

*Christ in You, You in Christ*  
*Our Only*  
*Hope of Glory*

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# Table of Contents

<b>1. In Christ – Christ In</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. It’s Christ In You, The Hope Of Glory!</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3. The Simplicity That Is In Christ</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>4. Do Or Done?</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>5. God Is Our Sufficiency</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>6. Seeing Our Calling</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>7. Reaping What We Sow</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>8. The Return of Christ</b>	<b>46</b>

This e-book was created from the speaking notes and audio files of the “Christ in you” section of neilshouse.com. This e-book, like the messages and files on the neilshouse.com web site are provided freely to any who would use the information to proclaim the greatness of our savior Christ Jesus.

After over thirty years of study of the Bible, reading and listening to endless Bible oriented teachings and books it is hard to claim any to be mine. Most of what I have been taught as theology is misleading and shortsighted. The revelation that is truly energizing and leads us to freedom clearly belongs to God. The mountains of books and spewry of theology are not worthy of the sewer that they run down. No one owns the Words of God. Jesus calmly said: My sheep hear my voice. I pray you are one that hears and understands. Your questions and comments are welcome.  
It’s Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27

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# 1. In Christ - Christ In

One of the great areas of debate among the denominations is the meaning of the phrases "in Christ" and "Christ in." Many teach that they mean the same thing. But that belief defies the rules of language. Some groups say that "Christ in" refers only metaphorically to our position as a Christian because Jesus died for us just as the blood of a goat metaphorically covered sins of the Old Testament Israelite.

The same groups believe and teach that "in Christ" refers to the state of our fellowship with God, which is dependent on our works. If you are living a holy life, then you are said to be "in Christ." If you are not doing so well today, then you are no longer in Christ.

It's like a toy whistle I had when I was a kid. My grandfather made a wooden whistle for me that was a round tube with a slot along the top. Inside was a wooden ball that would roll along the inside of the tube depending how hard you blew.

I had great fun with that whistle and was sent out side frequently because I liked it far more than my mother did. I called it music but my mom called it noise.

I accidentally sat on the whistle and cracked it so if I blew too hard the ball would pop out. Without the ball inside it was no longer a whistle but just a stick.

Many believe that our being "in Christ" is similar. They think that as long as we control our selves and don't blow too hard we stay "in Christ." But if you get a little rambunctious, Pop! You are no longer "in Christ!" What a miserable misunderstanding of the love and mercy of God. What a sad estimation of God's completed work in Christ. Look at Second Corinthians Chapter Five verse seventeen:

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:19

So, Just exactly does the phrase "in Christ" mean? The word "in" is translated from the Greek word "en" which is spelled epsilon - neu. "In" is a preposition that indicates the position of the subject inside the object. For instance when I say "the ball is in the whistle." Ball is the subject. Whistle is the object and the preposition "in" gives us the position which is "inside." Note that the ball is not beside, on, or upon the whistle but is contained inside the whistle. So when the bible talks about something being "in Christ," it means that something is contained "inside Christ."

Let me explain that in a different way. If I said in the cabinet there are 12 plates you would know that the cabinet contains 12 plates. In the two verses that we just read, we see the phrase “in Christ” twice. Verse 17 speaks of “any man” being “In Christ.” Think of that phrase as: If any man be contained in Christ. And think of “God was in Christ” in verse 19 as God was contained in Christ. If this concept troubles you think about the verse that says:

For in him (that is in Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.  
Col 2:9

God was “IN CHRIST” reconciling us unto himself, not imputing our trespasses to us but instead imputed our trespasses to Christ. So .. If we be in Christ, we are a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Let’s take a walk through a few of the verses that use the phrase “IN CHRIST,” to see of we are like the little ball in my whistle that pops out. Let's start in Romans 3:24:

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ  
Jesus: Rom 3:24

Our redemption or full payment of our ransom is "in Christ Jesus." We are made righteous by the grace of God which he free gives to the redeemed "in Christ." The bible tells us that we were dead in trespasses and sin, living according to the god of this world, Satan, and were without hope. But God who is rich in mercy, in Christ paid our ransom in full. In Christ we are redeemed.

Look at the sentence structure and notice the parts of the sentence. First note that redemption is "in Christ Jesus." Then notice that redemption or the paid ransom is the doorway that grace comes through. He redeemed us while we were yet sinners. God in Christ redeemed or set us free from the devil's grip so that the grace of God could declare us justified or purified in Christ. Let's Pop over to Romans 8 .....

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,  
who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Rom 8:1

Because we are IN Christ there is NO condemnation because IN Christ we walk according to the Spirit not the flesh. Look carefully at this sentence. It literally says there is not even one adverse sentence to those who are IN Christ Jesus. Not even one – ZERO – ZIP - NONE. Now the second half of the sentence: They who are IN Christ walk according to the spirit, not the flesh. Look at verse 14:

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: Rom 8:14 -16

So does God blow his children out the end of His whistle and POP we are no longer His children? Look at verse 2:

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. Rom 8:2

Contained "In Christ Jesus" is the law or principle of the Spirit of Life. The spirit of life which is in Christ has made me free from the law of sin and death! In fact the bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:45 that Jesus became the life giving spirit.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 1 Corinthians 15:45

Since we are here in Romans eight, let go to verse 39:

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 8:39

In Christ Jesus our lord" is the love of God. 1st John 4:8 tells us that God is love. Agape love is the very nature of God. In Christ dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. Col 2:9

Let's back up and start in verse 38:

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is IN Christ. Rom 8:38 - 39

So, It doesn't appear that we can pop out. Well ... let's pop on over to Romans chapter twelve verse five:

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Rom 12:5

"IN Christ" is ONE Body. He is the one and only head, we are the body. The one body is "IN Christ." Outside of Christ there is no body only confusion. The body cannot exist without the head. "In Christ" is the body. If we are "in Christ" we become part of the one body. Every one of us are members of one another in this one body that is in Christ. "IN Christ" there are no divisions, no other heads, but only one head and one body. Lets move on to first Corinthians: I think we have worn out the whistle and can safely retire it.

