

# **“If Any Man Be In Christ...”**

## The **“WHERE”** and **“HOW”** of our Salvation

by  
Barbara Samuel

These days my heart is overwhelmed by the awesomeness of our Salvation: by the Fulness and Reality of what the Apostle Paul calls our “so great Salvation.” (Hebrews 2:3) And because of the depth of knowledge Paul had of this Great Salvation: of the New Life that is ours now by The Finished Work of The Cross, we can understand his insistence and urgency in telling us not to neglect any part of it. Paul desired, as the Apostle John did, and as the very Heart of God desires, that we walk daily in The Truth of what Christ and The Cross has done in accomplishing God’s Plan of Redemption and Salvation. This is my heart for us also.

And what is so awesome is that this Salvation is not something that we earn by our own efforts. But this Salvation and New Life is a Gift of God and is made available to us by God’s Grace: by what The Son of God has done by **The Cross. Ephesians 2:8:** *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* We must honor the importance of The Cross and The Blood that Jesus shed there. God accepted THAT Blood, THAT sacrifice. Hebrews 10:10, *“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away*

*sins: 12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”* And now by believing on Jesus and accepting what He has done at The Cross we are partakers of God’s Salvation, and have been brought into Oneness with Him as His Own: having Eternal Life as One with Him.

And once we have received Him, God desires that we come to know and experience fully this New Life and Relationship, and make The Reality of our New Birth known in the earth. This is not done by us becoming religious fanatics or by us reading and quoting scriptures continually. This is done by us as Believers coming to KNOW THE TRUTH, the Reality of God’s Salvation. But the Reality of our New Birth is not something that can be known merely by studying the Bible and interpreting it according to the human mind. We can only truly know The Truth of God’s Salvation by The Spirit of Truth who now dwells in us to teach us The Truth: The Truth as it is in Jesus.

- **I Corinthians 2:9:** *“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. 10: But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”*
- **I John 2:20:** *“But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things... 27: But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same*

*anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”*

What I want to emphasize is that God wants us to comprehend the New Life we now have: not only intellectually or theologically, but EXPERIENTIALLY. He wants us to LIVE this Life, and we can only do that by coming to God’s View of Salvation. And we read the Truth of this in **2 Corinthians 5:17**, “*Therefore if any man be in Christ...*” If we “be” Born-again, we “**BE IN CHRIST**”. That is how God views us to “be”: THIS IS THE STATE OF OUR **BEING – now in Christ**. This is the realm in which we now HAVE our New Life. But these are just words – yes, true Scriptural words: but only words UNTIL The Spirit of Truth makes them true in us: makes them known to us as God knows them. This is the essence of what I want to discuss. And the phrase I want to use is in **1 Corinthians 13:12**, “... ***then shall I know even as I am known.***” The essence of this is that we would know – understand fully and clearly in the same way as we are known by God. This is not according to our human intellect and Spiritual acumen, but according to God’s View of God’s Reality, God’s Truth – His Son and The Cross. We must understand that even though we may be ignorant of God’s Truth, God knows all things according to Truth: according to The Reality of what His Son has done: in The Reality of The Finished Work of The Cross. And God knows us – as Born-again Believers, as New Creatures in The Truth of what The Cross has done. God now desires that we come to know all things – of Salvation, of New Life, even ourselves, in that same Reality: and He knows all things fully complete and satisfied by that Finished Work.

Paul's admonition to the Church in 1 Corinthians 13 deals with the in-part, dark, childish understanding of things that was the nature of being under the Old Covenant Law. They could only see the things of God veiled, darkly: not face-to-face in full light and comprehension. This was the state under the Old Covenant Mosaic Law. But this was done away when the Perfect Knowledge comes in the Perfect One who brings full Light. **1 Corinthians 13:10:** *"But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."* And then there would be a perfect, complete, true knowing and experiencing of this Truth. Now not through a veil, but in full Light we see perfectly and can behold and comprehend all things **as God knows them**. This is what God has done when Christ came, and what He desires for us today.

