



What's Missing?  
The Sanctified Life-Who Am I?

Judges 16:23-31

23 Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said:

"Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!"

24 When the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said:

"Our god has delivered into our hands our enemy, the destroyer of our land, And the one who multiplied our dead."

25 So it happened, when their hearts were merry, that they said, "Call for Samson, that he may perform for us." So they called for Samson from the prison, and he performed for them. And they stationed him between the pillars. 26 Then Samson said to the lad who held him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars which support the temple, so that I can lean on them." 27 Now the temple was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there — about three thousand men and women on the roof watching while Samson performed.

28 Then Samson called to the Lord, saying, "O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!" 29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. 30 Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.

31 And his brothers and all his father's household came down and took him, and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father Manoah. He had judged Israel twenty years.

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The temple of the Philistines was built for the worship of their god Dagon. Dagon was their fertility god. Some images of Dagon show the idol has half woman and half fish. The fish image was used because fish multiply incredibly fast.

The Philistines had a spiritual problem. They believed false ideas about God. These false ideas were arguments against the true knowledge of God. These false ideas gave them freedom to fulfill their evil passions. The Philistines objectified women, had no respect for human life, and focused their life on what they could obtain in this world. The temple they built to Dagon was an outward image of the stronghold of false ideas and evil passions that existed in their souls.

It cost Samson His life but he pulled down this temple of false ideas with the power of God. It resulted in the deaths of thousands of the Philistines.

We are all born into sin and are like the Philistines. We believe false ideas about God. These false ideas are our arguments against the true knowledge of God. These false ideas give us freedom to fulfill our evil passions-lust, bitterness, and greed. We build outward images of the stronghold of false ideas and evil passions that exist in our souls.

Just as Samson was sent into the Philistine world, Jesus was sent into our world.

Just as it cost Samson his life to pull down the false ideas of the Philistines, it cost Jesus His life to pull down the false ideas we have about God.

Just as the Philistines died for receiving Samson, we die if we receive Jesus.

Samson was buried and stayed in the grave and so did the Philistines who died with Him.

Jesus was raised from the dead and gives a new life to all who died with Him.

If we have received Jesus, we died with Him. If we have received Jesus, we were raised with Him.

We experience that death and the new life that follows retroactively when we receive Jesus as our personal savior and Lord and the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us.

[So what's missing that is causing so many who profess Christ to live like they are still uncircumcised Philistines still controlled by their evil passions and false ideas?](#)

Samson was sanctified by God but Samson did not sanctify himself for God.

Samson did not want to be who God had planned for him to be. There were things that he wanted that did not fit into God's plans for Him. Samson did not want the life that God had for him. He did not want to honor his parents. He did not want to give up immorality. He did not want to give up his association with the Philistines. He did not want to be the leader of Israel. Samson the saint was satisfied with being the Samson the sinner.

Like Samson, if we are in Christ we have been sanctified by God. And like Samson, we can still choose whether or not we will sanctify ourselves for God.

The apostle Paul says it like this.

[Eph. 4:17-24](#)

[17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.](#)

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.  
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We can put on the new man who is like Christ in true righteousness and holiness.

Or we can continue put on the old man who grows corrupt according to deceitful lusts.

What has to happen in us so that we will choose to put on the new man?

- We must hate the old man

Addiction therapists call this coming to the end of yourself. They also call it hitting rock bottom. To an addict it means coming to a place that you never want to be the drunk man again.



**Matthew Brian Bush** (born February 8, 1986) is an American professional baseball pitcher for the Texas Rangers of Major League Baseball (MLB). He was drafted by the San Diego Padres with the first overall draft pick in the 2004 Major League Baseball draft.

Due to numerous personal and legal problems, Bush had only played as high as Double-A, two steps below the Major League level, prior to his debut on May 13, 2016. He was traded by the Padres to the Toronto Blue Jays in 2009, but was released by the Blue Jays without ever playing. He then played for the Rays organization before being released in 2012 after a drunk driving incident. He pleaded no contest to charges related to that incident in December 2012, and was sentenced to 51 months in state prison. He served 39 months, and signed with the Rangers after his release from prison.

Matt Bush was called up to the major leagues this week to pitch for the Texas Rangers.

Listen to what he said.

"I'm not the same person when I drink. I tend to make horrible choices. I don't want to be that person ever again. I like myself today being sober. I feel like I'm living a dream and I don't ever want this to stop." Matt Bush

What Matt Bush says has happened to him must happen to each one of us who have been sanctified by God through Christ. The way He feels about being the drunk Matt Bush, we must feel about being the old man.

We must hate the old man.

1. This hatred for the old man happens to some people in the church before they receive Jesus.
2. This hatred for the old man happens to some people after they receive Jesus. Developing a hatred for the old man is a very painful process for most people.
3. This hatred for the old man never happens to some people after they receive Jesus.

We will not be sincere about putting on the new man unless we come to the end of our self or hit rock bottom and be able to say this with all sincerity.

“I don’t want to be the old man ever again. I want to be the new man that I am in Christ.”

- We must love the new man

When you have been the old man your whole life, it is not easy being comfortable with your new life. There can be a period of adjustment as you put off things that you are used to and put on things that you are not used to. You can feel like you are a fraud. You can feel like you don’t belong. Addiction therapists call this adjustment becoming comfortable in your own skin as a sober person.

As you make this adjustment to loving your new man, it is important that you know this truth.

Gal. 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

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When Christ died, you died with Him. When Christ was raised you were raised with Him.

You put on the new man by faith that you are the new man. There is much to learn about the new man and learning takes work.

But you must never forget that what you are learning about the new man in Christ is who you already are in Christ!

Invitation

Will you receive Jesus?

Will you put off the old man?  
Will you put on the new man