

**DATE:** Saturday - Sunday, April 18-19, 2020

**SERIES: LIVING IN THE PARENTHESIS:** *Steps to a Joyful and Meaningful Life*

**SERMON:** Becoming Like Christ

***1 Peter 1:13-21 NIV***

[13] Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

[14] As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

[15] But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

[16] for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

[17] Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

[18] For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,

[19] but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

[20] He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

[21] Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

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**Romans 8:29** *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

**1 John 3:2** *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.*

## ***How Do We Get To That Point?***

### **1. You must be a follower of Christ.**

- **John 3:7** *You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You<sup>[a]</sup> must be born again.’*

### **2. You must be a fully devoted follower of Christ.**

- **Hebrews 12:14** *Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*
- Holiness is not an option.
- Sanctification – holiness – is the goal.

### **3. You must practice the Disciplines of the Faith.**

- The Christian life comes not by indolence but by discipline.
- Partial obedience is disobedience.
- The 10,000-hour rule.
- Your goal will pull you into the future.
- The disciplines place you in the path of God.
- *“The job of a football coach is to make men do what they don’t want to do in order to achieve what they’ve always wanted to be”* Tom Landry, Head Coach/Dallas Cowboys

# Lagniappe

How have I heard people describe this time? Well, just yesterday, “crazy,” “strange,” “unprecedented” (of course), and “surreal”.

While this time is all the above, it is also time to be bold and daring. It is time to make the most of this parenthesis.

We may be in this parenthesis of pandemic for months. We could also be in the parenthesis of waiting for Christ’s return for the remainder of our lives.

We should seek to make the most of the time that we have.

That’s where our next sermon series is going. I want to challenge you to make the most of the parenthesis by practicing spiritual disciplines in order to become like Christ.

Our goal is Godliness, to become like Christ. We are commanded to practice holiness and to live in obedience to God.

God has given spiritual disciplines to prepare us for heaven and to become like Christ on earth. Scripture commands this. *Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification (holiness) without which no one will see the Lord - Hebrews 12:14.*

God made you to be like Christ. This is our goal.

Please join us in worship for the next several weeks as we seek to make the most of this time.

## Waylon