

A Practical Study of COLOSSIANS

How Christians Grow

“Christ is All and in All”

Key verse 3:11b — *“Christ is all and in all.”*

Study Number Six – Christ Living in Me – Colossians 2:9-15

“Christ is all and in all.” Colossians 3:11

And there are 7 verses in this study—chapter 2:9-15.

Don't get confused. It's “Christ Living in Me.” It was “Living in Christ” in our previous study. There is a distinction and we'll get to that.

What's the difference about living in Christ and having Christ living in us?

When we're aware that Christ is living in us then the responsibility is ours to be surrendered and to be completely committed to Him.

Many Christians don't go this way. They still want control. When we realize that Christ is living in us, not just to be a guest but to take over and have control, it creates the

situation whereby we know great joy in seeing how God uses us on a daily basis.

Let's think about ABRAHAM and Sarah. They had the promises of God but at the 10 year, when God meant for 25, they went ahead and worked things out in a joint venture and Hagar the Egyptian maid had Ishmael.

MOSES knew that he was called to deliver the people. He rolled up his sleeves and murdered one task master and that was the end of it. He had 40 years of post-graduate work in the desert before he was trusted with a responsibility. We waste so much of our lives as Christians because we want control. We want to be the ones who are calling the shots.

PETER is the same way. Peter grabs the sword in the garden and hacks off the high priest's servant's ear. Out of that the Lord had to say "Put up your sword. I have 7,200 angels that are on alert status ready to do the job if we need to do that."

When we try to get involved we always misinterpret what God has in mind. That should cause us, through those painful experiences, to learn to wait upon Him and allow the in-living Christ to do what He does in our lives.

Here's a thought provoking question:

Does that mean that the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus are the same?

Absolutely not. It's the Spirit's responsibility to appropriate the truth of the Word of God so that we understand it and to guide us into truth. He is the giver of life. He is the One who points us to Jesus. But Jesus is our divine resident. He is there in our hearts and lives to accomplish His full purpose.

We will find joy, wonderful joy, when that begins to happen in your life as a believer.

As we look at these verses our hope is that it'll be meaningful to you.

C. H. Spurgeon took Thomas Brooks' quotes, one of the Puritan writers, and edited down all these little sayings.

This one was so good:

(Smooth Stones Taken from Ancient Brooks: Being a collection of sentences, illustrations, and quaint sayings from that renowned Puritan, Thomas Brooks by C.H. Spurgeon)

Christians, remember this, that your strength to stand and overcome must not be expected from graces received, but from the fresh and renewed influences of heaven. You must lean more upon Christ than upon your duties; you must lean more upon spiritual tastes and discoveries; you must lean more upon Christ than upon your graces; or else Satan will lead you into captivity.

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Then Surgeon puts it this way:

(Smooth Stones Taken from Ancient Brooks: Being a collection of sentences, illustrations, and quaint sayings from that renowned Puritan, Thomas Brooks by C.H. Spurgeon)

“GOOD MEN ARE ANXIOUS
NOT TO WORK IN VAIN.
THEY KNOW THAT
WITHOUT THE LORD THEY
CAN DO NOTHING, AND
THEREFORE THEY CRY TO
HIM FOR HELP IN THE
WORK, FOR ACCEPTANCE
OF THEIR EFFORTS, AND
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THEIR DESIGNS.”

—C.H. Spurgeon

(source unknown)

This is one point where we should take issue with him about crying to Him and asking for help.

It would better to have heard him: “Lord I know You can handle this situation and I’m turning it over to You afresh and asking You to do Your thing in these circumstances.”

When we’re at that point, we’re released. We’re in a sense of peace and we just know that God is at work and that the Lord is going to come through. There’s something that’s going to

happen and it's going to have His fingerprints all over it. The more we do that, the more joy and delight that is ours.

The only problem is that it involves surrender. It involves giving up control and patiently waiting for Him to bear His arms strong in behalf and show us what He's going to do in those circumstances.

David Livingstone would be a great illustration of this. He died on his knees in Africa and he was said to have spoke these words:

(Surrender: The Heart God Controls by Nancy Leigh DeMoss)

*Lord, send me anywhere,
only go with me;
lay any burden on me,
only sustain me;
and sever every tie,
but the tie that binds me
to Thy service and Thy heart.
DAVID LIVINGSTONE*

p. 69

It was centered on the Lord Jesus Christ.