And this must be the desire of our hearts: not just merely to know or learn man's teachings and doctrines about the Bible, but to know as God knows. This was the desire of Paul's heart. **Philippians 3:12:** *"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13: Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before."* The word "apprehend" here means to take eagerly, seize, possess, comprehend. This is not a passive, intellectual pursuit: but an active, aggressive, determined pursuit of the soul that will not be easily pacified or placated by religious doctrines. This heart is not satisfied until he comes to **GOD'S** comprehension. The Amplified Version gives us greater insight into Paul's heart here. *"I press on to*

*lay hold of (grasp) and make my own that which Christ Jesus (the Messiah) has laid hold of me and made me his own.”* The order here is that Jesus has done something, and Paul wants to know what that is – as Christ knows it to be. Verse 13, *“I do not consider, brethren that I have captured and made it my own yet...”*

And I will add my paraphrase: “That my comprehension would be HIS. That I may experience everything in the same measure as His comprehension of me: what He has done and why: of why He has laid hold of me.” This was the desire of Paul’s heart, and he was willing to forget and let go of all his own understanding, most especially his Old Covenant Mosaic Law understanding because he knew that was necessary to come to God’s View and understanding in full and perfect Light. And we must also.

It is important that we clearly see that man’s understanding is not God’s, even though we pretend it is. **Isaiah 55:8:** *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9: For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* And the natural man cannot know what God has done: but the Spirit does. We have read this in **I Corinthians 2:9 and 10.** And it is the Work of The Spirit of God to reveal God’s thoughts and ways to us. Man’s understanding is carnal: knowing in the flesh, for the flesh. Jesus told even His own disciples that they did not know the Scriptures and didn’t even know themselves as He knew them.

- **Luke 9:55:** *“But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.”*

They thought they could serve Him and defend Him in the flesh. They thought He would want them to destroy His enemies with fire they would command from heaven.

- **Matthew 22:29**: regarding who is married to who in the resurrection. *“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”* And this “not knowing” is from Strong’s #1492 meaning not to be aware from a word meaning “to see”. Jesus is saying you are not beholding from God’s Viewpoint. And this remains our problem also.

So we can plainly see that God desires us to come to HIS View: to know as HE knows. This is the Work of The Spirit in our midst: that we may KNOW. **John 16:13**: *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14: He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”* And the “things to come” is what God Eternally Planned: those things promised under the Old Covenant now COME – in fulness, in Christ by The Cross. And now I want to challenge us by the Truth of our Salvation: of our “Being in Christ”. And I want to do that using two words relating to Salvation: **WHERE** and **HOW**.

**WHERE?** The Scriptures describe this not as a physical location: not as our carnal view of “Heaven” as a literal, physical place, but a State of Being – IN HIM. It is a realm – a Spiritual, Eternal realm that God has chosen for His Own to be Alive in Relationship with Him. This is God’s View of Salvation. When we are “Born Again” this is where God sees

us and this is the View God wants us to come to: **BEING IN CHRIST.**

- **Ephesians 1:3:** *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings **in heavenly places in Christ.**”* God has chosen us IN HIM even from the foundation of the world (vs. 4). Christ is the place of His choosing, of all Spiritual Blessings. This is the “in-whom” of Ephesians 1 – where there is redemption, forgiveness of sins, acceptance, all wisdom, and inheritance: not in a place, but in a PERSON. This is not “in Heaven” as a place, but “in CHRIST”.
- This is where God planned to gather all things. **Ephesians 1:10:** *“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even **in him.**”* In Christ He would sum up and comprehend all things: all things of the Scripture, all of God’s promises and prophecies, the fulness of Life with God – all is found in its fulness in Christ. This was always God’s Eternal Plan.
- When we “believe” and are given New Life this is WHERE we go. **Ephesians 2:5:** *“Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)* **6:** *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together **in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**”* Notice this is the same phrase as in Ephesians 1:3. “Heavenly places” is synonymous with “In Christ”: being “In Christ” means God sees you “in Heavenly places”; “in Spiritual Life with Him.” And even

though our physical bodies remain on the earth, because we are “born from above”, we are joined to Christ as ONE, and are even now seated in the heavenly realm as ONE with Him. Contrary to our natural definition, “together” here does not mean many in the same location, but means AS ONE. The “us” in Verse 6 is NOT in the original. God did NOT raise many of “US”: He raised ONE: and we are IN CHRIST as ONE because the nature of “Heavenly Places” is ONENESS. But sad to say, even when we are “Born from Above”, most Believers still see themselves “in the earth” – but saved: and “on their way to Heaven – someday – and then we will be with Jesus. But we are even **NOW IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST – AS ONE.** And this is not by any of our works, but by God’s GRACE.

