

# BUT WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST

By  
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It is always an honor and a blessing for me to come before you to declare to hungry hearts the Greatness and Reality of our Salvation in Christ. And as always, I do not come declaring a “some day” Salvation: waiting for a future fulfillment. But I declare the NOW Salvation that the Scriptures testify of: the fulness of our New Life now in Christ. And my heart’s desire for The Lord’s Body is that we would come to see what we **NOW HAVE**, and what we have been made **TO BE** – in Christ by The Finished Work of The Cross.

Consider these Scriptures:

- **2 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:” And as we continue to know Christ and experience Him in greater and greater measure, we will experience the “all things” that we now have in Him. But we must understand we have not received “things” in the natural, but in the Spirit we have received Him, and in Him we have obtained the “all things” of God. We must look for, and find “all things” in Christ.
- **Colossians 2:9,10**, “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.” This Scripture shows us the

Greatness of Christ. And because Christ is in us and we are in Him, we have received all the fulness of God, and we have been made to be perfect and complete. There is nothing lacking in Christ, and in the Reality of The Work of The Cross, there is nothing lacking in us. We have in us the means to experience and enjoy God's full Redemption and Salvation, and live The Life we have received as those who have been made One with God through Christ Jesus.

The Scriptures are stating a FACT – God's fact: The Truth, The Reality of what God has done. But sadly the fact of our Great Salvation is not the Reality by which we function daily. Too often we interpret this scripture according to "our religion" rather than "God's Reality in Christ." For example: we read **Colossians 3: 1**, *"If ye then be 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. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."* And we focus on the word "if": causing us to be unsure "if" this is so or not. But the Apostle Paul is really declaring the TRUTH of this. Kenneth Wuest translates this as: *"In view of the fact, therefore, that you were raised with Christ."* So I am declaring to you the FACT of our Salvation, our New Life in Christ: not the cunningly devised fables of religion. And the Spirit of God wants us not just to study the Bible to learn Bible truths, but to come to the experiential knowledge of The Truth: The Truth as it is in Jesus so that we would be the Living of this Reality, of being a New Creation while we are here in earth.

Now it is necessary that we come to know The Finished Work of The Cross of Christ because this was the means by which our Salvation became real. Jesus promised this to His disciples before He went to The Cross. **John 16: 12**, *"I have yet many things to say*

unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. **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. **15** All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” But the Spirit of Truth HAS come, and NOW we CAN know all Truth: the “all things” that God had planned – now come in Christ. We are not as the Old Covenant saints: they only had the promises but could never experience the Reality - the fulness of Salvation.

And we do not experience this by “our” working or trying to read and understand the Bible with our human intellect. God has given us His Spirit (if you are truly Born Again) so that now you can know (experience) what God has done. **1 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... 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God... 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned... 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but **we have** the mind of Christ.*” Please notice: “we **HAVE** received the Spirit which is of God that we might know” and “we **HAVE** the mind of Christ.”

And this is what I want to talk with us about: **we have the Mind of Christ**. Many Christians believe that with their Salvation they have received Christ, and have received forgiveness of sins and

deliverance from eternal damnation. And that is true and that is wonderful. But how many of us not just “believe” that we have the Mind of Christ, but are functioning daily with that Mind? The “receiving of Christ” that our Salvation is not only means something that has happened FOR us, but now something that has happened IN us. **1 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.”* When we receive Him, we not only receive Eternal Life, but Newness of Life – a New Life with a New Nature and a New Mind. And this Life – HIS Life is totally different than our old life – the Adamic life. **2 Peter 1:4** says we *“might be partakers of **the divine nature**.”* Now we have a godly nature: with God’s Spirit we partake of the Nature, Character, Mind and Will of Christ who Now is our Life. And it is HIS Nature in us that enables us to be in Oneness and Fellowship with God – as His own. And you cannot separate “the Mind of Christ” from “the Nature of Christ”; so when we receive Christ, we have received His Nature and His Mind.

