



Christ In Us, The Hope Of Glory

**Do You Know...
.... Who You Are In Christ?**

D O N G E R R I T Y

Christ In Us The Hope Of Glory Do You Know Who You Are In Christ?

By Don E. Gerrity

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BIBLES CITED...

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How Does God See Us As A Believer?

*"...for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."
(1 Samuel 16:7 KJV)*

God told this to Samuel as he seen Eliab, who apparently was an impressive looking person body wise. God told Samuel to not worry about him because God rejected Eliab. God seen Samuel's heart and that is how God sees us. He knows everything about us on the inside, deep down in our very hearts. We certainly know how we see ourselves don't we? And just as Samuel, we have doubts about ourself and who we truly are on the inside. These doubts are real, even though most have an outward mask hiding our true self. That is truth right? But is how we see ourselves the way God sees us? This is actually a vitally important question that we need an answer about. Why is it so important? Because how we view ourselves inside, at our core being, is directly linked to how we live outwardly. When we get right down to the truth of this, **we live outwardly as we believe inwardly.**

Once a person believes on Christ and His finished and complete work on the cross, having forgiven all our sins, we also need to understand, and know, and BELIEVE who God actually MADE US at that very moment of belief. Ask Christians what God did for us on the cross and it is surprising the answers that are given. Some will answer that they are forgiven their sins now. Some will answer that they are forgiven their sins but now I need to not sin anymore, and if I do sin, that I need to ask forgiveness again to regain forgiveness.

Others will answer more correctly that they are forgiven their sins and that is all sins they will ever commit, even in the future. And others will answer that the Holy Spirit indwells within them. Yet, ask a Christian who God made them when they made the decision to believe on Christ and many many times the answer is just a blank stare back. Or a simple, "*I am saved*". Dig deeper and ask what does that mean you are saved and they answer, *I am forgiven* but nothing else.

My fellow believers, God made you MUCH MORE than forgiven! You are MORE than just forgiven your sins so that you can go to Heaven and you need to know who God actually created you to be, in Christ, and the real power that He has actually bestowed in you.

That is what this booklet is about; knowing who you truly are IN CHRIST. If you thought that all God did was have Jesus pay for your sins so you can go to Heaven one day, then buckle your seats belts! You are going to learn the power of God, in you.

The Power Of Christ In You, The Hope Of Glory

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Does A Believer Have Two Spiritual Natures, or One Spiritual Nature?

What exactly is a Spiritual Nature anyway? It almost sounds like some new age thing when we read it or hear someone talking about this, but it is not new age teaching at all. This is Bible teaching based on Scripture. Our Spiritual nature is the real us. It is who we are; ***our core being***. We have a physical body but we are more than that inside right? We humans have a whole life right inside of us. We even talk, to ourselves, in our Spirit and our mind. If all we are is a physical brain inside, how exactly are we talking to ourselves? Psychologists will say it is the sub-consciousness verses our awake mind. Some say we have an eternal soul that is the real us. Others say we have Spirit which is the real us. And where exactly does our mind play in all of this? Let's go back, way, way back. Let's go all the way back to the point in time that God create humans on Earth.

*"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man **became a living soul.**"*
(Genesis 2:7 KJV)

This verse shows a truth that we need to understand about ourselves, as part of the human race. First, God created a body for us. It is made from the elements found right here on Earth, so we could physically live on the planet, fully adapted to the environment that God created for us. Then, God gave us the breath of life. That is God gave us a Spirit which came from God. It is the breath of life from God; it is God creating us in the same nature of God, which is Spirit. **God is a Spirit being.** And then, *we became a living soul*. Notice that our soul is not the same as our Spirit. Our Spirit is the real us. Our soul is our Spirit living inside our physical body. Body plus Spirit equals a living soul.

THE HALF TRUTHS BEING TAUGHT AND THE REAL TRUTH IN GOD'S WORD

Every hear someone teaching about the *Sin Nature Of Man*? What about the *Nature of God*? Some pulpits are teaching that a believer in Christ has two natures as our core being. Two Spirits at war with each other. They are teaching that before being saved we had one Spirit nature, which is the sin nature which Apostle Paul called *The Spirit of Adam (man)*. They then go on to teach that once a person believes on Christ, the Holy Spirit comes and indwells the believer. The believer receives a new Spirit Nature which is *The Spirit of God*, which Apostle Pauls calls simply as, *The Spirit* because he is writing mainly to saved believers in his letters that we read in the New Testament.

So far, so good. Both of these are substantiated as the truth in Scripture. But this is where their teaching starts going wrong. They then conclude that a believer now has TWO Spirit Natures. The old **Spirit of Adam**, that mostly chooses to sin outwardly and our new **Spirit of God** that never wants to sin (1 John 3). They teach these two are at war in a believer. The passage they mostly refer to for this wrong belief is chapter 7 of the book of Romans in the Bible. They go on to teach that Romans 7 shows this truth, yet it is not supported by Scripture anywhere, nor in Romans 7. They kind of skip over verse 17 and 20 in Romans 7 where the truth is clearly seen.

There is *war going on in a believer*, but it is not between two Spirit natures that we have become at our conversion. This false teaching of two natures has so many believers confused and not knowing who they truly are , *in Christ*. This false belief diminishes the power of God in a believer's life. It actually hinders our ability to work and live Godly outwardly. It has even caused many to teach and believe that assurance of a believer's Salvation is not provided by God when we believed on Christ for righteousness. It has caused many to believe that after salvation, they need to perform good works as a requirement to remain saved. All of which is not Biblically correct. There is a difference between the words *should* in Ephesians 2:10 and *required*.

THE SPIRIT OF ADAM NATURE

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." (Proverbs 23:7 KJV)

That is true right? An unbeliever does not have a sinful Spiritual nature *because they sin*. They sin outwardly because they *have a sinful Spirit nature*. This nature is the Spirit nature of every person born since Adam and Eve fell until they accept the Lord Jesus Christ in acceptance of the free gift of Salvation.