- And when we receive this New Life, in God’s View we are no longer under the sentence of death and the bondage of sin: we have been taken OUT of that realm – even while we are still physically in this earth. And we have been translated INTO another totally different realm. This is the Spiritual Reality of “New Birth”. **Colossians 1:13:** *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”* This is the realm of Christ’s Rule, and we now find our LIFE in HIS Kingdom, where He Reigns. We have come from the realm of death into the realm of LIFE – HIS LIFE, Oneness with God in His Son. **John 5:24:** *“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.*” And “IN HIM” we no longer are under the bondage of sin and death. In this “Place”, WHERE we now live, the Ruling Law is the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus and NOT the Law of sin and death.

- This is WHERE we must see we are because this is where God has “put us” when we come to Him, and this is where God sees us: where He knows us and deals with us – **IN CHRIST**. This is the REALITY of our Salvation. **Colossians 3:1:** *“If ye then be (since the Reality is that you ARE) risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2: Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3: For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”* And because this is now WHERE we ARE – not only positionally, but this is our state of Being – **in Him**: when we comprehend this in His appearing and making Himself known in this Truth, this will affect our souls and what we desire. Now our emphasis shifts from the earth and the earthy (where we were and where “our life” was before receiving Christ as Life): to where we are now: In Christ – in the Heavenly Places, in The Spirit by the Reality of The Cross. And now because we “see” that “our life” is dead and we now Live with His Life from Above: we find Eternal, Spiritual Life with God IN HIM, and we function in this understanding continually: He now becomes our “state of Being” and that does not change. I am not talking about “feeling” like we are “in Heaven” or “Spiritual”; but accepting the Reality of God’s Finished Work in Christ. This “knowing/seeing”

by the Spirit changes us. This is not because we have become religious, but because God has revealed The Truth of our Salvation and of our Being In Christ to us in the very Person of His Son dwelling in us, and us finding LIFE IN HIM.

- We must understand that the realm of WHERE we “Be In Christ” is IN ETERNITY: in the Eternal Realm having Eternal Life. Now! Why? Because we are IN The Eternal One, having His Life. **Revelation 1:8:** *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”* We are in The One who was and is Eternally One with The Godhead – from the beginning. And God desires that we come to know Him (and ourselves as those who are joined to Him) as “from the beginning” as the Apostle John did. **I John 1:1:** *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2: (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3: That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”* This is The Eternal Life that we now have – and we NOW Live in Eternity. But “Eternity” does not mean for a long, long time as we carnally understand it to mean. Eternity means “no time” – outside of the realm of time and space. This is WHERE we now are IN CHRIST: and we are there for all Eternity in the Eternalness that HE

IS! And in God's View because of The Work of The Cross we are there as if we had never been anywhere else! May the Lord open our eyes to that Truth.

This is not a place we are going to go to when we die – where “we live forever”; but WHERE we NOW are because we have accepted His Death, and have received Him and His Eternal Life – for all Eternity. Our natural bodies will die (**2 Corinthians 4:16**, “...*though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day...* **18** ...*for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*”), but His Resurrected Body – of which we are members – is Eternal, Incorruptible and will reign throughout all Eternity. And when we come to a Revelation of WHERE we now are – in this ETERNAL Realm with Eternal Life we will no longer be dictated by time and place: by the things of “this world”; but we will live daily “above” all that – as One with our Eternal God. **Colossians 2:20**: “*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.*”

- And we also must consider that the WHERE we are – In Christ is by definition a state of being at REST. This is not a place that we visit on a Holy Day, but WHERE we reside continually. This is because of what He has done by The Cross not by what we have done. This is where WE can cease from our own labors (most especially religious ones), and REMAIN in constant peace and assurance knowing that God is satisfied with all things here – IN CHRIST. But this is not a place we are going to after we die, but where we NOW ARE