Now the Greek word “mind” in **1Corinthians 2:16** is Strong’s #3563 meaning intellect: including thoughts, feelings or will. It implies a knowing or understanding. And “Christ in us” with His understanding of His Father and the Heart and Will of The Father enables us now to know God as our Father, in the relationship of Salvation, in the Oneness of Eternal Life. But again, this is not “us” working to try to know God with our human intellect. Paul said he relied on the indwelling Christ. **Colossians 1:29**, *“Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.”*

As we submit ourselves to the “Christ in you” HE will be working His Mind and Understanding in us. And we have to permit Him to work this in us. I recently saw something interesting in **Philippians**

**2:5**, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”* We have to permit (we can either allow it or refuse) the Mind of Christ to **BE** in us. And by that I mean to remain, to function, to rule. The fact is His Mind is in us – in Christ, but we have to allow His Mind to **BE** our mind. We have to submit to His Mind – His thoughts, feelings and will. And the Scripture tells us what “the Mind of Christ” is. **Verse 6**, *“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”* His Mind is not for His reputation and His glory. His Mind was to do only The Will of The Father, and He humbled Himself willingly and gladly to do that, even though He knew God’s Will was The Cross. He put aside all concerns for Himself, His comfort and desires, and became obedient unto death – even the death of The Cross. It is THIS Mind that should BE and rule in us. His Mind is Obedient to His Father!

The word “mind” in **Philippians 2:5** is Strong’s #5426 and means to have a sentiment or opinion, to be disposed of in a certain direction, to interest oneself and regard, to set the affection on. His Mind was always on His Father and what would satisfy the Heart of His Father. And I hope that we can see how very different the “mind of man” is. From the very beginning in the garden Adam’s mind was focused on **SELF**: what looked good to man and would make them wise so they could live independently from God. And that “mind” continues to rule the Adamic man today.

Consider these Scriptures:

- **Romans 1:28**, *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to*

*do those things which are not convenient;*” Reprobate means unapproved, worthless, rejected.

- **Romans 8:5**, *“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”* Notice the difference between flesh and Spirit: and that the carnal mind is NOT subject to the Law of God! When we allow the flesh to rule us our mind is ruled by the desires of the flesh.
- **Ephesians 2:3**, *“Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”* This is how we were before we came to know Christ.
- **Colossians 1:21**, *“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled...”* But we must understand we are reconciled to God as a New Creature, not an old man.
- **Colossians 2:18**, *“Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,”* The “fleshly mind of man” can invent “spiritual” imaginations, but remember the mind of man can NOT know the things of God!

But NOW as Believers this is not how we are to live: controlled by the flesh and the carnal mind of man – only concerned with self.

**Ephesians 4:17**, *“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind.”* And Paul makes a comparison here between those who don’t know God, and Believers. We HAVE “put off” the old Adamic life when we have received Christ, because we have received Christ by His Work at The Cross. **Verse 18**, *“Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But ye have not so learned Christ; 21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;”* And there was not only a “putting away” but a “putting on The New Man.” **Verse 24**, *“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”* And that “New Man” is Christ: not a better you or a religious you. It is Christ – giving you a New Life, a New Nature, and a New Mind – His. This is how God sees your “New Birth” – this is the Reality of your Salvation.

And now there is a “Learning Christ” as we continue to experience our Salvation through our daily living, and The Work of God in us is to form this New Life – His Life and Mind in us. And this work takes place IN US. It is a special Work subsequent to being Born Again. **Ephesians 4:23**, *“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;”* The **Amplified Bible** says, *“and be continually renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude],”* The emphasis here is this is not a “one time” occurrence, but something that God continues to be doing in us: giving us HIS mental and spiritual attitude, so that we will know as

He knows. And once again we have to allow The Lord to do this work in us by His Spirit. We have to present ourselves to Him.

**Romans 12:1**, *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* Consider this more fully in The **Amplified Bible**, *“Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].*

And Kenneth Wuest translates **Verse 2** very beautifully telling us what it IS: what we HAVE! *“And stop assuming an outward expression that does not come from within you and is not representative of what you are in your inner being but is patterned after this age; but change your outward expression to one that comes from within and is representative of your inner being, by the renewing of your mind, resulting in your putting to the test what is the will of God, the good and well-pleasing and complete will, and having found that it meets specifications, place your approval upon it.”* It is “our” mind that has to be renewed to The Truth, The Reality of what we now ARE in Christ. This is how we are changed or transformed. And this is not firstly and singularly on the outside. This is an inward Working of The Spirit of God conforming us into



the likeness (exactness – not a representation) of Christ our New Life, and to His Nature and Mind. Religion may change you outwardly: in your dress and in some things that you do. But it is The Work of God in us revealing Christ as our Life that changes us inwardly: transforming our mind.