When Apostle Paul writes about our '*old man*' he is talking about our Spirit Nature BEFORE being saved; ***The Spirit Of Man***. He also refers to this as our *Adam Nature*. I also refer to it as my *old self* to give clarity in my writing. If you think about it a moment, who is the real you? Is it your body or your Spirit? It is your Spirit, it is *the self*. It is the real us. We control our body by our spiritual self. It is our very core being. So I sometimes refer to it as our *self*. The Spirit of Man is our Spiritual Self before the moment of our salvation, by belief in Christ.

This is the core Spiritual Being of every person before they are saved. For a believer in Christ for righteousness, this core being, our Old *Spirit of Adam* is now DEAD (Colossians 2, Romans 6). It is dead and raised born again as a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17) called The Spirit Of God. Apostle Paul tells us that from the moment we believe on Christ for righteous, and not Law of Moses following nor by good works, that our OLD Spirit of Adam nature DIED; and this was written in the past tense in Romans 6 and Colossians 2. Paul wrote this in the past tense because it already happened and it is finished now. It was fully accomplished on the cross by Jesus Christ. It is not that we need to work to attain, nor to keep, this new nature we have been given; this new creation called **The Spirit Of God**.

Paul is clearly telling us that our Old Self, our Old Spirit Of Man, literally DIED on the cross WITH CHRIST, was baptized in Christ (born again), and **was made by God**, eternal and was SEALED by the Holy Spirit of promise (Colossians 2, John 3:14-18, Ephesians 1:13-14). A believer's Old Spirit Nature, the real core being who we are, was Buried WITH CHRIST in baptism of the Spirit, and already rose WITH CHRIST a new creature, and is right now (in present tense) SEATED WITH CHRIST and COMPLETE IN CHRIST (Colossians 2), and hidden IN CHRIST (Colossians 3), and **has become the righteousness of God, IN CHRIST** (2 Cor. 5:21). This is all in *The Spirit* – not The Body.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD NATURE

Once a person accepts the free gift of Salvation by believing that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, who is God, and who never sinned and died on that cross, shedding His blood to pay for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2), and then rose again from death, something enormous happened. It happened in an instant; in a single moment in time. By imputation God recreated our Spirit as a NEW CREATION. The old Spirit of Adam which was a sin nature actually DIED the very moment a person believed on Christ. And through imputation God RE-MADE US in the Spirit! God changed our core being and we became what Jesus called, **a new creation** which is a born again Spirit. How powerful is this truth? Yet many believers do not know this. They know their sins are forgiven but they may not know about who God made them, IN CHRIST. And who God made us is so amazing. So powerful. So unbelievably fantastic! It is life changing truth!

What Happens To A Believer When They Believe On Christ Alone For Salvation?

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."
(Romans 8:14 KJV)*

This verse in Romans is very powerful truth. When we believed on Christ for righteousness, God **made us** a son or daughter in Christ. We are part of God's family in His nature, which is a Spirit Nature. Believe this one verse in faith and you will be correct in knowing who you now are in Christ. However, how exactly did this happen to us? We certainly did nothing except believe on Christ right? How is all this possible?

In Colossians 2, Paul describes what happened to us when we believed on Christ. I tell you that I love this passage so much. It literally changed my life as a believer and set me on this journey I am still living in. The peace I now have in knowing the truth, which has set me free indeed just as Jesus said it would. I still have my moments where my faith waivers. You either do or will too. But the Holy Spirit is right here *within us*, forever, and He always helps guide us back to the truth that sets us free. It is not a journey in seeking wealth and prosperity on Earth. It is Spiritual mindness pertaining to all things in life and eternity to come.

Apostle Paul wanted very badly to go visit and physically be present with these believers that he is addressing but he was unable, because he was under house arrest for two whole years. This is why we have the Epistles of Paul in the New testament; he was writing to them because he could not physically be there. You see, God even had a purpose in Paul being under house arrest. Sounds like a horrible thing indeed but God used it and today we can read and learn the Gospel of Grace Through Paul's writings! We are in God's family now in the Spirit, yet living in a corrupt world. Remember what Apostle Paul wrote about times when we have troubles in life:

*“...we know that **ALL THINGS** work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.”
(Romans 8:28 KJV)*

All things? Yes, all of it! The good, the bad and the downright ugly! God will use it all for your good, and/or the good of others. Okay, beyond this life lesson, let's return to Colossians 2.

Apparently, there were false teachers creeping into the community of believers, as there were everywhere at that time. There were the Judiazers falsely teaching that following the Law of Moses to remain saved was required to remain saved. We see Paul writing to them and refuting this false teaching in Galatians. The writer of Hebrews was also fighting against this false teaching, though we are not certain who wrote it. Then there were also Gnostics teaching their false heresies back then as well, which Apostle John refuted to believers in his writings in 1 John. These false Gnostic teachings are still here with us today in a rampant manner; *even within Christian religions and preaching from many Christian pulpits*. Be aware of this my fellow believers! Do not be deceived by the traditions of men nor any formal religion. Always stick to God's Word as it is the only source of truth and the Holy Spirit will not teach us against God's Word. We see Paul fighting these false teachers very hard in his writings, and the false beliefs they taught, throughout his writings in the New Testament. Apostle Paul wrote 2/3 of the New testament and so we need to acknowledge this. So Paul wrote them a letter in Colossians. And part of this letter is Paul making it very clear what exactly happened when they believed on Christ for righteousness, so that no one would be able to deceive them with such false teachings. And if we read this, and really understand it, and confirm it with other Scriptures, we too will not be deceived in these End Times in which we now live. Stand firm in this amazing truth; **Christ in us, the hope of glory!**

*"8 Beware lest any man spoil you through **philosophy and vain deceit**, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, **and not after Christ**.*

*9 For **in him** dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

*10 And **ye are complete in him**, which is the head of all principality and power:*

11 In whom also **ye are circumcised with** the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh **by the circumcision of Christ**:

12 Buried **with him** in baptism, wherein also **ye are risen with him** through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he **quickenened together with him**, having forgiven you **all trespasses**;

14 **Blotting out** the handwriting of ordinances that **was** against us, which **was** contrary to us, and **took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross**;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (Colossians 2: 8-14 KJV)

These 7 verses are so full of power and truth, yet much of Christianity has not read, or have not grasped, just what this is saying to us. Let's unpack this amazing truth of what God did for all who make the decision to trust Christ for Salvation.