We're at Stage #6 in the stages of SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

Stage #6: Christ is Living in Me.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live yet not I but Christ is living in me.

One of the hardest things that we face as Christians is to yield ourselves to the Spirit of God, let Him take control and focus on the Lord Jesus Christ. He's the One who'll grant the victory. He's the One who'll provide the strength. He's the One who'll guide us into truth. Just let go and let Him work.

Here are a few verses from the prophets so we can get an idea of the problem Israel had with letting God do His thing.

Jeremiah 2:13

For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me—the fountain of living water. And they have dug their own cracked cisterns that can not hold water.

Jeremiah 2:17

And you have brought this upon yourselves in rebelling against the Lord your God, even though he was leading you on the way!

Psalms 33:9

For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

Psalm 33:11

But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

The Person of Christ will be mentioned 12 TIMES in these seven verses. We know once again who is on center stage in the passage.

Our theme will be “Christ Living in Me” and the key verses are the first two.

v. 9 Because in Him there is dwelling all the fullness of the divine nature bodily.

“Because in Him”—that’s Christ—“there is dwelling all the fullness of the divine nature bodily.”

To have Christ is to have FULLNESS.

To be without Christ is to have EMPTINESS.

The “fullness” of God—undiminished, unquestioned, total deity. When we have the “fullness” like in chapter 1, Christ in all of His fullness is dwelling within us.

The last verse we had in our previous study was that warning at the end of the passage in verse 8. He warned the Christians about empty philosophy and the traditions of men that are not

after Christ.

This verse tells you why:

“Because in Him”—that is in Christ—“there is dwelling all the fullness of the divine nature bodily.”

We don't need to go anywhere else. Everything centers in the Lord Jesus Christ. That's why that key verse:

Colossians 3:11b

Christ is all and He is in all.

He's all that a man needs and He's in all that man does, when we are focused on the fact that He is dwelling within us.

We read this earlier in Colossians:

Colossians 1:19

Because in Him all the fullness willed (was pleased) to dwell.

Now he uses it in his argument. He is the source of all TRUTH.

This makes us a little bit uncomfortable when we're around people that feel like we don't get the whole package when we receive Christ. They're distracted. They want to add something to it just like these guys want to neglect and

diminish the person of Christ for the sake of Gnosticism—the super knowledge.

He even addresses legalism in this passage.

We put “bodily”:

John 1:14

And the Word [that is Christ] became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Inductive studies demand that you have the whole passage before you so you can begin to absorb what the text is teaching. Inductively you go over it time and time again.

You eventually find that key verse which in this passage is Colossians 3:11. Then you build all the studies around that key part.

One of the crucial times in the study is reading the commentaries and taking little notes. There are 45 of those commentaries for this passage the passage.

And one of the commentators is William Barclay. He did *The Study Bible*. There are those who don't like Barclay because he's got some theological things that are concerning. But if he's dealing with the Greek language, it is going to be solid, it's going to be beautiful. At this point he made the best

comment out of all 45 commentaries. This is wonderful.

There is no one who can add anything to Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ there came to men the full and final and perfect revelation of God, and we need nothing more.

p. 69 (source unknown)

That's the bottom line to the whole passage. Everything resides in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In another one of the commentaries John Eadie quotes Earl Radmacher:

(Commentary on the Epistle to the Colossians by John Eadie)

This is an irresistible argument. Any system not after Christ must be human and wrong—"for in Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

p. 141

Now do you understand it? Do you realize you have Christ living in you? That's the hope for eternity. It's the help and the hope for now as we learn to walk with Him and are aware of His presence.

When you get ahold of this you start to glow. You just get so excited.

Listen to Brooks and the *Smooth Stones*:

(Smooth Stones Taken from Ancient Brooks: Being a collection of sentences, illustrations, and quaint sayings from that renowned Puritan, Thomas Brooks by C.H. Spurgeon)

Jesus Christ has the greatest worth and wealth in him. As the worth and value of many pieces of silver is in one piece of gold, so all the heavenly excellencies that are scattered abroad in angels and men are united in Christ; yea, all the whole volume of perfection, which is spread through heaven and earth, is epitomized in Christ.

p. 25

Susan Lenzkes quoted Loretta Ross Gotta. This is going to get convicting now.