- in Union (as One) with Him because we have accepted what He has done by His Death, Burial and Resurrection at The Cross.
- And to sum up WHERE we are IN CHRIST we also must understand that we are NOT as the Old Covenant saints under the Law of Moses: kept far from God, and fearful of Him. Consider how beautifully this is stated in **Hebrews 12:18**, “ *For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, 19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: 20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: 21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)* **22 But ye are come** unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, **23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” This is Where we ARE COME – IN CHRIST.**

But this brings up the next issue: **HOW?** It is important to know WHERE we are, but we also have to know HOW we are there. We are NOT there by ourselves and our works, but by God’s Grace and The Work of The Cross. And we are

there according to The Work of The Cross: AS what God has accomplished by The Cross, and that means – NO FLESH.

- **I Corinthians 1:29:** *“That no flesh should glory in his presence.”* Because God is Spirit, we can NOT know Him or worship Him and have a relationship with Him in the flesh and by the flesh. And the Work of The Cross was to do away with the flesh that could NOT have a relationship with God, and provide the means to come to God – IN CHRIST by The Spirit. **John 14:6:** *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* But the first thing we have to understand is that we are NOT “in Christ” as a flesh man, as the first man, Adam. That man has NO PLACE in Christ.
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** tells us The Truth of our “Being in Christ.” *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, **he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* Now remember this is God’s View: and the View that we have to come to by the Revelation of Christ and The Cross. We are not there as an old creature, but in a New Creation AS a New Creature. And all of the old – the old man, the old world, the old nature, the old comprehension, even natural ways we related to God in our religions: all of that in God’s View of The Cross has already passed away and IN CHRIST is the Newness and Life now of all things that are in fellowship with God. Nothing outside of Christ is One with God: only IN HIM, with His Life. **II Corinthians 5:18:** *“ And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;”* This is

descriptive not of the natural earth realm, but the realm of “IN CHRIST”. We are NOT reconciled to God as an old man (and never will be): but AS the New Man.

And it is right here that we have to adjust a lot of our thinking because in our carnal understanding we believe (or want to believe) that the “old man” or at least the “good parts of the old man” is in Christ, but this is not the Truth according to what The Cross has accomplished. And we frustrate ourselves and the Grace of God when we continue to tolerate “the old” and expect to see the old man in Christ: something that is not true. We often think (in our vain imaginations) that God allows the old man (and that whole old realm) to be there and we even ask God to make allowances for him or even bless him. But in the Reality of The Cross the old man: the flesh man – Adam – even the religious flesh man is NOT in heaven, NOT in Christ, NOT in union with God and never will be! Only in the New Creation, in The New Man (those who have been raised up in Resurrection Life) are all things reconciled to God.

Consider these Scriptures as we are looking at the “**HOW** we are In Christ.” And may they become TRUTH to us because they are God’s Truth – all because of the Cross of Christ.

- **Colossians 3:9:** *“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10: And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”* The “old man” has been “put off” by THE DEATH OF CHRIST. And now in the Resurrection of Christ there is a New Man – and as Believers now we have put on Him – Christ, The New Man. And it is important that we

understand that it is the New Man who is renewed in knowledge – not the old. The New Man is now constantly being renewed with perfect and complete experiential knowledge of Christ who is the Light and Life of this New Creation so that we may be conformed into His image and likeness and function as His Body here in the earth.

- And even though we are growing in the Knowledge of God's Truth and progressively having this worked in us, we must understand that to God the old man is NOT dying: he is dead and separated from God: never to be raised again or come to God, and we need to accept that Reality. And IN CHRIST – as The New Man we are DEAD to the old creation, to sin, to the flesh and the things of the world. Those things should no longer have any effect or influence over us. This is HOW we are IN CHRIST by the Reality of The Cross. And it is only by seeing ourselves as DEAD WITH CHRIST (by identifying fully with HIS Death – His Crucifixion and all that it accomplished) that we can KNOW HIM in Newness of Life and find Him to be our Life: find ourselves living Resurrection Life.