In verse 8, Paul is telling us that this whole thing he is describing here, is not about men's teachings in philosophy or traditions kept. **This whole thing is all God's doing.** The ways of the world have NOTHING to do with this! All we did was believe on Christ and the atonement for our sins and Christ's rising from death. The rest is **ALL GOD's work!** Do not let any preacher, nor priest, nor any person, nor an angel, nor anything, including your own thoughts, be deceived that we did anything to save ourselves, nor that we need to do something to keep ourselves saved either (Eph. 2:8-9, Gal. 5:4-5). We need to focus on the truth that we should only be trusting in Christ and no one and nothing else. In verse 9, we see Paul is preaching against the false teachers, likely Gnostics by this context because they denied the deity of Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Paul makes it clear that CHRIST is God fully in bodily form. Jesus is the Christ, God in bodily form just as John wrote,

*"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."
(John 1:14 KJV)*

The last four words John wrote in this verse are a powerful truth as well. Jesus is The Christ, full of GRACE and TRUTH! Just notice how God put *grace before truth*. Going back to Colossians 2 now, in verse 10, we see a very powerful truth. One we should not overlook. He states that we, as believers in Christ, *are present tense*, **COMPLETE IN CHRIST**. When we look into Strongs concordance to the Greek and look up this word '*complete*', we find G4137, Greek word '*plēroō*', which is from G4134 and the definition being :

'to make replete, i.e. (literally) to cram (a net), level up (a hollow), or (figuratively) to furnish (or imbue, diffuse, influence), satisfy, execute (an office), finish (a period or task), verify (or coincide with a prediction), etc.:—accomplish, × after, (be) complete, end, expire, fill (up), fulfill, (be, make) full (come), fully preach, perfect, supply.'

What a word to use! It is like ramming a net so full it is about to burst. It is complete in the sense that it is **fully satisfied to God**. It is God executing an office to the believer. It is finished and done. It has made the believer full and perfect (Hebrews 10:14). Look at that! This is what God MADE US when we believed on Christ. We became **COMPLETE, IN CHRIST**. This statement , *in Christ*, is everything! It is not just that we believe on Christ for forgiveness of sins. It is that when we believe on Christ, we are placed *in Christ* and Christ is placed *within us*. A divine exchange by the imputation of God (2 Cor. 5:17-21).

We need to understand this truth of who we now are, in Christ. In Ephesians, we see the same writer Apostle Paul making this statement,

*"In whom **ye also trusted**, after that **ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation**: in whom also **after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise**, Which is the **earnest** of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."
(Ephesians 1:13-14 KJV)*

From the moment of belief on Christ and His atonement for our sins, we were SEALED with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is indwelling a believer from that moment and sealed in, forever. Again, sealed in FOREVER *from the very moment of belief on Christ, for righteousness*. It is God in us. It is Christ in us. In John 17, Jesus prayed for the

disciples and also us today. He prayed this just before the passion of Christ, just before the events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus. In this prayer is one of the most amazing truths, that most of Christianity today has not grasped. The same truth explained in Colossians 2. A truth that I have never personally heard from a church pulpit myself. Yet, a truth that should be the core thing taught to believers in my opinion. Let's read it. You should read it a few times, slowly, watching the words closely. Have this truth sink into your core belief (I have highlighted some) . Jesus said,

*" And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, **that they may be one, as we are.** While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, **and none of them is lost**, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.*

*And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, **that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.** I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. **They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.***

*17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, **even so have I also sent them into the world.** And **for their sakes** I sanctify myself, that they **also might be sanctified through the truth.***

*Neither pray I for these alone, **but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;***

*22 **That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:** that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me **I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:***

*23 **I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;** and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love

*wherewith thou hast loved me **may be in them, and I in them.**" (John 17 KJV)*

My fellow believers in Christ, reread this many times. See the truth of just how much grace God has bestowed on us ! Christ is *in us* (the Holy Spirit) and we are complete *in Christ* (Colossians 2). And Christ is one with God and so, now we are also one with God. **GRASP THAT!** Jesus prayed this to the Father. Do you think it has happened? You better believe it has!

When I realized this truth, the love of God shines even more for me. WOW! What a truth! We are in Christ and Christ is in God and we are ONE WITH GOD! WOW! Yet, are the majority of pulpits preaching this today? No. Instead they are teaching that we have two natures and that our Spirit of Adam nature can cause us to lose salvation through our sin and works. **It is a lie!** A lie right from the devil himself who is deceiving the whole world. It was Adolf Hitler who said that if a lie is told enough, people will start believing it. And look what happened!

We need to understand who we truly are *in Christ* by Scripture and not *"...through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world ..."* (Colossians 2 KJV) or we can be deceived into believing the lie that we are still evil people after salvation. If you start believing you are evil at your core being after salvation, that is how you will live outwardly and doing so is living a lie. Reject the lie by knowing the truth of who we are *in Christ* as a born again, Spirit filled believer, in Christ.

Do You Know Who You Are, In Christ?

Knowing who God made us at our conversion in faith in Christ is vitally important to how we live outwardly. This is who we are as believers in Christ's atonement for the sins of the world.

WE ARE FOREVER FORGIVEN

When Jesus died on the cross for our sins what did he cry out? In the English translated Bible we read He said, "*It is finished.*" When you look into the Greek it is literally a well known accounting term of that time and it meant "*a debt paid in full*". He paid for all our sins. Not some of them. It was not a partial payment for the sins we commit in our life; it was a full and complete payment for ALL OUR SINS. In fact, Jesus did not only pay for the sins of those who would believe on Him for righteousness. He actually paid for the sins of the whole world. Even the sins of those who will not believe and trust in Him as Lord.