(Life is Like Licking Honey Off a Thorn: Reflections on Living Wisely in this World of Pain and Joy by Susan Lenzkes)

JESUS ANSWERED, "WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING" (JOHN 15:5). YET WE ACT, FOR THE MOST PART, AS THOUGH WITHOUT US GOD CAN DO NOTHING.

LORETTA ROSS-GOTTA

p. 24

Listen to David Platt:

(Radical: Taking Back Your Faith From the American Dream by David Platt)

We will evaluate where true security and safety are found in

this world, and in the end we will determine not to waste our lives on anything but uncompromising, unconditional abandonment to a gracious, loving Savior who invites us to take radical risk and promises us radical reward.

p. 21

It's like there's a convergence. When all is said and done, everything centers in Jesus Christ. That brings great joy.

Tommy Frank's book *American Soldier* is about him getting ready for the Iraq War. He'd been involved in two other wars—the Korean War and Vietnam—in military leadership. Listen to what he says to his wife:

(*American Soldier* by General Tommy Franks with Malcolm McConnell)

As we left the plane, I spoke to Jeff Haynes. "Please make sure the enlisted aides get that bed into my office. I'm going to be bunking at the headquarters for a while."

Cathy watched silently [that's his wife] as I spoke. Our marriage had lasted through almost thirty-three years and two wars. This would be our third. She knew my work habits well and never complained.

We hugged. "Make sure to eat and get some sleep when you can," she said.

"You bet, Dear." I tried to sound convincing. She knew better.

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What great passion and commitment. Everything else is secondary to victory.

Stage #6: Christ Living in Me

How does this happen? First, get out of the way. Let Him do His thing.

Secondly, surrender or submit.

Third, yield up the controls.

What we've learned is communication—free-flowing communication—will create change that will create closeness. It does every time. When one of the others in the stand-off chooses to change, then we're ready.

One marriage counselor said, "You know every time I get into marriage counseling it's two ticks and no dog." When you get them to this point of yielding control for the sake of the relationship, they enjoy the fruit.

CLOSENESS and COMMUNION brings the joy of UNION and FRUIT.

Joy comes the closer you get to Jesus and the more you commune with Him. Out of that union, there will come the fruit in the lives of others.

v. 10 And you are in Him, having been filled full [in Him] who is the head of every ruler and authority;

“And you are”—WHAT?—“in Him,”—there it is again.

“having been filled full”—there it is again—“[in Him] who is the head of every ruler and authority;”

He put that last statement there to let those Gnostics know that they didn't have an inside track or super knowledge.

He's the “ruler” and He is the “authority” in the situation.

These two verses can be put together so we can see the impact of understanding Jesus Christ living in us.

“you are in Him, having been filled full [in Him] who is the head of every ruler and authority.”

What more could you ask? Everything we ever want, everything we ever need, is in Christ.

God is in Christ. We are in Christ. And Christ is in us—living in us.

In the letters to the seven churches, when we get to the church at Laodicea what was happening? The Lord was standing outside the door of the church knocking and wanting to come in.

Is it possible that in our lives we've let the Lord stand outside the door because we're consumed in so many distractions instead of being completely focused on the Lord Jesus Christ?

So as a Christian, He wants within our hearts for the opportunity to take over and begin living His life through us. We have all the fullness of God dwelling within us, just like Jesus Christ, when He walked here upon the earth.

Our lives are best described as an empty glove. When the Master animates and fills that glove, He uses it for His glory.

What a privilege to have the fullness of Christ dwelling within us.

Here are a couple of more verses:

Ephesians 4:13

until finally we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Savior, God's Son, and all become full-grown in the Lord—yes, to the point of being filled full with Christ.

John 1:16

For of His fullness we have received, and grace upon grace.

In Jesus Christ we find the satisfaction for every spiritual want and for every need.

He's alive, He's adequate and He's available. He's ready to take over.

What would be legitimate excuses for why we don't go that way?

1. A LACK OF TRUST in His ability to do it. That's really an excuse. We still want control.

Or maybe we tried something and it fell apart and it's hard for us to accept the fact that the Lord would let something fall apart when He has some greater purpose in mind that we're ignorant of at the particular moment.