This is God's Work in US – The New Man. **Colossians 3:10**, *“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.”* And as we allow Christ to be fully formed in us (**Galatians 4:19**) and let The Peace of God rule in our hearts and The Word of Christ dwell in us, then there will be a “doing”. **Verse 17**, *“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”* But this “doing” is the Nature, the Mind of Christ in operation – in us and through us. It is not just us doing something and saying “in the Name of Jesus.” With His Mind **operating** in us we will be in the earth the presencing of Christ, and will function in the earth as His Body, the fulness of Him who is filling us - His Church. (**Ephesians 1:22, 23**)

So we have stated the fact: **we have the mind of Christ**. And we see that The Spirit is operating to renew our mind and transform us so that we function with His Mind. But the question is – is this Reality real in US? Can we honestly say we live our life daily with the Mind of Christ? Do we live with His love, selflessness, humility, compassion, and total obedience to The Will of The Father? Sad to say, we have to admit no: and there is a reason for this. We will not put off the old man – and his mind! Now we may have put off some of the “bad deeds” of the old man, but we still stubbornly and disobediently refuse to give up ‘MY mind, MY thoughts, MY desires, MY ways, and MY will.’ And in The Reality of The Cross

this is very serious because at The Cross God rejected not only that old, Adamic man; but his mind and thoughts, and has eternally separated all of that from Himself. And that man can become “religious” and do good things, but he can NOT know and experience the joys of the Salvation that God has prepared for man.

And sadly we as Christians, perhaps because of our ignorance of The Finished Work of The Cross: think that we have “two minds” - The Mind of Christ, AND mine! And we even want to use “my mind” and “my thoughts” to do things for God! And sad to say, it allows us to function as the old man: totally rejecting what The Cross of Christ has accomplished. We may make light of it, and dismiss it without any great concern: but in The Reality of Christ, this cannot be tolerated! And this mentality gives the flesh the freedom and license to continue to function. We see a lot of this in “Christianity” today - a lot of religious activity that is focused on self and exalting self: with a puffed up attitude and judgmental spirit. That is NOT The Mind of Christ! And that is evident because when the mind of man prevails and it gets involved in religious activities, we still have all the works of the flesh that are itemized in **Galatians 5:19**, “*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*”

James says something very significant in **James 1:8**, “*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*” And if we do not ask in faith (in the knowledge and wisdom of Christ, seeking God’s understanding), we shall not receive anything of the Lord. **Verse 7**, “*For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the*

*Lord.” This is something we have to recognize and allow the Lord to work in us so that our hearts and minds would be singularly settled in Him. **James 4:8**, “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” And I caution that this working of The Lord will not be pleasant. But it is necessary if we truly want to experience God’s fulness and enjoy all that God has given us in Christ. He will confront your darkness with His Light: your lie with His Truth: your selfish, fleshly rule with His sovereign, righteous reign. And He will not stop until He is completely satisfied. His working in us is in accordance with **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.” Conformed to the image of His Son – that we would share inwardly HIS Likeness, HIS Mind!*

And in closing let me just point us to some Scriptures giving us God’s desire and plan: that we be of ONE Mind. And this does not mean that you and I come to a consensus about what we think God’s Word says. This means that we come to HIS Mind, HIS Thought, HIS understanding. It is HIS Mind operating in us that will make us function – not just as “Christians”, but as One – as **Christ!** May we allow The Spirit of God to work this in us so that God alone would be glorified.

- **1 Corinthians 1:10**, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

- **Philippians 1:27**, *“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*
- **Philippians 2:2**, *“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. **3** Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”*
- **1 Peter 3: 8**, *“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:”*
- **1 Peter 4:1**, *“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; **2** That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.”*

You ask, can this be so? The answer is yes – **WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST!**

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