*"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and **not for ours only**,
but also for the sins of the whole world."
(1 John 2:2 KJV)*

Jesus paid for all sins from all of human history and that includes the sins of a believer after their salvation. It is also why Jesus used the words '**WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM**' in John 3. Salvation is available to ANYONE. No matter how many sins you committed. No matter how bad the sins are either. Jesus paid for all sins and His payment satisfied the Father and was fully accepted as the full and complete payment for all sins of humankind. Of course, our free will is important to God and He does not force this payment for sins on anyone. Salvation is a FREE GIFT and as a GIFT, it can never be *earned* by good works. It can only be *accepted in gratitude or rejected*. Jesus told Nicodemus that we are born again in the Spirit (John 3:5-6) by accepting this gift, by belief in Jesus as the Messiah and Christ (John 3:14-18). And Jesus added

nothing to this belief as a requirement of Salvation either. No works. No Law keeping. Nothing else but believing on Christ as the requirement in accepting this free gift of Salvation. This is what we see Paul stating in verse 11 of Colossians 2,

*"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision **made without hands**, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh **by the circumcision of Christ**:" (Colossians 2 KJV)*

WE ARE A NEW CREATION OF GOD IN THE SPIRIT. OUR SPIRIT OF ADAM IS DEAD!

In verse 12 of Colossians 2, we see what happened to a person who believes on Christ. It reads as an event *in the past*. It is written as an event in the past tense that makes us in the present who we now are.

*"Buried **with him** in baptism, wherein also **ye are risen with him** through the faith of **the operation of God**, who hath raised him from the dead."*
(Colossians 2:12 KJV)

We see here again that this is all the '*operation of God*'. All we did was believe. Those two words '*with him*' show an amazing truth. We see Paul also wrote about this in Romans 6,

*"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified **with Him**, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."*
(Romans 6:6 KJV)

When we put it together in our minds, Paul taught that we also died *with Christ* on that cross, in the Spirit. We were buried *with Christ* in Baptism. We rose again *with Christ*. All in the past! This is a HUGE TRUTH! We were not only forgiven our sins by belief on

Christ and His atonement for the sins of the whole world. We already rose again with Christ in the Spirit 2000 years ago! I never heard this from a pulpit but it is written!

But how? We live here in 2020. I do not remember being on that cross. How about you? My body was not around 2000 years ago. Was yours? Of course not. Paul is talking about **our Spirit**, not our body. The Spirit is the real us. It is our core being. It resides within our physical body inside of the physical universe. Paul calls our body a tabernacle, a tent, that we are tethered to (2 Corinthians 5:1). When we physically die that tether is severed and our Spirit lives on. The question is where it lives on. For a believer, it is immediately with God because it already rose again with Christ and a believer is already, in Christ and Christ is in our Spirit as well. If we dig a bit deeper to get the answer of how could I have been on that cross we do find the answer in the Bible.

*"According as he hath chosen us **IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"*
(Ephesians 1:4-7 KJV)

You see God is not bound by time. He created time itself and so He sees things fully and completely. Ever wonder why we see God telling Moses to tell Pharaoh His name is *"I am that I am"*. Seems like a strange name to us. But that is because we live within this thing called time and space. But God is not bound by time and space. He is outside of it and within it. God sees all of time as the *forever present tense*. He is the Alpha and Omega; the beginning and the end. Before He created anything He foreknew everything that would happen. He knew what the devil would do. He knew man would fall in the garden. He foreknew every person that would accept the gift of Salvation through Christ and who would reject Christ. He foreknew EVERYTHING! And he also foreknew every sin you and me would commit, even sins future to us right now as a saved believer. Yet, Christ still came and paid for our sins. That is the unconditional love of God.

DOES THIS MEAN GOD PREDESTINED A PERSON TO HELL OR HEAVEN BEFORE CREATION AS SOME TEACH?

Absolutely No. God gave us all a free will to accept or reject Christ. Jesus said *"Whosoever Believeth on Him"* has eternal life (John 3:16-18). So we decide. This passage in Ephesians is Paul just stating that God *foreknew*. And for those that accept the gift of Salvation by belief in Christ, to those, He predestined us UNTO being accepted in the beloved. HE predestinated that anyone who will believe on Christ will have redemption through HIS BLOOD. Notice it is not through our works and good deeds (Ephesians 2:8-10). Our redemption was all the operation of God as Colossians 2 reads and here in Ephesians as well.

Here is an analogy. A person buys a ticket for an airplane trip and 3 week vacation in the sunny Carribean. Anyone who does not have a ticket for that vacation, will not be allowed to enter the airport gateway to that plane. They can DO whatever they like, but nothing they do, including an offer to clean the floors in the airport, will allow them to be on that flight. They can not use monopoly money to get a ticket either. Only real currency will be accepted. This is like a person who tries to work their way to being righteous by God, *by their own efforts*. The wages of sin, is not good works, nor being a good person. The wages of sin is eternal DEATH (Romans 6 :23). That is what God requires for the sins we have. A blood sacrifice is required for remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22). Now the ticket holder is able to board that plane and because they have a ticket, they are predestined to all that the travel package includes; the sun, the huge swimming, the shows etc.

Jesus paid for our sins and paid for all those who believe on Him and His payment for their sins on that cross. We get sealed by the Holy Spirit, not by works, but by belief on Christ's payment. Now let's look at all of Romans 6:23: .

*"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God
is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

(Romans 6:23 KJV)

Jesus gave us a ticket for that plane as a GIFT, just as a parent gives a trip, as a gift, to their son or daughter for their honeymoon. As a gift, it can be *accepted* or *rejected*. It

was a FREE GIFT. An enearned favor! But it must be accepted, and usually is *with great gratitude!* And that free gift of a plane ticket gives them full access to everything predestined and included in the vacation plan being sold. In the same way, a believer is given the free gift of Salvation to be accepted or rejected. If accepted then the person becomes saved and has full access to everything that God predestined for those that will believe on Christ and His final, once for all blood sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

WE WERE QUICKENED TOGETHER WITH CHRIST ON THE CROSS

In verse 13 of Colossians 2, Paul tells us that or those who believe on Christ for salvation *"he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; "*. This is written in the past tense. It happened 2000 years ago in the cross with Jesus. We were born physically thousands of years later **but God foreknew us!** He knew we were going to believe on Christ and He placed our Spirit of Adam on the cross with Christ. It died with Christ and God made us a new creation in the Spirit. This is supernatural to be sure. God created time and so He has full control of time and the Bible is clear that this is what happens the very moment a person believes on Christ for justification in Salvation.