We think that if we turn it over to Him He would certainly make a mess of it. It's kind of the thought process that keeps us from becoming intimate with the Lord Jesus.

2. We think that God has a big full-time job in running the universe and He's not interested in the little details of my life.

He is. The very hairs of our heads are numbered. He's fully aware of what we have done today. He's got a computer print-out laying on His desk right now that He will use at the Judgment Seat of Christ for the responsibility of the way we live this day.

He knows all things and are very much aware of it. But we think that it's a joint venture.

3. We turned it over to Him and nothing happened. We didn't see any changes and therefore we think this must not...there's something wrong here.

The problem is we want it yesterday. We're the microwave age. It's got to be done right now. And when you're most eager to act is when you'll make the most pitiful mistakes.

We don't yield Him control and back off and wait for the processes to take place. We feel like we tried that once and it didn't work so we don't go there.

But let's go there together.

4. Just the basic ignorance of the fact that when we came to know Jesus Christ, He came to live in us eternally and permanently. The Spirit of God is likewise there to assume full control and responsibility for not only guiding us into truth but is beginning to bear fruit of Christlikeness within us.

“who is the head of every ruler and authority.” (Colossians 2:10)

We had that in an earlier study:

Christ Became First Place—Colossians 1:18.

A. W. Tozer said:

(The Best of A. W. Tozer by A. W. Tozer, compiled by Warren W. Wiersbe)

Whoever would be filled and indwelt by the Spirit should first judge his life for any hidden iniquities; he should courageously expel from his heart everything which is out of accord with the character of God as revealed by the Holy Scriptures.

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The Holy Spirit is famous for showing us those areas. With great gratitude thank Him for the fact that He dwells within.

Thomas Brooks, here he goes:

(Smooth Stones Taken from Ancient Brooks: Being a collection of sentences, illustrations, and quaint sayings from that renowned Puritan, Thomas Brooks by C.H. Spurgeon)

'In every thing give thanks' (1 Thess. 5:18). The language of a humble soul is, If it be thy will that I should be in darkness, I will bless thee; and if it be thy will that I should again be in light, I will bless thee; if thou wilt comfort me, I will bless thee, and if thou wilt afflict me, I will bless thee; if thou wilt make me poor, I will bless thee; if thou wilt make me rich, I will bless thee; if thou wilt give me the least mercy, I will bless thee; if thou wilt give me no mercy, I will bless thee.

p. 34

That's surrender. That's commitment.

The words to this song are incredible:

You Raise Me Up

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary
When troubles come and my heart burdened be
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence
Until you come and sit awhile with me.

There is no life—no life without its hunger
Each restless heart beats so imperfectly
But when you come and I am filled with wonder
Sometimes, I think I glimpse eternity.

Chorus

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders
You raise me up . . . to more than I can be.

(source unknown)

That is testimony of the resources that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ living within us.

You're going to say what in the world did we do? We came out of heaven, we fell onto earth. We're going to talk about circumcision all of a sudden. What has happened to this study? Where did Paul go wrong in all of this?

What he's telling us is that the legalists believe that you have

to be circumcised. The Gentiles had to be circumcised in order to be blessed. Paul made it quite clear that it's salvation in Christ PLUS NOTHING. The Jerusalem council settled that issue when they met together in Acts 15.

Notice the verse and then we'll put it together in the context with having everything we need in Christ. That's your big theme here.

How does circumcision relate to that? He is going to get some strokes in because these Judaizing teachers along with the Gnostics had to be there in the Lycus Valley because everywhere Paul went it seemed like they just plagued his steps and continued. All Paul's saying is, legalism is wrong. The reality is in Christ. So it does relate.

v. 11 in whom also you were circumcised, a circumcision made without hands, in the putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ;

“in whom also you were circumcised, a circumcision made without hands, in the putting off of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ;”

What he's saying here is that old nature should be put off, should be put away. It's just like the circumcision of the heart rather than the ritual that all the Jews were involved in.

This is not the only passage that talks about the circumcision

of the heart.

Deuteronomy 10:16

Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer.

Deuteronomy 30:6

The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your hearts and with all your soul, and live.

That's Moses' farewell address.

