

May 3, 2015

MASTER LIVING

Text: Acts 3:19

Great Christians -- effective Christians -- are so because they m_____ the b_____.

We come into the Christian life one way. There's only one way in: faith in Jesus Christ. Ref: Ephesians 2:8-9

Just as we are saved by the grace and the mercy of God, we grow by the grace and mercy of God. Ref: Galatians 3:3

You can't make your mark on the world until God has made his mark on you. That means you need to become a master of the craft of C_____ I_____.

In the Christian life, the way up is the same as the way in. Just as you are saved by God's grace and mercy, you grow by God's g_____ and m_____.

If you will attend to each of these words each and every day, you will become a master craftsman of the Christian life, and you will certainly make your mark on the world around you.

1. REPENTANCE

Feeling guilty is a necessary part of the process, because feeling guilty means that you're taking the first step toward coming to grips with what your behavior means.

The Greek word for repentance is *metanoia*. It's a compound word meaning, literally, to change your m_____ or change you're a_____.

The Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words tells us that to repent is to make a decision that changes the direction of your life.

One essential step to mastering the Christian life is to repent every day.

2. RECONCILIATION (Ref: 1st John 1:9)

God's forgiveness is total and complete, and it's about more than just having your past sins x'd out. It's about being brought into a reconciled relationship with him.

Jesus Christ came into the world to bring us back together -- to put us back into right relationship with o_____, with one a_____, and most significantly, with G_____.

Forgiveness, and the reconciliation that comes with it, is pivotal to the Christian life. We can't master the Christian life without it. We need God's forgiveness and we need to walk in forgiveness with one another

3. REFRESHING

Spending time in the presence of God refreshes your spirit like nothing else. Ref: Luke 5:16

You can't make your mark in the world until God has made his mark on you and he does it by grace and by his mercy, one day at a time.