*"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that **WAS** against us,
which **WAS** contrary to us, and **took it OUT OF THE WAY**,
nailing it to his cross;"*
(Colossians 2:14 KJV)

All our sins WERE BLOTTED OUT on that cross. Because God just said, I forgive you? No! It was nailed to the cross, in Christ. Our sins were PAID by Jesus' shed blood to met the demand of God's perfect character of justice and holiness. When the Bible says Jesus became sin for us, it literally meant our old nature Spirit with all the sin was placed on the cross and we DIED.

*"For the wages of sin **IS DEATH**; but the gift of God is eternal life **THROUGH** Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans6:23 KJV)*

For us, it is instantaneous when we believe but for Christ look what he endured on that cross! Remember that! We may not immediately see and feel this truth because our minds are not renewed. Yet, our Spirit nature was redeemed and renewed the very moment we believed on Christ and we became eternally saved. But we still have wrong beliefs and thought processes in our MIND that needs renewing to match up with who God recreated us in the Spirit the moment we believed on Christ. The battle now is between our un-renewed *mind* and our already *perfect, righteous Spirit*.

THE SINS OF BELIEVERS ARE NOT BEING HELD AGAINST US

*"Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord **imputeth not iniquity**, and in whose spirit there is no guile."
(Psalm 32:1-2 KJV)*

David really was a man way before his time. He knew this truth before Christ even came to pay for our sins. He knew the truth about God's loving grace. He had sins. Some sins we would think of as *biggies* such as adultery and murder. But he found the grace of God. He believed God and it *was imputed to him for righteousness*. Just as with Abraham, the father of our faith as they say. He had some really bad sins against his wife even! Yet, he believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. Apostle Paul makes this clear; our righteousness with God is not by our good deeds and works and he mentions both David and Abraham to prove this.

*"What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; **but not before God**. For what saith the scripture? Abraham **believed God**, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward **not reckoned of grace, but of debt**. But to him that **worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly**, his faith is **counted for righteousness**. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness **without works**. Saying, **Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered**. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord **will not impute sin**." (Romans 4:1-8 KJV)*

Apostle Paul struggled with sin too you know? He explains though, that it is not his Spirit sinning and that it is not being held against him either when he falls and sins. Christ already paid for all of ours sins.

*"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, **IT IS NO MORE I THAT DO IT, BUT SIN THAT DWELLETH IN ME**." (Romans 7:18-20 KJV)*

*"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws **into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them**; And their sins and iniquities **will I remember no more**. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin." (Hebrews 10: 16-18 KJV)*

WE ARE NOW THE VERY RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD, IN CHRIST

I can hear some reading this who have been taught religious works for salvation thinking, *"WHAT? We are righteous? We are as righteous as God is? That is blasphemy! Or is it? But, I still have sin? I am not perfect in how I live! How can I be as righteous as God?"*

But this is the Gospel truth. The very core of the Gospel of grace through Christ Jesus our Lord. Because when Christ paid for all our sins on the cross, it is as if they never happened to God. Jesus' blood sacrifice was fully sufficient to pay for all our unrighteousness. FULLY SUFFICIENT! Do not let anyone teach you otherwise from this point onward. We were born again in the Spirit, *not just forgiven!*

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is **a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)*

A literal new creature in the SPIRIT! A born again saved believer in Christ is actually a new race of being inside a human body. Our OLD MAN, our OLD SPIRIT of Adam died and God recreated us in the Spirit. Our new Spirit can never sin as it is the seed of God as we see John stating as truth in rebuking the Gnostics false teachings. The Gnostics were teaching the heresy that there is no indwelling Holy Spirit and that our Spirit is not reborn. John refutes this telling believers that,

*"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; **for his seed remaineth in him**: and he cannot sin, **because he is born of God**." (1 John 3:9 KJV)*

Again, John is talking about the Spirit. An amazing exchange happens to a believer when they believe on Christ and the blood atonement He made for our sins, as God in the flesh,

*"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.**" (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)*

*"For by one offering he hath **PERFECTED FOR EVER** them that are sanctified." (Hebrews 10:14 KJV)*

Perfected forever is written in the past tense again. If you never read this before, let it sink in a moment. YES! This is who God remade you in your core being. FULLY RIGHTEOUS! **As righteous as God is!** That is our new Spirit. And the Holy Spirit indwells us in the new Spirit. This exchange is when God placed all our sins on Christ on the cross and Jesus paid the price in shed blood. At the same time, God placed the righteousness of Christ on us. This is nothing we did! No good works could ever do this. The wages of sin is DEATH, not good works (Romans 6:23) This Godly exchange was by imputation of God. A *free gift* for all who will believe on Christ for righteousness.

WE ARE NOW CHILDREN OF GOD. A MEMBER IN GOD'S FAMILY

Not every human is a child of God. We are all a creation of God but Scripture is clear that a person is not a child of God until they believe on Christ.

*"But **as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**" (John 1:12-13 KJV)*

God is a Spirit so to become a child in God's family, we have to be born spiritually into His family. Just as Jesus described to a chief Pharisee Nicodemus,

*"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is **born of the flesh is flesh**; and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**" (John 3:5-6 KJV)*

No one can work their way into the family of God. To be a family member is by blood and birth. We are not children by the will of our fleshly Spirit of Adam. Unbelievers are headed for destruction. We cannot make up for our sins by good works in self righteous efforts. Only God can accomplish this and He did so by the way of Christ Crucified, died and risen. We must be born again in the Spirit to be a member of God's family.

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works**, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)*

*"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**"(1 Corinthians 15:1-4 KJV)*

Notice something in this verse. Paul says "according to the scriptures". What scriptures? The New Testament we now read? No. Paul's writings here became part of the New Testament we now read. He is talking about something prophetic here! He was talking about how the Old Testament, then known as the Torah, foretold everything Christ did. That Christ fulfilled all that was foretold about the Messiah and Christ. Proof that Jesus is the Christ and that it is all truth.

As a child of God, a believer has an inheritance so amazing that we cannot even comprehend what God has in store for us!