Jeremiah 9:25, 26

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will punish all who are circumcised only in the flesh—Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab and all who live in the desert in distant places. For all these nations are really uncircumcised, and even the whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart.”

It's the issue of the HEART and he's taking the opportunity here to address this in using circumcision.

Paul is saying that we have no power to put off our flesh, but we have the circumcision of Christ.

You can put Romans 7 there where you see the conflict that

Paul is in.

Oswald Chambers said:

THE ONLY THING
THAT WILL ENABLE
ME TO ENJOY THE
DISAGREEABLE IS THE
KEEN ENTHUSIASM
OF LETTING THE LIFE
OF THE SON OF GOD
MANIFEST ITSELF IN
ME.

—OSWALD CHAMBERS

(source unknown)

He's saying the only thing that's going to enable us to enjoy the disagreeable is the keen enthusiasm of letting the life of the Son of God manifest itself in us.

He already believes that the Lord Jesus Christ lives within Him.

v. 12 having been buried with Him in the baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through your faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

“having been buried with Him in the baptism,”—it’s “in THE baptism,” it’s not the ordinance here.

“in which you were also raised with Him through your faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

We were brought into a union with Jesus Christ and the ordinance of baptism is a picture of what happened spiritually.

We are baptized by the Spirit of God into the body of Christ:

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

We totally identified with Christ in His death upon the Cross, His burial and His resurrection. He’s saying all the Father’s doing from beginning to end, and the Lord knows what He’s doing.

v. 13 And you being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

“And you being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh,”—what did He do?—“He made alive with Him,”—there it is again—“having forgiven us all our trespasses,”

Circle the word “ALL.”

This will free you from guilt. There’s no exception here. He has come to pay the supreme price.

But what were we by nature before He came into our lives? We were **SPIRITUALLY DEAD**.

Ephesians 2:1

you were dead in your trespasses and sin,

As a result of the **NEW BIRTH**, we are made “**ALIVE**” **SPIRITUALLY**.

“He made [us] alive together with Him,”

Secondly, He has “forgiven us all our trespasses.”

We were not only “dead,” we were **DEFILED**, and **DIRTY** and we were **ENSLAVED** to sin.

Now He gives us **LIGHT**, He **FORGIVES**, and He **FILLS** us to the fullest.

What a gracious God we have!

Just maybe Paul is thinking about Philemon and Onesimus.

Onesimus is going back to the Lycus Valley with that one page letter to Philemon, with the hopes that he's not going to die because they could execute slaves without question. He had stolen some things in the Lycus Valley and ran to Rome thinking that he could disappear among 50 million slaves.

Instead he gets picked up on a drug charge and put in prison right next to the apostle Paul. That's a God-thing. And Paul led him to Christ.

Wouldn't you think that the beauty of what happened to Onesimus, the runaway slave, would have been in Paul's mind after he'd finished writing that recommendation letter? He comes to talk about what Christ has done for each of us.

It made it come alive. Paul told Philemon "Onesimus ran away useless but he's coming back useful." (ref. Philemon 1:11)

He's living up to his name.

"I would have kept him here to serve with me because he is so valuable as a brother in Christ." (ref. Philemon 1:13 and 16)

The transformation that takes place is total and complete. It even gets better.

"having forgiven all of our trespasses,"

We have all the fullness of the divine nature and we've been

“forgiven all of our trespasses.”

Here’s an appropriate story from Joni Eareckson Tada:
(365 Days of Hope: Encouragement for Those Facing Loss, Pain, and Disappointment by Joni Eareckson Tada and Dave & Jan Dravecky)

“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”—John 12:24

[Joni is as a quadriplegic and paints with a brush in her teeth.]

My art studio is a mess of half-chewed pastel pencils, old tubes of paint, and piles of illustrations overflowing my file drawers. Recently while cleaning up, I discovered some broken glass on the counter by the window. I also discovered that when sunlight struck the shattered glass, brilliant, colorful rays scattered everywhere.

What’s true of shattered glass is true of a broken life. Shattered dreams. A heart full of fissures. Splintered hopes. A life in pieces. But given time and prayer, such a person’s life can shine more brightly than if it had never been broken.

