

Lesson Eleven – First Quarter 2026 (Wednesday)

Theme: *Living With Christ*

I. Introduction: Life With Christ Is More Than What We *Avoid*

1. Conversion brings a change in behavior — including the **negative things we put off**.
 2. But the Christian life is **not defined merely by absence**:
 - Not just “I don’t do this anymore.”
 - Not simply “I stay away from the devil.”
 3. The Christian life is defined by **presence**:
 - The presence of Christ.
 - The presence of new virtues.
 - The presence of the Spirit’s fruit.
 4. We cannot define our walk only by what left; we define it by **Who arrived**.
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II. The Light Experience — Colossians 1:13

1. Christ **delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into His marvelous light**.
2. Light is not just “not darkness.” Light has substance, direction, purpose, clarity.
3. **Perspective shift example**:

- When first coming into light → you squint because it's bright.
- After living in the light → if you enter a dark place, you squint **at the darkness**.

4. Revelation:

- The more we live in Christ, the more uncomfortable darkness becomes.
 - Our instincts, our vision, and our values are shaped by **the light, not the dark**.
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III. Colossians 3:12 — Identity: The Elect of God

1. We are called **“the elect of God.”**

2. Meaning:

- Chosen
- Favored
- Adopted
- Loved

3. Not chosen because of merit.

4. **Chosen because of Christ's blood** — His initiative, His grace.

5. Our choosing:

- We accept His gift.
- But the worthiness belongs to Him, not us.

6. **We are chosen for purpose, not privilege.**

IV. Scriptural Background for Divine Election

1. Deuteronomy 7:6–8

- God chose Israel because He loved them, not because they were numerous or special.

2. 1 Peter 2:9

- A chosen generation
- A royal priesthood
- A peculiar people
- Called *to show forth His praises*.

3. Our identity is missional:

- We exist to **testify** to His character.
- Redemption's story becomes our message.
- We glorify God through our transformed lives — and will do so for eternity.

V. The “Spiritual Clothing” of the New Life (Colossians 3:12–14)

These are the **positive garments** of righteousness — Christ's character worn on the soul.

1. Tender Mercies (Compassion)

- Heart-level care
- Sympathy that acts

2. Kindness

- Doing good without expectation

- Benevolence that mirrors Jesus' generosity

3. Humility

- Not natural to humanity
- Born of the Spirit
- Seeing ourselves honestly and others graciously

4. Meekness

- Strength under control
- Power disciplined by love
- Christ-like restraint

5. Long-suffering

- Endurance
- Steadiness under provocation
- Holding on without breaking

6. Forbearance

- A form of patience rooted in empathy
- Bearing with others because we understand weakness
- Compassion that covers

7. Forgiveness

- The clearest evidence that Christ is working in us

- A divine act (“to give for”)
- Impossible without the Spirit
- The overflow of gratitude for God’s forgiveness toward us

8. Love (The Bond of Perfection)

- Referenced through:
 - 1 Corinthians 13
 - 1 John 4:7–8
 - Love is the summation, the crown, the glue
 - Without love, the other traits collapse
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VI. The Challenge: What If We Don’t Like These Traits?

1. Some resist humility, meekness, or patience because they seem like weakness.
2. The disciples felt similar tension:
 - They wanted a kingdom of force, sword, and thunder.
 - Christ presented a kingdom of **gentleness, mercy, and love**.
3. To them, this seemed like weakness — until they became more like Christ.
4. Transformation changed their perspective:
 - What once felt “weak” now felt divine.
 - What once felt “soft” now felt powerful.
5. If we dislike Christ’s traits
 - it reveals how much we need transformation.

6. As we become more like Jesus, we begin to **love** these virtues:

- Love meekness
- Love humility
- Love patience
- Love compassion
- Love forgiveness

VII. Closing Thought

Life with Christ is not defined by what left us, but by Who fills us.

The Christian experience is not simply darkness avoided, but light embraced. Christ clothes us with His own character, and as we wear these garments, our perspective — and our very nature — is transformed.