- **Colossians 2:20:** *“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.”*

- **Galatians 2:20:** *“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 6:14:** *“But God forbid that I should glory,*

*save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”*

- And now because of The Death of Christ, and our acceptance of that Work and allowing it to work in us we are FREE: from sin – from the influence and the consequences of sin. It is not just that we are “forgiven of our sins” (although there is forgiveness IN CHRIST): but it is even better! Now we are **DEAD TO SIN**, but alive unto God. “In Adam” this is how we were: dead IN sin. But now “In Christ” this is HOW we are: dead TO sin – and that means two very different conditions and states of being. **Romans 6:2:** “...*How shall we that are DEAD TO SIN, live any longer therein?* **7:** *For he that is dead is freed from sin.* **11:** *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” We now need to reckon: accept and agree with, and count as Truth the Reality of what The Death of Christ has done. God does not see us as “sinners”: but as The Righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. How were we made that way? By the work of Christ at The Cross. **II Corinthians 5:21:** “*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*” Jesus becoming “sin” on The Cross and bearing the judgment of that enables us now to become “dead to sin”. **I Peter 2:24:** “*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness...*”
- And by The Finished Work of The Cross we are not merely dead to sin: we are no longer under The Law of



Sin and Death, but we are made alive and function under The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. **Romans 8:2:** *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”* However, prior to coming to an experiential knowledge of The Cross and what it has done in setting us free, many of us even as Born Again Christians functioned under the restraints of “The Law”: of carnal, religious commandments that attempt to control and rule the flesh. But this is another wonderful thing that The Cross of Christ accomplished. Even those under the Old Covenant Law – by His Death became DEAD TO THE LAW. **Romans 7:4:** *“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”* Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law: and we no longer have to walk in bondage to that. **Galatians 3:13:** *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:”* **John 8:36:** *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”* And God now wants us IN CHRIST to walk as those FREE from the Old Mosaic Law: even free from man’s rules and our religious traditions. **Galatians 5:1:** *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”* That “bondage” is not only to sin and the flesh, but also to an Old Covenant understanding of God through commandments and our religious actions. The New Man in Christ is FREE from all of that!

- And as WHO we now BE IN CHRIST and HOW we now BE: not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, we no longer need to be ruled by the flesh man; but can be and should be ruled by The Spirit. When we are Born Again we have received HIS Spirit giving us His Life. **Romans 8:9:** *“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10: And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”* And now there is no condemnation for those in Christ who walk according to the rule of Christ. **Romans 8:1:** *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* Why? Because of the Indwelling Spirit. We still function in the earth with a flesh body, but now we are NOT living in the flesh, by the flesh: but by the Spirit of Christ and with His Life! This is HOW we should be walking – in the earth – IN CHRIST – Alive with His Spirit. So we must begin to know ourselves as we are known of God – by The Work of The Cross. **II Corinthians 5:16:** *“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.”* And I think it is important for us to understand that we are capable of functioning in the flesh for the flesh, but in God’s View we are no longer simply a flesh man – because of His Indwelling Spirit.
- And IN CHRIST we are those who are no longer in bondage to the FEAR and condemnation of sin and

death and that whole realm. We no longer are finding our Life there. We saw this in **John 5:24**: “... *(he that believes) shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*” That is NOT a future promise, but a Present, Eternal Reality of HOW we are In Christ. Death has no more sting and control over us, because we are already planted in His Death, and now are raised in His Resurrection which will never see Death! And we need no longer to be afraid of death and even he that had the power of death, the devil. This is because of what Christ has done at The Cross. **Hebrews 2:14**: “*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15: And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*” But sadly many Christians have not come to this knowledge and are still fearful of their physical death. And this will remain so until we come to a God-given Revelation of His Death and all that it has accomplished. But even though our ignorance of God’s Truth hinders us, the Reality of That Finished Work remains, and God is seeking to open our eyes to that Truth so that we can walk as HOW we are IN HIM.