Only our great God can reach down into what otherwise would be brokenness and produce something beautiful. Your life may be shattered by sorrow, pain, or sin, but God has in mind a kaleidoscope through which his light can shine more

brilliantly. When the light of the Lord Jesus falls upon a shattered life, hope bursts forth in a thousand brilliant hues.

Joni Eareckson Tada

(September 23)

What a picture.

Listen to Thomas Brooks speaking on broken vessels:

(Smooth Stones Taken from Ancient Brooks: Being a collection of sentences, illustrations, and quaint sayings from that renowned Puritan, Thomas Brooks by C.H. Spurgeon)

No vessels that God delights so much to fill as broken vessels, contrite spirits, *'He resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble'* (James 4:6). The silver dews flow down from the mountains to the lowest valleys. A humble soul that lies low, oh, what sights of God has he! what glory does he behold, when the proud soul sees nothing! He that is in the low pits and caves of the earth sees the stars in the firmament, when they who are upon the tops of the mountains discern them not.

p. 35

And then Ruth Paxson:

(Life on the Highest Plane: A Study of the Spiritual Nature and Needs of Man by Ruth Paxson)

All of my sins put the distance of the world's circumference from me! Out of my sight as well as out of the sight of God! ... O! the comfort of knowing that the sins which God has forgiven *I* shall never see again!

p. 180

And this quote by Susan Lenzkes:

(Life is Like Licking Honey Off a Thorn: Reflections on Living Wisely in this World of Pain and Joy by Susan Lenzkes)

IF REGRET OVER THE PAST LEADS US TO PRAYER IN THE PRESENT THEN THE FUTURE WILL BE CHANGED.

p. 75

Now we get to the best verse of all—verse 14.

This is basically the Greek word for an IOU (I Owe You) and what the Lord's doing by wiping it all away.

There are two Greek words he could have used. He could have taken our record and drawn an X through it and cancelled it. But He chose to take a sponge and wipe the whole slate clean.

Isaiah 1:18

Come now and let us reason together, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.

They will be completely clean, just like the chalkboard.

v. 14 having blotted out (cancelled) the bond that stood against us with its legal requirements, which was opposed to us; and He removed it out of the midst, having nailed it to the cross.

“having blotted out (cancelled) the bond that stood against us with its legal requirements,”

That’s the Law and living by the Law.

“which was opposed to us; and He removed it out of the midst, having nailed it to the cross.”

God the Father looks down and He sees the Law with a nail driven through it, hung over His own Son the Savior who has fulfilled the Law perfectly. Yet He’s paying the price by giving His shed blood that we in turn might be redeemed.

Is that theology or is that theology?

1 Peter 2:24

He personally carried the load of our sins in his own body when he died on the cross, so that we can be finished with sin and live a good life from now on. For his wounds have healed ours!

The whole significance of that?

“My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?” (ref. Matthew 27:46)

God the Father turned His back on God the Son because He was being made sin for us dealing with our broken Law.

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe,
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*
(source unknown)

He completely paid the price.

Gary Thomas in his book *Thirsting for God* says:

(Thirsting for God: Spiritual Refreshment for the Sacred Journey by Gary L. Thomas)

What do these testimonies mean? Away with the self-serving testimonies that sound as if we do God a favor by repenting of our sin! God does *us* a favor by making us hate the sin that destroys us, by giving us the will to fight it, and by offering His grace to forgive it.

p. 69

Dealing with these things in the power of the Spirit, there is victory over the flesh.

v. 15 Having disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

“Having disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.”

2 Corinthians 2:14

Thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.

On Calvary He took the price, paid it in full and we have been delivered.

“Now thanks be to God!”—1 Corinthians 15:57—“It is he who makes us victorious through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Here’s Fanny Crosby:

(The Treasures of Fanny Crosby by Fanny Crosby)

That precious Name their guiding star,
its beams will o’er them cast, [speaking of the Wise Men]
And through its power their trusting souls
shall overcome at last.
The glory cloud will bring them safe
to yonder palace bright,
Where they shall see Him eye to eye

and walk with Him in white.

p. 19

Looking forward to that glorious day when we will see Him face-to-face and walk in that glorious light.

There are twelve lessons.

LESSON #1: The Lord is patiently waiting for the time when He can take over.

LESSON #2: The Christian life was never intended to be a cooperative venture.

