

## The Christian checklist for 2018

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This morning as we end the year 2017, and look towards 2018, what kind of things have you considered in your life that will impact your Christian walk.

We all have seen how the world has been moving further away from the things of God and more into selfish desires and power.

One of the things the advent season brings to us, is a reminder of the Love God has for us and His desire that we honour Him in our living.

We are reminded of the sacrifice of Jesus and the preparation for His first coming to be the Messiah as foretold by the Prophets.

We are also reminded that He is coming again and this will be the final judgment of mankind.

When Jesus was brought to the temple to fulfill the law of purification as written in Luke 2: The turtle doves was a sacrifice of purification from sin, the reference of which can be found in *Leviticus 12:6 When the days of her purification are completed, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb in its first year for a burnt offering, and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering*

So we know that God has a plan for us and He never reneges on His plan.

We read in Luke 2: how God's Holy Spirit worked in both Men and Women to praise and honour Jesus the Christ (The Messiah) as they were all guided into their individual actions of preparing the child and Praising God for the fulfillment of His promise.

By now I am sure you are wondering what is that theme **"The Christian checklist is for 2018"** all about?

Well! Let us look at that checklist right now:

Paul writing in *Romans 13: 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

The checklist for Jesus was necessary to fulfill the law and prophecy: The checklist for Christians is necessary for our salvation.

The Psalmist in Psalm 148 gave praises to God for what He has done for His people.

So let us look at the Christian checklist for 2018: **Romans chapter 3:**

God's Law Reveals Our Sin (Rom 3:20b *for through the law comes the knowledge of sin*)

As God holds up the law and reveals His character, the first thing that we see is that we fall woefully short. All of us are flawed and faulty people that come up really short of the glory of God ([Rom 3:10, 23](#)).

The law of God makes this reality abundantly clear.

Who among us has not told a lie?  
Who among us has not coveted something?  
Who among us has not disrespected our parents?  
Who among us has not disrespected our leaders?  
Who among us has not broken the law?  
Who among us ignored the signs and markings?  
Who among us have not sinned?

This revelation of truth does hurt, but it is a truth we need. It is this truth of our sinfulness, which leads us to the cross.

It is this truth that shows us the grace of God and majesty of Jesus. So while the truth hurts for a moment, it is replaced with a joy that is unspeakable and full of glory as we set our gaze upon the risen Christ who stood in our place for our sin so we would not have to.

## **The Christian Checklist 2018: 6 areas**

### **1: God! What impact do you have on my life?**

*Deuteronomy 30: 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.*

*Romans 13: 1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.*

The sovereignty of God impacts our lives today as it frees us from fear and worries, gives us confidence in His Word and in His nature, assures us of His continuing love for us, and allows us to face the future in a dangerous world, with joy.

Are you subjecting yourself to the commandments of God? I ask you to check your heart and test yourself to see if you conform.

### **2: God, Do I allow your Word to guide my life?**

*2 Timothy 3:14-17 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, 15 and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings*

that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

What does God ask from us in order for us to receive these life altering blessings? Firstly, that we have faith that He is the creator of the universe. That He does love us and has a plan of salvation for mankind.

Paul tells us, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who diligently seek him." (Heb 11:6) God promises that if we are willing to put our faith in Him as more than just a concept, believe that He is living powerful Father, we will see evidence of His existence in our lives.

1 Peter 1: 23 You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever." That word is the good news that was announced to you.

God's word leads us to Salvation and guides our steps, are you reading His word?

**Do you attend Bible Study?**

Do you understand the revelation of God's word when you read and believe?

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105) If we read and heed the Lord's instructions, He will show us where to go, what to say, and how to make decisions. His Word also reveals when we're heading the wrong direction and warns us of the consequences of continuing down that path.

**3: Do I have a personal relationship with you, Jesus?**

Revelation 3:20-22 Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. 21 To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Maybe you became a Christian long ago, but have never really experienced an intimate relationship with Jesus. Do you sense Him knocking at the door of your heart today? Invite Him in to your heart, not just as a sacrifice for your sins, but as a dear and beloved Friend, as Lord and Master, as one whom you desire to rule and reign in your heart and life.

How do we engage that relationship with Christ?

John 15: 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

Our Prayer life is important, it is our communication with Jesus, Some Christians believe that if they go to church once a week, sing a few songs in church, and pay their tithe, that they are "in relationship" with God. However, God wants more than this. He wants you 7 days of the week, not just one time a week in a church service.

#### **4: Have I loved you with a true heart, Lord?**

1 John 4: 19 we love because he first loved us. 20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

We can only show others true love when we ourselves have encountered the love of Christ.

Paul says that we must present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The Word of God, ministered in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, is the only power on earth that can transform us from worldliness to true spirituality. In fact, it is all we need to be made “complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”

## **5: Is there un-confessed sin in my heart Lord?**

Un-confessed sin hinders our relationship with God.

If you're a Christian who is abiding in sin, then what you need to do is pray to the Lord and confess your sin and then repent of it and be cleansed. God will forgive, and your fellowship with him will be restored.

*1 John 1: 9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

Un-confessed sin will ultimately affect our relationship with God.

We know that God knows everything; He has His information on each and every one of us, do not allow yourself to fall into the hands of the living God.

*Hebrews 10: 26 For if we willfully persist in sin after having received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a*

sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful prospect of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

## **6: Have I been walking righteously in the sight of God?**

The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 3:1 that as we start approaching the end times, that the love of many will grow cold and that lawlessness and immorality will start to abound.

It also says in this verse that men will become lovers of self and money, along with becoming unholy, blasphemers, unloving, unthankful, disobedient to parents, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, traitors, headstrong and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

2 Timothy 3:1-7 1 You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come. 2 For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, brutes, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid them! 6 For among them are those who make their way into households and captivate silly women, overwhelmed by their sins and swayed by all kinds of desires, 7 who are always being instructed and can never arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5: 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through

us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As Christians we are called to walk righteously in the sight of God.

Jesus has asked us to let our light so shine before men, that they .....and Glorify our Father in Heaven.

Driving through the no entry sign, ignoring instructions are an affront to God, people must be obedient and not disobedient.

In conclusion:

Jesus' entry into the world was to once and for all atone for the sins of man, by the shedding of His blood on Calvary.

His birth followed the prophecies and heralding of the prophets and John the Baptist.

Our core beliefs as Christians are grounded in the fact that we believe Jesus came and died for our sins, rose again on the third day and is seated at the right hand of God interceding for us.

But to believe this, we must also understand that we have a responsibility to fulfill Jesus' commands as Christians.

**Therefore I want us to go away and remember the six (6) things on the checklist, which Christians need to look at, and ask themselves if they are following the commands of Jesus and also living righteously in the sight of God.**

**1: God! What impact do you have on my life?**

**2: God! Do I allow your Word to guide my life?**



- 3: Do I have a personal relationship with you, Jesus?**
- 4: Have I loved you with a true heart, Lord?**
- 5: Is there un-confessed sin in my heart Lord?**
- 6: Have I been walking righteously in your sight God?**