*"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God **hath prepared for them that love him.**" (1 Corinthians 2:9 KJV)*

WE CAN NEVER BE CONDENMED - LIKE NEVER!

*"There is therefore now **no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus**, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1 KJV)*

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, **hath everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (John 5:24 KJV)*

When we were not yet saved, no amount of good works and deeds could save us. We were trapped in a prison of sin and unrighteousness. But now, through imputation (2 Cor. 5, Colossians 2) of God, we have had a prison transfer! We have been transferred into the prison of righteousness and no sin can ever have us escape this prison either because Jesus paid for ALL SIN. EVERY ONE! We are positionally now, IN CHRIST, for ever and ever. In John 8, we see a group of Pharisees who were in complete unbelief that Jesus is the Christ and Messiah that was foretold. Jesus says to them,

*"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.**" (John 8:24 KJV)*

And then Jesus goes on to say,

*"Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**" (John 8:34 KJV)*

Is Jesus saying whoever commits *any sin* is a servant to sin? If a believer in Christ sins, are they also seen by God as a servant of sin? By the context of the chapter and verse 24, Jesus is telling them if they ***sin in unbelief that He is the foretold Messiah***, then they are not forgiven their sins and remain a servant of the sin nature of their unsaved

Spirit. That is what Jesus is meaning and saying. In John 3, Jesus already explained how a person is deemed righteous by God through being born again in the Spirit and it is by belief that Christ is the Messiah, the Christ (John 3:5-6, 14-18). Just read all of John 8 and it is clear. He is talking about **the sin of unbelief in Christ in specific by context**. And so it is with every person that has not believed on Christ alone for righteousness. They can go to church regularly. They can do good deeds helping the poor. They can do all these good things that make them look good on the outside, but if they are not born again in the Spirit, they are not the righteousness of God, in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17-21) and they are not saved.

They can believe that they are going to heaven because they are *just a better person than those other sinners* but the truth is, their sins have not been forgiven them yet and they are slaves to sin, trying to work their way to righteousness which is not going to save them. They need to compare their righteousness with God's righteousness (not fellow people) and we all fail at that! Jesus sternly warned against this in Matthew 7:22-23. Good works will not save anyone! It is the same as following the Ten Commandments to be righteous with God; *it is impossible*. If you break just one commandment then you have broken them all, you have broken the Law and sinned.

*"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."
(James 2:10 KJV)*

THE CHURCH AGE TODAY; THE LAODICEA CHURCH AGE

We are living in the *Church age of Laodicea* from Revelation 3, living in the very last days of this age of grace, *The Church Age*. And Jesus says the same to us today who are church goers but have not been born again yet. To those relying on their works to save them, even if they are using the name of Jesus Christ in their good works. He begs them to not rely on their own Earthly riches and works. And today the two biggest false gospels in 'Christian' churches are the *false prosperity gospel* and the *false works for salvation gospel*. Jesus pleads with them to REPENT. That is to change their mind in how to be righteous with God. It is not by works but by faith in Christ's finished work on the cross alone, with nothing added (John 3:14-18, 6:37-40, Ephesians 1:13-14,

Ephesians 2:8-19). Any other belief is what Jesus and Paul called boasting in pride.

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I KNOW THY WORKS, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art LUKEWARM, and NEITHER COLD NOR HOT, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I AM RICH, AND INCREASED WITH GOODS, AND HAVE NEED Of NOTHING; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy OF ME gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." (Revelation 3: 14-18 KJV)

These are people who are trying to cover up their sin by looking good to others and relying on their Earthly wealth instead of acknowledging the truth that they will never match up to the Holy standards of God without being born again. Do you see any church religions filled with people like this? It is RAMPANT in these last days! Church religions teaching false Salvation by works and false prosperity gospels. BEWARE! That is NOT the Gospel of Jesus Christ; That is the sin of PRIDE. The same sin of Satan that started all this mess we are in on Earth.

Jesus is calling them out in Revelation 3 so that they can be saved by entering His REST. They are looking at their works, thinking they are spiritually rich, instead of God's grace. Yet, they are the opposite; having a large sin debt that keeps on growing and heading for the Great White Throne Judgment and eternal condemnation. God does not want us to go there! That is why Jesus came and paid the debt of sins for us. Jesus goes on to encourage them to right believing on how to be righteous with God, and it is not by their works nor deeds. It is by belief on the finished work of Christ on that cross.

*"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, **and REPENT**. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, **I will come in to him**, and will sup with him, **and he with me**. **TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." (Revelation 3: 14-21 KJV)*

Notice Jesus tells these believing falsely to **repent, change their mind** on how to be saved. It is not by prosperity gospels nor works for salvation gospels. They are false. It is by believing on Christ alone and HIS atonement for the sins of the whole world for righteousness (1 John 2:2). Jesus says if they will believe on Him alone, he will COME IN TO HIM. A very specific phrase! He is talking about the indwelling Holy Spirit that indwells a person when they are born again. Jesus encourages them to repent of their wrong belief for salvation and is promising that to him that *OVERCOMETH* this false belief, they will be granted to sit with Him in His throne! Do you see the correlation to Colossians 2? Believing on Christ, our Spirit died with Christ and rose again with Christ and we are seated with Christ.

Some will say that, because Jesus says '*he that OVERCOMETH*', that this means we need works to be saved. But remember that John is the one writing down Jesus' words. And what does John say about '*he that overcometh*'? This phrase has always meant and been taught as belief on Christ alone for salvation. Look what the same John wrote,

*"For whatsoever is born of God **overcometh the world**: and this is the victory **that overcometh the world**, even **OUR FAITH**. Who is he that **overcometh the world**, but **he that BELIEVETH that Jesus is the Son of God**?" (1 John 5:4-5 KJV)*

We would be smart to heed Jesus' warnings in Matthew 7:22-23, and Revelation 3. We would be smart to heed the warning of Apostle Paul in Galatians 3 and 5:4-5. Our eternal destiny is at stake if we believe our salvation is from our own self righteous works, or kept by our own works. It is only by belief in Jesus' once for all blood sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10) for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2) that we can be saved and deemed righteous by God (Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Cor. 5:17-21).