- And there is a tremendous liberty that we now have “Being In Christ” – not in darkness and fear, but in The Light that Christ now is. Because of HOW we now are in Christ, God desires that we walk in and by His Light. **Ephesians 5:8**: “*For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*” **1 John 2:8**: “*Again, a new commandment I write*

*unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.”*

- So we must recognize that outside of Christ we are dead to God. But now “In Christ” we Live - however not onto ourselves, but unto Him. And this is HOW we should “live” every day. **II Corinthians 5:15:** *“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”*
- With this understanding we live with a glorious confidence of this Relationship of Oneness with God – AS His Own. **Ephesians 2:19:** *“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;”* **Ephesians 1:6:** *“... wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”* “In Christ” we recognize that we are no more strangers and foreigners to God, being far away from Him, and only knowing Him in fear and trembling. But we recognize that we have been accepted into the very Household of God, in union with Him – as HIS. And now because of this Relationship: HOW we are in Christ: **Hebrews 4:16:** *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* This is something that Adam cannot do, and even under the Old Covenant they could not come to God this way in full assurance. The flesh man can NOT: but “IN CHRIST” we can!
- We are “In Christ” not simply by our religious decision,

or by us “joining a church”: but it is a Work of God’s Spirit by His Grace. And when we are “placed In Him” we are joined with Him: it is the impartation of His Spirit giving us His Life – One Spirit, One Life. **I Corinthians 6:17:** *“But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”* The Life that we now have is The Spirit of His Life: and this is HOW we can now live – as One Spirit with The Godhead. We are not separate, but One. And remember His Spirit is ETERNAL so that even when our flesh body dies, we still are Eternally With The Lord – joined to Him by His Spirit. And the Revelation of having One Life and One Spirit causes us to come to an important decision and change how we function daily. **2 Corinthians 5:14,** *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”* **I Corinthians 6:19:** *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20: For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”* HOW we Live now is AS HIS! We now must allow HIM to live HIS Life in us!

- And we ARE COMPLETE – made whole and perfect IN HIM. This is how God sees us now: lacking nothing because we have His Life and Divine Nature. **II Peter 1:3:** *“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great*

*and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust....8: For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* But this is not because of us making ourselves something; but because of God’s Grace shown to us by The Cross. **Colossians 2:9:** *“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:”* And HOW we should now live is not looking for anything outside of Christ to fulfil us: but find our full satisfaction and contentment IN HIM.

- And we also have to understand that we are NOT “In Christ” as many bodies – even perfected bodies, or (as some preach) that we become “angels” when we go to Heaven. We are “IN HIM” as ONE BODY: we are members of HIS Body, but HE is The Head, and we are members, having no Life but HIM, and joined to Him – AS ONE. The nature of Heaven is Oneness. **Ephesians 2:6:** *“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”* ONE has been raised and seated in Christ – The Risen Lord and His Body, those who are One with Him as His Body, holding Him to be The Head. **Philippians 3:21:** *“Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”* This Scripture does not say “our bodies” will become “glorified” when we go to Heaven as many preach. The “vile body” of Old

Covenant Israel (which this chapter is referring to) would be changed by His Resurrection into The Church, His Body, The Fulness of Him as He works to make Himself known in Believers. We now as “The Church” are The Body of His Resurrection – Head and Body raised by The Power of Resurrection Life. This is HOW we are, and when we function in the earth as HOW we are in God’s View, He sees “His Church”. I **Corinthians 12:12**: *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 20: But now are they many members, yet but one body. 27: Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”* And we should be relating to each other as HOW we are IN CHRIST – as One!

Now I know that we read the Scriptures and quote them, but sadly the Reality of them is not operational in the lives of most Christians. But I hope that we can see that when we allow the old man and his deeds to exist in us (and we are the ones that allow that to continue) this is totally against the Work that Jesus did at The Cross. He said in **Hebrews 10:9**, *“... he taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.”* He has done that but we have to allow Him to work that in us. And I have found something Paul wrote to the Philippians to be helpful to me in this regard. The desire of Paul’s heart was to be *“**found in Christ...**”* (Philippians 3:9). We are IN CHRIST: so we have to find HIM to be where we are, and how we are, and no where else. This is where the Spirit reveals us now to BE: as the state of the Believer’s BEING. And it is only the Spirit of Truth that can reveal the Reality of this to us. Paul’s desire was to find everything of Life and Relationship with God here – In Christ: not in a

religion but in this Salvation Relationship: in The Person of Our Salvation. But he goes further, and this is the point: “... ***not having mine own...***” You can not truly be found In Christ – resting in Him as HOW you truly ARE by having anything of yourself! “Your” life, “your” righteousness, “your” will, “your” religion, “your” ministry etc. All here now is not only His but HIM! You and I are there, but not as “ourselves” with anything of our own. We are there as joined to Him, having His Life only; and the purpose is that we become an expression of who He – The Resurrected Lord is. But this will only happen if we are willing to give up all things of ourselves and only desire Him. **Philippians 3:7:** “*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8: 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,*”

