as though we were still the old persons—saved, it is true, but still overcome by the old nature, always desperately trying to hold on until Jesus comes. Such people are living below their privileges in Christ, for the new life is satisfying beyond imagination; it is positive and active; it is pleasing to God; it influences others and attracts them to our Lord.

That's what a man's to do: he is to put off the old nature, true; but he is to give the greatest amount of time, energy, and interest to putting on the new—and living in the power of it.



SCRIPTURES TO LIVE BY

DAILY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 17-23

Theme of the Week: **TAKING COURAGE**

Monday Joshua 1:1-18	Thursday Psalm 27:1-14
Tuesday .. I Sam. 17:31-54	Friday Daniel 3:1-30
Wednesday .. Esther 4:1-17	Saturday Daniel 6:1-24
Sunday	Acts 4:1-22

"Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).