LESSON #3: Matthew 11:28-30: “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light” (NASB).

LESSON #4: Galatians 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ; and 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 delivered Himself up for me” (NASB).

LESSON #5: John Calvin said: “Now in Christ there is a perfection to which nothing can be added. God has manifested Himself to us fully and perfectly in Christ.”

LESSON #6: It is God who is living within me and waiting to live out His life through me, just as He patiently waits at the door of my heart for entrance in order that I might be born again by the Spirit into His family.

LESSON #7: Jesus Christ is alive, adequate, and available to meet each need as it arises.

LESSON #8: So much is missed simply because we are unwilling to take God at His word and to trust the indwelling and in-living Christ to prove Himself adequate in all of life's situations.

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LESSON #10: When Christ was crucified, God nailed the law to His cross.

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LESSON #12: 1 Corinthians 15:57: "How we thank God for all of this. It is he who has made us victorious through Jesus Christ, our Lord."

(Smooth Stones Taken from Ancient Brooks: Being a collection of sentences, illustrations, and quaint sayings from that renowned Puritan, Thomas Brooks by C.H. Spurgeon)

Every thing that a man leans upon but God, [this is Brooks] will be a dart that will certainly pierce his heart through and through. He who leans only upon Christ, lives the highest, choicest, safest, and sweetest life.
p. 32

Christ is of all gifts the sweetest gift. As the tree ... *sweetened the bitter waters*, so this gift, the Lord Jesus, of whom that tree was a type, sweetens all other gifts that are bestowed upon the sons of men. He turns every bitter into sweet, and makes every sweet more sweet.
p. 4

[But] Pride grows with the decrease of, other sins, and thrives by their decay. Satan is [so] subtle; he will make a man proud of his very graces—he will make him proud that he is not proud.
p. 4

And then he says:

'Now I know in part, but then shall I know even as I also am known' ... Christians know but little of what they should know; they know but little of what they might know; they know but little of what others know; they know but little of what they desire to know; they know but little of what they

shall know, when they shall come to know even as they are known; and these weak and imperfect glimpses that they have of God and heaven here, are infallible pledges of that perfect knowledge and full prospect which they shall have of God and heaven hereafter. That little spark of joy is an earnest of those everlasting delights which shall be theirs when all sorrow and mourning shall flee away; and those sips of comfort are but foretastes of that river of everlasting pleasures which is at God's right hand.

p. 37

Father, thank You that so many times You break into our lives and our prayer times with the awareness of Your presence. Thank You that the Lord Jesus promised that He would never leave us or forsake us. We trust You fully and completely. We're made aware of some resources that are there that we're not apprehending and allowing You to do what You need to do in our lives to make us more Christlike. Do whatever needs to be done that we might reflect the glorious hues of a broken piece of glass, rainbows of color and joy and delight, people can see Christ living in us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A Practical Study of EPHESIANS

HEAVEN'S PLAN for Life on Earth

“What It’s Like Living According to God’s Plan”

Key verse 3:11b — *“Christ is all and in all.”*

STUDY NUMBER SIX – CHRIST LIVING IN ME **– COLOSSIANS 2:9-15**

KEY VERSES 2:9, 10

v. 9 Because in Him there is dwelling all the fullness of the divine nature

bodily.

v. 10 And you are in Him, having been filled full [in Him] who is the head of every ruler and authority;

v. 11 in whom also you were circumcised, a circumcision made without hands, in the putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ;

v. 12 having been buried with Him in the baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through your faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

v. 13 And you being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

v. 14 having blotted out (cancelled) the bond that stood against us with its legal requirements, which was opposed to us; and He removed it out of the midst, having nailed it to the cross.

v. 15 Having disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

NOTES

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Colossians 2:9-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Paul say about Jesus Christ in verse 9?

3. Describe what Paul means in verse 10.

4. What do you think the phrase “circumcision of Christ” means in verse 11?

5. What does “buried with Him in the baptism” mean in verse 12?

6. To what is Paul referring in verse 14 when he talks about “the bond that stood against us”?

7. Can you explain what is meant by “disarming the rulers and authorities” in verse 15?

8. When did the triumph described in verse 15 take place?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The Lord is patiently waiting for the time when He can take over.

LESSON #2: The Christian life was never intended to be a cooperative venture.

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