

GROW

AN SMBS SERIES

Lesson 5 – The Right Plan



In 2009 one of the buildings in the Lotus Riverside building complex fell over when almost completed. A critical error in the planning and some rain led to the embarrassing collapse of the building. It's a scary reminder that moving forward confidently without a plan or with the wrong plan can be a dangerous thing. When it comes to our spiritual growth, we should pay great attention to what God's Word has given us as his blueprint for change, lest we face a disaster far greater than a building being ruined.

OUR LIFE _____ SALVATION (VV 17-19)

1. Our minds were _____.

Paul begins this section by strongly emphasizing that the root cause of wrong living is wrong thinking. Interestingly enough, he describes the walk (lifestyle) of unbelievers by their thoughts.

- "_____ of their _____"
- "_____ in their _____"
- "_____ that is in them"

2. Our hearts were _____.

People don't believe the truth of God, not because they can't, but because they won't. The problem isn't ultimately with the mind, but with the will.

3. Our desires were _____.

4. Our actions were _____.

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OUR LIFE _____ SALVATION (VV 20-24)

1. Change happens as we are _____.

Paul states that Christians know better than to live the way the unsaved do, because they have learned better! Verse 20 says that they have “learned Christ.” When Christ left the disciples on earth, he left them with one command, “Go and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19). A disciple is a “learner” (same Greek root “learned” in verse 20). Those who followed Christ had learned Christ. Not just about him, not just what he taught, but had come to actually, personally know *him*.

2. Change has both _____ and needs to _____.

Some debate whether these are indicatives or imperatives (statements of fact or commands). In other words, did Paul tell these believers they needed to put off and put on, or did he tell them that they already had put off and put on?

At the end of the day, both are true. There is a sense in which we have died to the old man and have put on the new man (Romans 6:6; Colossians 3:9-10). But there is also a sense in which we are called to put to death the deeds of the flesh (Romans 8:13). Much of Christian growth is learning how to hold onto these two ideas simultaneously. ***We are _____ to sin, so we must _____ sin.***

OUR LIFE _____ SALVATION (VV 25-32)

After addressing the wrong thinking and behavior of unbelievers and describing to believers how they were different, Paul got very specific on how to change by working through several specific sin problems.

- **Lying (25)**
- **Anger (26-27)**
- **Stealing (28)**
- **Speech (29-30)**
- **Bitterness (31-32)**

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