

Sunday, October 21, 2012—The Things Freely Given us of God—With Christ

Introduction/Review

- Last week we began a new series of studies looking at The Things Freely Given Us of God. By way of introducing the topic we studied 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 and saw that God wants us to know “the deep things of God,” and that the Spirit of God has revealed them unto us. The Christian life is not designed to lived out of ignorance
- Furthermore, we discussed that as we move forward with this study there we three principles that we need to always keep in mind and apply towards the topic every week.
 - Know—what God has done for us freely through Jesus Christ
 - Reckon—impute and account that what God’s Word says about us is true
 - Yield—submit to and walk in the reality of who God has made us in Christ
- This morning we want to focus our attention on the expression “with Christ.” The Apostle Paul mentions six things that are true of believers positionally “with Christ.”
 - Crucified with Christ
 - Buried with Christ
 - Risen with Christ
 - Alive with Christ
 - Ascended with Christ
 - Seated with Christ

Crucified with Christ

- Galatians 2:20—this is a very famous verse but I suspect that few have actually taken the time to understand what the verse actually means.
- *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live”*—Paul says what appears to be contradictory, i.e., that his both crucified (dead) and yet alive at the same time. How can this be the case?
 - Romans 6:3-6— if Paul was crucified with Christ it would only make sense that Paul was dead. In what sense was Paul dead? Our old man was crucified and destroyed with Christ when he died on the cross on our behalf.
 - Colossians 2:11—Paul tells us in Galatians 2:20 that while he was dead he was still alive, when Paul believed in the finished work of Christ on his behalf his soul and spirit were cut away from his body/flesh. This how Paul and therefore us can both alive (new man) and dead (to the old man) at the same time.

- *“yet not I, but Christ liveth in me”*—Paul then goes on to say that the reason he is still living is because Christ is living within him. In other words, that life that Paul was experiencing had its source and Jesus Christ.
 - Romans 7:24—Paul, like all believers is a living spirit and soul encased in a dead body that is rotting physically.
 - II Corinthians 4:8-11—when Paul got saved he became a new man born of the Spirit of God. But this new man that Paul became was really Jesus Christ himself living his life in and through Paul.
- *“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.”*—this time the phrase in the flesh has no reference to the activity of the body, but has to do with the fact that the believer’s new heavenly life has been placed into an earthen vessel and must be lived out inside the skin and bone restrictions of a corpse.
- This creates an interesting situation for the believer:
 - Galatians 2:20—the good that a believer does is not his own.
 - Romans 7:22—yet good is what real believers want to do.
 - Romans 7:1-6—good fruit comes from somewhere in the believer that is part of the new man which rose from the dead.
 - Ephesians 2:10—any good that come from us is the result of the life of Christ in us.
- Notice in Galatians 2:20 that it is the faithfulness of Christ that is the means by which Paul is able to live the Christian life. This reality does not depend on us rather it was given to us freely by God.

Buried and Risen With Christ

- Colossians 2:12—not only are we crucified with Christ we are also buried with him in baptism. In the context, the baptism that Paul is referring to here has nothing to do with water (Col. 2:11).
 - Romans 6:5—if Paul is referring to water baptism in these passages than water baptism is what saves us from our sins. These verses are talking about the issue of spiritual identification.
 - I Corinthians 12:12-13—when we believe that Christ died on the cross for our sin, was buried, and rose again we baptized by God the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. We become identified with God and He with us. What is true of Jesus Christ is now true of us because we are in him and He is in us.

- Galatians 3:27—therefore God views the believer as not only having died with Christ (Rom. 6:3) but also as having been buried with Christ (Rom. 6:4). Members of the Church the body of Christ have literally put on Christ through this process of spiritual identification. When God looks at me, He sees me the exact same way he see His Son.
- Colossians 2:12—not only are we crucified and buried with Christ we are also “risen with him.” Notice how we are buried and risen with Christ in this verse, it is through “the faith of the operation of God.” Again that same truth that applies to Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God applies to you and me.
 - The Greek word that is translated “operation” means working, efficiency according to *Strong’s Concordance*.
 - Ephesians 1:19—working
 - Ephesians 3:7—effectual working
 - Ephesians 4:6—effectual working
 - The English word “operation” carries the following means according to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*: 1) The act or process of operating; agency; the exertion of power, physical, mechanical or moral.
 - Romans 6:5, 8-11
 - Ephesians 1:18-21—the same spiritual power the was displayed with God raised up Christ from the dead ought to be a living spiritual reality in the life of a believer.
- Colossians 2:12—as believers we are risen with Christ through operative, effectually working faith of God that literally raised Christ from the dead.

Alive With Christ

- Colossians 2:13—the expression “quickened together with him” means “to make one alive together,” according to *Strong’s Concordance*. The Old English word “quicken” means to 1) to make alive; to vivify; to revive or resuscitate, as from death or an inanimate state. Rom. 4. 2) To make alive in a spiritual sense; to communicate a principle of grace to (*Webster’s 1828*). Quickened means “made alive; revived; vivified; reinvigorated (*Webster’s 1828*).
- Ephesians 2:5—we have been quickened together with Christ are made alive with Christ. Christ’s life has become our life.
- Romans 8:10-11—the same Spirit that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in us and will quicken and makes us alive to the life of God.

- Colossians 2:13—we have been made alive with Christ because all our trespasses have been forgiven.

Ascended and Seated With Christ

- Ephesians 2:6—the expression “raised us up together” means exactly what it says. Those that have been quickened together with Christ in verse 5 by grace through faith possess an ascended position in Christ Jesus in verse 6. Not only are we ascended with Christ but we are seated with Christ in heavenly places.
 - Ephesians 1:20-21—we are ascended and seated with the glorified Christ at the right hand of God the father.
 - Colossians 3:1-3—our affections need to be set on things above. We need to view ourselves in accordance with who God has made us in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

- I Corinthians 2:12—did we have to pay for any of these blessings? How do you know that you have them?
- Now that we know the truth with respect to them we need to reckon them to be and yield to them in our lives.