

Wednesday

February 4

The Faith of Christ

Paul's main point must not be missed. There was a wonderful exchange that he experienced on the Damascus road, trading his old, law-based life for the presence of Christ Himself—"that I may gain Christ and be found in Him" (*Phil. 3:8, 9, NKJV*).

"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 be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith

of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:" Philipians 3:8-9 KJV

To be found "in Him," that is, in Christ, is an interesting expression. Read Ephesians 1:4, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Colossians 2:9, and Galatians 2:20. Based on these passages, what do you think Paul means by this idea?

Paul's reference to being in Christ has been widely discussed. Not surprisingly, perhaps the best explanation of it comes from Paul himself: "That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him" (*Eph. 1:10, NKJV*). That has been God's purpose from the start. And Paul makes clear how that happens: "You are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and

sanctification and redemption" (*1 Cor. 1:30, NKJV*).

Being "in Christ" comprehends everything that the plan of salvation encompasses, from the dawning of our spiritual intelligence (wisdom), to justification by faith (righteousness), to preparation for heaven (sanctification), and finally to glorification at the Second Advent (redemption). Salvation is Christ's work from start to finish—for us and in us. Thus, by gaining Christ, we have everything we need.

ROMANS 8:29, 30-

"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. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."Romans 8:29-30 KJV

"Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

Romans 5:18 KJV

Acts 17:28 - "in Him"

"for "'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.'" ESV

Dan 5:23 - "but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your Lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored." Daniel 5:23 ESV

2Tim 1:10 - "and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles."

2 Timothy 1:10, 11

ROM. 3:22, 23-"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:" Romans 3:21-22 KJV

faith of Jesus applies to all

"For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, And

mightest overcome when thou art judged." Romans
3:3-4 KJV

DA — This is true of our physical nature.
To the death of Christ we owe even this earthly
life. The bread we eat is the purchase of His
broken body. The water we drink is bought by His
spilled blood. Never one, saint or sinner, eats
his daily food, but he is nourished by the body
and the blood of Christ. The cross of Calvary is
stamped on every loaf. It is reflected in every
water spring.. DA 660.3

GC — In consequence of Adam's sin, death
passed upon the whole human race. All alike go
down into the grave. And through the provisions
of the plan of salvation, all are to be brought
forth from their graves. "There shall be a
resurrection of the dead, both of the just and
unjust;" "for as in Adam all die, even so in

Christ shall all be made alive." Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:22. But a distinction is made between the two classes that are brought forth. "All that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28, 29.. GC 544.2

Read Philippians 3:9. What two things does Paul contrast, and why is this contrast important to always remember?

As Paul came to realize, having one's "own righteousness" is not real righteousness because the law cannot give life (see *Gal. 3:21, 22*); only Christ can, through faith. And not just any faith. After all, the devils believe and tremble (*James 2:19*). The only saving faith is "the faith of Christ." Only *His* faith has obeyed

fully and *can* obey. ONLY HIS FAITH OR BELIEF IN US WILL CARRY US THROUGH OUR NATURAL FALLEN UNBELIEF OR FAITHLESSNESS (The Greek word for faith, *pistis*, also means faithfulness.) So, if we are in Christ and He lives in us (*Gal. 2:20*), then we live OUT ~~by~~ *His* faith IN US BY MANIFESTING ~~through our~~ faith in Him. WE LIVE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST FROM FAITH [THE FAITH OF JESUS] TO FAITH [FAITH IN JESUS] ROMANS 1:18-20

GOD HAS PUT US IN CHRIST IN A TEMPORAL TEMPORARY SENSE - GOD LONGS FOR US TO CHOOSE TO MAKE THAT IN CHRIST ETERNAL.

NO LESSON 7