- And there will now continually be in us – in those of us who are In Christ a Working of the Spirit of God to conform us into HIS image: God desires NOT I, but CHRIST. And His Work is that we would be the manifest presencing of His Life here in the earth. This is done by His Appearing: by Christ The Risen Lord making Himself known **WHERE** He is – in those in whom He dwells. But as importantly – AS **HOW** He is – in Resurrection, Eternal Life, in Glory, in Victory, in Oneness with The Father: so that we would be **HOW He is. Colossians 3:4:** “*When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear (as One) with him in glory.*” “In Glory” means sharing His Life and Relationship of Oneness with His Father. **I John 3:2:** “*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.*” This is not us trying to “act like Jesus” or “do what Jesus would do”. This is His Working in us renewing our minds and transforming our souls to be the expression of the Life we have: HOW we are in The Truth of The Finished Work of The Cross.

But this brings up another consideration: of HOW we are In Christ. We are **IN SON – AS SON**: in The Son, participating in the Relationship of Son with The Father. Notice **1 John 3:2** says NOW we ARE the sons of God: we are participating in the Relationship of Son. And “Son” denotes a mature understanding of that familial Relationship of Oneness with The Father. This is how God has planned us to be, and as God sees us to be. Remember even in the Old Covenant in the type and shadow, God did not say Israel was a bunch of Israelites. God said “*Israel is my **son**, even my first born.*” (Exodus 4:22) God’s desire never was just to have little children running around, “being saved”, but having no understanding of their Relationship and Life with The Father. He wanted them to come to a greater Relationship. Having Christ revealed in us and formed in us brings us to HOW God desires us to be. **Galatians 4:19**: “*My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,*” So God planned a people not just to be positionally In Christ: but He planned that they participate in the Relationship OF SON: and God only has ONE Firstbegotten SON, and it is in HIM that The Father is well pleased. This is HOW we have to see ourselves – IN SON - AS SON.

- ***1 Corinthians 1:9:*** “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” We do NOT have our own Relationship with The Father: we participate in The Son’s Relationship and Oneness. That is our assurance and this is HOW God sees us.
  
- ***Galatians 4:6:*** “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. **7:** Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” It is The Spirit of HIS SON in us that causes us to know this glorious Relationship that we now are participating in. And now we no longer function as a servant – trying to do the Will of The Master but not knowing His Heart; but as SON – knowing the Heart, Mind and Will of The Father and doing all things to glorify Him and His Name. This is HOW we are to live, and because of this Relationship, this is HOW God deals with us.
  
- ***Hebrews 12:5:*** “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: **7:** If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? **8:** But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons... **10:** For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.” He corrects us so that we become the expression of this Relationship, this Life –

as Son to a Holy Father.

- This has always been God's Eternal Plan: not just to get people "saved", but that they would come to this Relationship of Life with Him and manifest this Reality in the earth. And this is how He continually works IN US. **Romans 8:28:** *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* This is HOW He wants us to BE – because we are WHERE He chose us to BE – IN CHRIST.

And let me just sum up our Glorious Salvation which we now have in Christ as "having Eternal Life". **I John 5:11:** *"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12: He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."* Because we have received The Son we have received His Eternal Life – which only He could give. **John 17:2:** *"As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3: And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."*

I pray that these Scriptures and this lesson will encourage us and challenge us to see The Reality of our Great Salvation: The Truth of BEING IN CHRIST – **WHERE** and **HOW**. **It is all because of what Christ and The Cross have done.** And God wants us to come to this understanding – His View of that Finished Work, and LIVE in it. **I John 5:20:** *"And we*

*know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.” AMEN.*