The Christian’s Look

Intro: There are several looks that we as Christians are to have. In this lesson I would like for us to notice some of these looks.

I. LOOKING INTO SALVATION
   A. Luke 2:38 “And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”
      1. The prophetess Anna came into the temple where Jesus was, and spake concerning him to all that looked for salvation.
      2. Here were people looking for redemption or salvation.
   B. 1 Pet. 1:12 “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themelves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”
      1. Said in relation to the angels’ desire.
      2. 1 Pet. 1:10-12 “Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”
         a. Their desire was to look into salvation.
         b. That salvation has been revealed to us.
      3. They had the desire, but could not; we have the ability to look into it, and we should.
   C. That salvation:
      1. God’s part: Grace
         a. Eph. 2:5 “Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
         b. Tit. 2:11 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,”
         c. God doing what man could not do for himself.
            (1) This grace was manifest in the sending of His Son into the world to save man.
               (a) John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
               (b) Rom. 5:8-10 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”
               (c) 2 Cor. 5:18-21 “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
(2) That grace is manifested in giving us the Word.
   (a) Tit. 2:11-12 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 
              teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, 
              righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
   (b) Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God 
                 unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
   (c) Jam. 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and 
                 receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

2. Man’s part.
   a. Faith
      (1) Eph. 2:8 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift 
                      of God:”
      (2) Faith in the Father; Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he 
                      that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently 
                      seek him.”
      (3) Faith in Christ; John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if 
                      ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
   b. Repentance
      (1) Luke 13:3, 5 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish…. I tell 
                      you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
      (2) Acts 17:30 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men 
                      every where to repent:”
   c. Confession
      (1) Mat. 10:32-33 “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also 
                      before my Father which is in heaven. 33But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I 
                      also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”
      (2) Rom. 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth 
                      confession is made unto salvation.”
   d. Baptism for the remission of sins
      (1) Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not 
                      shall be damned.”
      (2) Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the 
                      name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy 
                      Ghost.”
      (3) 1 Pet. 3:21 “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the 
                      putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by 
                      the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”
   e. Continued faithful service to Christ.
      (1) Mat. 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to 
                      the end shall be saved.”
      (2) Heb. 3:6, 14 “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast 
                      the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end…. 14For we are made 
                      partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;”
      (3) To the church in Smyrna; Rev. 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall 
                      have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”
      (4) Adding the Christian graces; 2 Pet. 1:3-11 “According as his divine power hath given 
                      unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that
hath called us to glory and virtue: “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 7And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 8And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 9And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 10For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 11But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 12Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 13For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

II. LOOKING TO JESUS
A. Heb. 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

B. Christ is the author and finisher of the faith.
1. It is the faith, the Word of God.
   a. Jesus is the epitome of the Word of God.
      (1) This is one reason He is called the Word.
      (2) John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
   b. He is God’s spokesman for us today.
      (1) John 12:48-50 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 49For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”
      (2) Heb. 1:1-2 “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”
2. Author signifies a leader, and the source from which something proceeds; here in regard to the faith.
   a. He is the leader in that he lived a perfect and sinless life.
      (1) John 8:46 “Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?”
      (2) Heb. 4:15 “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”
      (3) Heb. 7:26 “For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;”
      (4) 1 Pet. 2:22 “Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:”
   b. He has, thus, become the one to whom we are to pattern our lives after.
      (1) He is our example.
         (a) John 13:15 “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.”
         (b) Gal. 4:19 “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,”
1 Pet. 2:21 “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.”

1 John 2:6 “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Notice Christ’s life was doing the will of the Father.

(i) John 4:34 “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”

(ii) John 6:38 “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”

(iii) Christ heard the word of the Father and did it.

3. Finisher or perfecter in the sense that He brought the faith to its completion.
   a. He brings our faith to its aim and end.
   b. 1 Pet. 1:9 “Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”
   c. Notice Hebrews.
      (1) The 11th chapter talks about great men of faith.
      (2) Heb. 11:10, 16 “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God…. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”
      (3) Heb. 11:39-40 “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”
      (4) Those sacrifices they offered could not give them salvation (Heb. 10:4 “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins”).
      (5) Only through Christ could they, and we have salvation.
   d. John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
   e. Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
   f. 2 Cor. 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

C. Let us look to Jesus.

III. LOOKING INTO THE LAW
   A. Jam. 1:25 “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”
   B. The need to study the scriptures.
      1. Notice the results of the Scriptures when used properly; 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
         a. Makes us a man of God
         b. Makes us perfect
         c. Furnishes us unto every good work
      2. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
C. To see what type of person we are.
   1. Jam. 1:23-25 “For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 23For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 24But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”
   2. Make self-examination. 2 Cor. 13:5 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”
   3. Compare our lives with God’s law.

