

# *Disappointments New Christians Face*

## Lesson #574

**TEXT:** 2 John 4; 3 John 3-4

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. THERE IS GREAT JOY IN SEEING NEW CHRISTIANS GROW.
- B. SOMETIMES THEY DON'T GROW AS THEY SHOULD.
- C. OLDER CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE CONCERNED( **Gal. 6:1-2** ).
- D. THIS LESSON IS DESIGNED TO HELP US UNDERSTAND AND DEAL WITH SOME PROBLEMS NEW CHRISTIANS FACE.

### I. MANY ARE DISAPPOINTED IN THEMSELVES.

- A. SAME WEAKNESSES AS BEFORE.
  - 1. Many become Christians with joyful anticipation( **Acts 8:39** ).
  - 2. Discovering temptation to be strong as ever they fall( **Luke 8:13** ).
- C. HOW CAN WE HELP?
  - 1. Teach **transformation as an on-going process**( **Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:2** ).
  - 2. Teach the power of repentance and prayer( **1 John 1:6-9; Acts 8:22** ).
  - 3. Remind that God provides strength to overcome( **1 Cor. 10:13; Phil. 4:13** ).

### II. MANY ARE DISAPPOINTED BY THEIR BRETHREN.

- A. THEY WITNESS INCONSISTENCY IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.
  - 1. We are to set examples for our brethren( **Titus 2:7** ).
  - 2. It really hurts when seen in those they had looked up to( **Matt. 18:6-7** ).
- B. THEY SUFFER ILL TREATMENT BY OTHER CHRISTIANS.
  - 1. Warnings of Paul( **Gal. 5:15; 1 Cor. 11:17-22; 1 Cor. 1:11-13** ).
  - 2. Harsh words can be devastating to those new in the faith.
- C. WHAT CAN WE DO?
  - 1. First, set better examples!( **1 Tim. 4:12** ).
  - 2. Be consistent in our judgments( **Matt. 7:1-5** ).
  - 3. Be gentle in our rebukes( **Gal. 6:1-2** ).
  - 4. Allow love to rule( **Eph. 4:1-3; 1 Cor. 13:4-7** ).

### III. BY TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS IN THE WORLD.

- A. WORLDLY PLEASURES & RESPONSIBILITIES ENTANGLE( **Luke 8:14** ).
- B. UNBELIEVER FRIENDS COMPETE WITH GOD( **1 Cor. 15:33; 1 Pet. 4:3-4** ).
- C. WHAT CAN WE DO?
  - 1. Demonstrate what it means to "seek first the kingdom of God"( **Matt. 6:33** ).
  - 2. Make it clear by our example who it is we love the most( **1 John 2:15-17** ).
  - 3. Develop close friendships with new Christians( **Rom. 12:10-11** ).

### IV. BY TEMPORAL FAILURE.

- A. SOME THINK THAT NOW ALL PROBLEMS WILL GO AWAY.
  - 1. Some have temporal motivations( **Acts 3:1-6; 1 Tim. 6:5** ).
  - 2. Idea propagated by the "gospel of health and wealth" teachers, **SEED FAITH**.
  - 3. Our hope is not of the flesh( **Phil. 3:3; Luke 9:57-62** ).
- B. WE NEED TO PREPARE NEW CHRISTIANS FOR POSSIBLE ADVERSITY.
  - 1. Even as Paul did ( **Acts 14:21-22** ).
  - 2. **Job 14:1-2**.
- C. WHERE IS THE NEW CHRISTIAN'S HOPE?( **Acts 24:15; Matt. 6:19-20** ).

## **V. BY THEIR TEACHERS.**

- A. NOT ENOUGH SCRIPTURE.
  - 1. We are a people of faith( **Gal. 6:10; 1 Cor. 16:13** ).
  - 2. Faith comes from the Scripture( **Rom. 10:17** ).
  - 3. So does strength and instruction in daily life( **2 Tim. 3:16-17** ).
- B. NEGLECT OF THE TRUTH.
  - 1. Not all of it( **Acts 20:20, 26-27** ).
  - 2. False teaching( **Acts 20:29-30; Matt. 15:13-14** ).
- C. OVERBEARING AND HATEFUL( **2 Tim. 2:24-26; 4:2** ).
- D. COMPROMISING AND UNCERTAIN.
  - 1. Some are men-pleasers( **2 Tim. 4:3-4; Gal. 1:10** ).
  - 2. Some are fearful or money grubbers( **Matt. 11:7-8** ).
  - 3. No place for a compromiser in the pulpit( **Prov. 23:23; 1 Cor 14:8** ).

## **CONCLUSION:**

- A. SOMETIMES NEW CHRISTIANS ARE DISILLUSIONED.
- B. HOPEFULLY WE CAN ALL REACH A STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT WHERE GROWTH IS STEADY AND PROGRESSIVE( **Prov. 4:18** ).
- C. TO REACH THAT STAGE WE NEED TO
  - 1. We need to have **realistic expectations** of problems to come.
  - 2. We must be **converted to Christ**, not the church, teacher, or friend.
- D. HAVE YOU BEEN CONVERTED TO CHRIST?