

## THERE'S NO OTHER WAY

TEXT: (Proverbs 27:22, NIV)

<sup>22</sup> Though you grind a fool in a mortar, grinding them like grain with a pestle, you will not remove their folly from them.

## I. BORN AGAIN

## A. A New Heart

1. "The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time" (Genesis 6:5, NIV).
2. "The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45, NIV).
3. "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit" (Matthew 7:18, NIV).
4. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws" (Ezekiel 36:26-27, NIV).

## B. A New Attitudes

1. "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul' (Matthew 16:24-26)?
2. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

## C. A New Song

1. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16, NIV).
2. "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations" (Psalm 100:4-5, NIV).
3. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6, NIV).
  - a. We can enjoy a sense of peace that the world neither gave us nor can take away.

## II. A NEW FREEDOM

## A. Freedom from the Past

1. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (II Corinthians 5:17, NIV)!
2. "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19, NIV).

## B. Freedom to Become Children of God

1. "To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'  
They answered him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?'  
Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed'" (John 8:31-36, NIV).
2. "Everyone who sins is a slave to sin" (John 8:34, NIV).
3. "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" (Romans 6:1-4, NIV).
4. "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness" (Romans 6:15-18, NIV).
5. "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12, NIV).

## III. HOPE

## A. New Hope

1. "Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:12-13, NIV).

## B. Hope for Today

1. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13, NIV).

## C. Hope for Tomorrow

1. "If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men" (I Corinthians 15:19, NIV).
2. "When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery" (Deuteronomy 6:10-12, NIV).
3. "But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure" (I John 3:3, NIV).