WE ARE PROMISED THAT ONE DAY WE WILL AS PERFECT AS CHRIST IS

How this offends so many people! It even offends those calling themselves saved believers in Christ! This is not my opinion! This is truth right from Scripture. Even Jesus' own words.

*"Beloved, **NOW ARE WE the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM**; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2 KJV)*

Two amazing truths to believe deep down brothers and sisters in Christ:

1. **We are right now sons and daughters in Christ. RIGHT NOW!** Not when we get to heaven. RIGHT NOW!
2. **We will one day be as perfect as Jesus is.** No more sin bent fleshly thoughts in our minds. No more temptations that will overcome us.

At the *Harpazo Rapture*, we believers will be changed bodily to match our new Spirit that God already made us from the moment we believed on Christ (Eph. 1:13-14). Apostle Paul wrote about this blessed hope for all born again believers in Christ,

*"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and **this mortal must put on immortality.**" (1 Cor. 15:52-53 KJV)*

What Should We Do Now?

Knowing how gracious and how great a salvation God bought for us in His own shed blood as Jesus, The Christ, what should be our response? And what should not be our response? We respond *with great gratitude in thanksgiving!* Did you know that some of the most inspiring words written by Apostle Paul was when he was living under house arrest, a prisoner at home?

*"And Paul dwelt **two whole years** in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him." (Acts 28:30-31 KJV)*

Later Paul was in a harsh prison, and is he complaining "*Whoa is me!*"? To be honest I likely would have been. Instead, we see that Paul and Silas are seen singing praise to God with joy and ultimately it saved the jailer and his family! What is so joyful about these troubles we all have in our lives? Paul knew the truth of who he is, *in Christ*. That is what we need as believers to affect the world and to help others come to Christ. Paul worked in his weakness so that the love of Christ shined to others. And so are we.

Now that we KNOW that we are a new Spirit of God, a son or daughter of God, blessed in the beloved family of God, eternal, indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, in Christ, one with God. Forgiven forever. We need this to work outwardly into our lives with great gratitude right?

If we just believe and get saved and then go and live carnally without good works, we are still saved but what good is it? James wrote, "*What doth it profit?*". How is it helping others? Having our belief in Christ, our faith and trust in our salvation, and not doing anything with it in love to others is a DEAD FAITH. It is useless to help others just as a dead body is useless to help others. That kind of living is a DEAD FAITH. That is what James is writing about when he wrote,

*"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead also.**" (James 2:26 KJV)*

Not dead in salvation. He is addressing the brethren, saved believers. He is talking about evidence of our faith and that we should have outward good works as evidence in love towards others as Christ loved us.

WHAT WE SHOULD NOT DO: DO NOT HAVE PRIDE ABOUT SALVATION

We should not go back to Law following for righteousness. We should not believe that we need good works to remain saved. Yes, we should do good works. Do not misunderstand this. The point is that our works have **NOTHING** to do with how we were saved eternally. There were Judiazers that crept into the church and Paul addressed the Galatians about their false teaching that Law following had to be added to belief on Christ or they would lose salvation. Law following is all about our good works. Paul gave stern warnings about this kind of belief. It is actually **UNBELIEF** on Christ's finished work and placing some of the work of paying for our sins, *on ourselves* and that is completely false!

It is **BOASTING** in the sin of pride, just as satan does. Satan's sin was *pride* and that he felt like he is as good as God. Paul says about those teaching this falsely that they are to be **ACCURSED** (Gal. 1:8). Strong words right? He goes on in Galatians 3 and calls anyone believing this as *'foolish'*, trying to live by the flesh to keep righteous. In Galatians 5:4 Paul gives stern warning,

*"Christ is become of **NO EFFECT UNTO YOU**, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are **fallen from grace**." (Galatians 5:4 KJV)*

To believe this just shows you never really believed on Christ alone for righteousness. This is not how a believer should believe, because *it is unbelief* in Jesus' final blood sacrifice for sin. This is not how to live outwardly. Good works are good right? Yes. But going back to living by the letter of the Ten Commandments Law (or the 613 other Laws) to remain justified is very very wrong. Christ paid it all for us. Going back to Law following *for righteousness* is simply **UNBELIEF**. As I mentioned earlier in this book, Jesus also warned about believing that our works is what saves us in Matthew 7: 22-23. He warns that there will be those at the Great White Throne Judgment of unbelievers,

who thought that they are saved but are not, and who will hear the scariest words ever:

*"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**" (Matthew 7:23 KJV)*

Notice no where will their defense be that Christ paid for all our sins on the cross! They believed in their own WORKS to save them and are boasting about it while being condemned. Now that is bold pride right? That is the pride of the devil. Jesus tells them that he actually never even knew them! As believers, we are The Bride of Christ. We are married to Christ. One with Christ. Believing our works are a requirement of Salvation is ***boasting in ourselves*** and it is like committing adultery!

We are saved by Christ's work on the cross, *not our works*. We are HIS workmanship (Ephesians 2:10), not our own! Jesus put it this way, we are branches, *not vines*. Without Christ abiding IN US, we can do nothing for Him in fruitful works outwardly.

*"**I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.** Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you.*

*As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. **I am the vine, ye are the branches:** He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: **for without me ye can do nothing.***

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." (John 15 1-7 KJV)

WE SHOULD DO GOOD WORKS FROM OUR SALVATION (BUT NOT TO KEEP SALVATION)

*"For BY GRACE are ye saved THROUGH FAITH; and that NOT OF YOURSELVES: it is the GIFT OF GOD: NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should BOAST. For we are HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS **UNTO GOOD WORKS**, which God hath before ordained that we **should** walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10 KJV)*

From our new Spirit of God that we have been made, *in Christ*, we do good works from our salvation. An inner change in Spirit that works outwardly in good works in love for others. You see that word 'UNTO' in this verse? So where does this come from? From our new born again Spirit of God which God made us. What a powerful few verses written by Paul! We are created in Christ UNTO good works. Paul puts this in another way in His writings making this even more clear,

*"I am crucified with Christ: **nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.** " (Galatians 2:20 KJV)*

BE A GOOD WITNESS TO OTHERS

Jesus talks about Himself and believers as the light of the world.