D. Result is that we will be blessed.
   1. Meaning of blessed is successful, prosperous, having an inner peace that comes from God.
   2. Based on the condition that we be a doer of the work, or obedient to the scriptures.

IV. LOOKING ONE ON ANOTHER
A. John 4:35 “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”
   1. This is said in relation to preaching the gospel to the lost.
   2. It is our responsibility to preach to the lost.
      a. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 19Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
      b. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
      c. 1 Cor. 1:21 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
      d. 2 Tim. 2:2 “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”
   3. John 4:35-36 “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. 36And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.”
   4. Song: “You Never Mentioned Him To Me” written by James Rowe

Verse 1
When in the better land, before the bar we stand
How deeply grieved our souls will be
If any lost one there, should cry in deep despair
You never mentioned him to me

Verse 2
O let us spread the word, where-eer it may be heard
Help grooping souls the light to see
That yonder none may say, you showed me not the way
You never mentioned him to me

Verse 3
A few sweet words may guide, a lost one to his side
Or turn sad eyes on calvary
So work as days go by, that yonder none may cry
You never mentioned him to me

Chorus
You never mentioned him to me
Nor help me the light to see
You met me day by day and knew I was a-stray
You never mentioned him to me

B. Phi. 2:4 “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”
1. We are to be concerned with others.
2. Gal. 6:2 “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”
3. This is seen in our having:
   a. Sympathy with others; 1 Cor. 12:26 “And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”
   b. Serving others; Mat. 20:26-27 “But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:”
   c. Showing mercy on others; Luke 10:37 “And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”

V. LOOKING TO OURSELVES
A. 2 John 8 “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”
B. Need for self-examination.
   1. Hag. 1:7 “Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.”
   2. Gal. 6:4 “But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.”
   3. 2 Cor. 13:5 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”
C. The Scriptures are the basis for that examination.
   1. 1 Cor. 13:12 “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”
   2. Jam. 1:23-25 “For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”
   3. So we will not lose our reward but receive a full reward.

VI. LOOKING FOR THE DAY OF GOD OR DAY OF THE LORD.
A. Found in:
   1. 1 Th. 5:2 “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”
   2. 2 Pet. 3:10, 12 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up…. 12Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”
B. “The day of the Lord” finds its background in the Old Testament.
   1. It was used for a day of judgment.
2. God would punish the wicked.
3. God would justify the righteous.

C. Our Lord will come again.
1. How He is coming:
   a. Personally; 1 Thess. 4:16 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first;”
   b. Audibly; 1 Thess. 4:16 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first;”
   c. Visibly; Rev. 1:7 “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”
   d. In the clouds; Acts 1:9, 11 “And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight…. 11Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”
   e. With His mighty, holy angels; Matt. 25:31 “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:”
   f. With the spirits of the departed saints; 1 Thess. 3:13 “To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”
   g. In flaming fire; 2 Thess. 1:7-8 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 4In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:”

2. He is coming to:
   a. Destroy the world; 2 Pet. 3:10-12 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”
   b. Deliver up the kingdom to the Father; 1 Cor. 15:24-25 “Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.”
   c. Raise the dead; John 5:28-29 “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”
   d. Judge the world; Matt. 25:31-33 “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.”
   e. Take vengeance upon the wicked; Matt. 13:41-42 “The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”
   f. Be glorified and admired by the righteous; 2 Thess. 1:10 “When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”

D. We, as Christians, should be looking for that day where the righteous will be vindicated and the wicked punished.
VII. LOOKING FOR BLESSED HOPE

A. Tit. 2:13 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”
   1. We are to look for that blessed hope.
   2. What is that hope for which we are to look?

B. The appearing of Jesus Christ.
   1. Tit. 2:13 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”
      a. Not only are we to look for that blessed hope, but:
      b. We are to look for the appearing of our great God who is Jesus Christ.
   2. Heb. 9:28 “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”
      a. We are to look for Him, which is Jesus Christ.
      b. We are to look for Christ to come the second time, that we might have salvation.
         (1) While salvation from sins is found only in Christ, this is not speaking of that salvation.
         (2) Salvation also has reference to eternal salvation.
            a) This is as a result of the atoning work of Christ.
            b) The end is a heavenly home with God.

C. This salvation at the appearing of Christ is eternal life.
   1. Jude 21 “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”
   2. It is the hope that the Christian possesses.
      a. Tit. 1:2 “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”
      b. Heb. 6:18-19 “That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: 19Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;”
   3. It is the new heavens and new earth:
      a. 2 Pet. 3:13 “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”
      b. Rev. 21:1-4 “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”
      c. 1 Pet. 1:3-5 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Conclusion: Have you looked into salvation and the Christian life so you can look to that blessed hope of eternal life?