

Lessons Learned About God, Life, and Man

5. We have everything we need to succeed in life because God has poured out His Holy Spirit on us; we are overflowing with His Spirit (3:6).
6. The fact that you are now a justified child of God means that you have an opportunity to inherit something, i.e., to do something about your position in Jesus' future Kingdom (3:7).
7. The life of the Christian *should* be (not will be, but *should* be) completely different than that of those who refuse to believe in God's salvation: Christians should always see the way out, always be able to handle adversity, always be ready and prepared to handle everything life throws at them, not without pain, not without tears for life is painful, but without giving up because they know that God's Spirit is always there ready, willing and able to help them not just deal with life but overcome its challenges (3:1-8).
8. Humans were designed to live life well, to thrive regardless of the adversities. But how can we survive the anxiety and stress of life, how can we resist the pressures from the culture around us, how can we be individuals who are not weighed down by our sin and misery? Jesus came to create a new humanity and He has the power to do it. The question is will we avail ourselves of that power? The moment we believe in Jesus, we get a brand new shot at life. We have the ability not only to survive but thrive in this difficult world. Thus, having been justified by His grace, we have an opportunity to live according to His powerful Spirit which beats inside us. (3:1-8)
9. Arguments about doctrine and theology that go nowhere are unprofitable and useless (3:9).
10. When you follow God's advice about difficult people, you will know how to deal with them; you'll know who they are, when to argue and why, and when to walk away from the argument because further discussion would be useless (3:8-11).
11. Christians *should* be (not will be but *should* be) people who can spot the needs of those around them and meet them instead of being unfruitful people (3:7-8, 14).
12. Christians should always be law-abiding citizens (3:1).