*"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world:** he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. " (John 8:12 KJV)*

*"**Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5: 14-16 KJV)*

So which is it? **It is both!** As a believer in Christ, Christ is living within us and through us! We have the light of Christ in us so that we can shine it to others. It shines to others when they see right living in your life. They see the light of Christ when you love your enemies. When that person gossips about you and you forgive them. When you live like the world is not living! You become a good witness for Christ; a living testimony! You may even have someone ask you, *'how can you do that? How do you have this kind of love. When you have troubles, you are smiling! I want that! How do I get that? '* What a perfect time to share the knowledge of truth to them; the Gospel of our Salvation and our blessed hope.

DO NOT BOAST OF YOUR GOODNESS BY PUTTING DOWN ANOTHER

Remember, you are a sinner saved by the GRACE OF GOD! Are you any better? Or is it *Christ in you, the hope of glory* helping you live right by the guidance of the indwelling Holy Spirit?

Warning someone that they need forgiveness and that Christ can help them overcome sin is one thing; *a good and loving thing to do*. Talking down to an unbeliever about their sins as if you have none, is condemning and not a good thing to do. That is called Pride. **Do not do that!** Even Jesus said he did not come to condemn but save (John 3). God frowns on that! We are not to be haughty to others as saved believers. God hates a haughty spirit!

*"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. "
(Proverbs 16:18 KJV)*

"And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down." (2 Samuel 22:28 KJV)

Instead, preach the Gospel. Tell others who are not saved, how to get saved and why Jesus came and died on that cross. To change us at our very core nature, to change our Spirit and become born again by belief on Christ where they can receive a

NEW creation in their Spirit, which is the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:17-21).

Christ is the judge, not us believers.

*"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that **the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?**" (Romans 2:4 KJV)*

In Romans 2:4 we see the true way to lead others to Christ. It is the '*goodness of God*' that leads people to Salvation and that is all about the love of God. As believers we need to be tender hearted to the lost in love. Jesus Himself told Nicodemus,

*"For God sent **NOT** his Son into the world **to condemn the world**; but that the world through him might be saved. " (John 3:17 KJV)*

So I ask you, if God did not send Jesus to condemn the world, then why should believers be doing that to other people? We definitely should not be doing that. Doing so makes us a hypocrite you see? And if we own up to the fact that we have sins, we can win others to Christ as well. Jesus again states this clearly saying,

*"A new commandment I give unto you, **That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.** By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34-35 KJV)*

Let *Christ in you* shine outwardly in LOVE. It is the right thing to do. You will eventually in your Christian walk feel the Holy Spirit guiding you to love others in ways the world just cannot understand. And that is letting *Christ in you, shine through you* to others.

*"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**"(Colossians 1:7 KJV)*

DO NOT BE LEGALISTIC

"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." (1 Cor. 10:23 KJV)

How can Paul state that anything a believer does is lawful? I mean if I do wrong to someone, it is not lawful. What Paul is talking about is that all our sins are already paid in full by Christ. He is not saying we should just go on and sin all we want because our sins are paid. We know this because in Romans 5 Paul describes how God's grace abounds if we sin and covers us. But in Romans 6 he explains that we should not go sin *to increase God's grace*. That is a very wrong way to look at it isn't it? We need to live outwardly *in great gratitude!* Look at that word expedient in Greek and it is basically meaning '*advantage:—be better for*'. Living wrong outwardly or being carnal is not bettering yourself or anyone else. It is not sharing the love of Christ to others. It is a faith that is dead and useless (James 2). When other unsaved people see you living in a hypocritical manner or talking down to them because they have sin, as if you are sinless, you are not helping shared the love of Christ. It actually hurts the witness of Christ. We need to be humble in truth.

Yet, we still live in a corrupt world and in a corrupt body without a perfected MIND. And we will fail and sin at times. There is no doubt about this. Paul is just saying *it is all covered*. Some say you cannot eat pork. Others say you must keep the sabbaths or you lose salvation. Some say you must not sin or you lose salvation until you 'confess' every single sin. That is not the truth. God does not leave a person if they sin and only come back when they ask for forgiveness for every sin we commit after belief on Christ. This kind of "yo-yo" salvation is false. Christ is in you for ever. You are sealed (Ephesians 1:13-14) ! They use various Scriptures read out of proper context, to prove their wrong interpretations. I see many using Matthew 7 as if it is about believers losing salvation and that is NOT the context at all! In verse 15, it is clearly directed at false teachers of works for salvation. It proves just the opposite actually. The list goes on and on with do's and don't s. DO this. Don't do that or God will condemn you! God is waiting to pounce you on your head when you sin. The reality is that Christ *is in you* and *all sins are paid for already*. How freeing the truth is to do good works and focus on that! Living a sin conscious life, as a believer, is a bunch of DOO DOO! Paul even said the exact same

thing.

"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but DUNG, that I may win Christ," (Philippians 3:4-8 KJV)

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ....Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?" (Colossians 2:16, 20-22 KJV)

*"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
(Matthew 6:19-21 KJV)*

Know and be firm in belief about what the Scriptures state you now are *in Christ*. Be bold. Love others. Love even our enemies. Our true treasure is ***Christ in us, the hope of glory!*** The world needs this so badly. Let Christ in you shine outwardly in your life for others to see. Share the good news of the Gospel of Grace through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. He is right here *within us*.



About The Author

Don Gerrity

Don Gerrity is not a preacher. He is not a leader of a church organization. He uses his talents in writing to help share the Gospel to the lost and to help encourage other believers. Don does not lead in an organization, nor an organizational church, though he does frequent many of the top Facebook Christian groups.

Don is owner of the *SeekKnockFind.org* online personal ministry. A growing FREE resource with Christian articles, YouTube video playlists and links to other Christian resources. The goal of the *SeekKnockFind.org* website is to help new believers expand their knowledge of the truth in Salvation through Jesus Christ and to show non-believers why Christianity and the Holy Bible can be believed with full assurance that the Bible is the truth.

With a Facebook group , the invitation is open to you to visit and read posts and comments, and if you wish, to join in our conversations, as we all learn and expand our knowledge in the Word Of God and the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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