But of him (God) are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 1Co 1:30

So we see here that God placed us IN CHRIST. And in Christ Jesus there is wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. All the attributes that religion has had us working to attain, is freely “made unto us”, or rather “caused to become us” in Christ Jesus. In Christ we have wisdom and righteousness and we have been purified and ransomed in full.

There are many passages of scripture where the phrase "IN CHRIST" is used. A more detailed study of all the verses would provide you with a detailed list of the many blessings that are ours in Christ. We cannot look at them all here but stay with me for a few more verses from the book of Ephesians. In Ephesians chapter two we find a definitive description of how we came to be in Christ. This is an extremely important concept because if God has already done something it is futile for us to try to do it. But if God tells us to do something then He will not do it. Do we strive to be "in Christ?" Does our work keep us "in Christ?" Look at verse six. If ever there was a verse that needs to be memorized, this is it.

And (God) hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: Eph 2:6

Now read it together with verses four and five:

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: Eph 2:4-6

But God. It's simple really. God raised us up together. Together. None were raised higher than another but we were raised together. The Greek is literally “[God] roused us from death together”. Once raised God MADE us to sit. We did not rouse ourselves from death but God raised us up and God caused us to sit – "IN Christ" in the heavenlies. Christ sits at the right hand of God. God has placed us "in Christ" so we are at the right hand of God "in Christ." I don't think we can blow hard enough to get the ball to pop out of this whistle. God put us there:

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Titus 3:5

One more, .....

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: Eph 1:3

ALL really does mean all.....

Here is another simplistic illustration but please humor me. Imagine for a moment that Christ is a large closet. Now let's think about some of the things that are "IN Christ." Or, in that closet. In our closet is stored all wisdom and prudence. On the shelf next to wisdom is all spiritual blessings. On the top shelf is authority over all principalities and powers. The shelves are also loaded up with us because the bible says we are "IN Christ." In Christ are all of these people and things. Go search out the bible and find all the blessings that are yours "in Christ" and put them in our closet. It is a tremendous discovery to find out that you are in Christ. But now we have a closet full, but we are in the closet with everything else.

So ... as the dentist said to me, open wide! Get ready to swallow our closet and everything in it. Because not only are we IN Christ but we have Christ in us. Fortunately we do not have to swallow a closet because God has placed "Christ in Us" which is our hope. Everything that is "in Christ" is in us. Everything. Nothing left out. Every gift, manifestation and blessing that is in Christ is in us.

Christ, who contains all the things we just talked about and more, is IN us. As a believers, who are born again of God's seed, sons and daughters of God, have readily available to us all spiritual blessings because they are in Christ and Christ is in us.

Now, back to the ball popping out of the whistle: The knowledge of being in Christ and having Christ in you completely destroys the law based religious mind set that continued in the Jerusalem churches and fought so hard to destroy the teaching of the mystery. The performance based, lawful mindset pervades the organized church of today. The difference between performance based religion and Christ in you is the difference between bondage or freedom in Christ.

The manifestations are an exhibition or revealing of Christ in us. The authority and power that is exhibited in the manifestations are the authority and power of Christ in us.

In of ourselves, we have no power, it is the power of Christ in us. Devils must flee because we have Christ in us. Word of knowledge, word of wisdom and discerning of spirits is information we receive into our physical mind in an exhibition of Christ in us. When we believe the revelation and speak to the mountain; the mountain moves by the power of Christ in us. It is about Christ living his life in and through us.

The 9 manifestations are not the 9 gifts. They are the 9 ways the one gift (which is Christ in you) is exhibited. Calling the manifestations gifts causes confusion. All the talk about "I have the gift of tongues" or "my gift is prophecy" indicates a misunderstanding of what or who is being manifested. Most of what we have seen public meetings is the manifestation (exhibition) of self interests and deceit.

OK .... One more quick blow of the whistle to wrap up:

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is "Christ in you," the hope of glory:  
Col 1:27

We are in Christ and Christ is in us which is our only hope of glory. Our purpose, our calling is to allow Christ to live in and through us, manifesting the love of God in the renewed mind.



## 2. It's Christ In You, The Hope Of Glory!

2Co 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2Co 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves

2Co 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

2Co 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

2Co 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

2Co 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the Excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Paul tells us here that we have a valuable treasure in our earthen vessels. Within us is this treasure that exudes the power of God. The power of God is supposed to manifest from us in spite of the fact that we are clay pots that are far from perfect. So just what is this Treasure than Paul writes about?

Peter called it "the GIFT:

1Pe 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1Pe 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Peter also call the treasure the Spirit of glory

1 Peter 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

John Calls the Treasure the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the spirit of truth, the Spirit, the Comforter and the anointing:

1 John 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

1 John 3:25 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing (charisma) 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.

Luke writes about the Holy Spirit which is some times translated Holy Ghost in the King James. Luke also call the treasure within our earthen bodies the spirit of the Lord.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 8:39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Paul explains the treasure in more detail throughout his epistles:

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

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.

Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Galatians 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Philippians 1:19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (The Spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.)

Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Col 1:27: It is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

The Treasure, The *Chrarisma* or Gift, The spirit of God, The Holy Spirit, The spirit of Jesus Christ, Christ in you: All refer to the same Christ in you the hope of glory!

All the power, wisdom, prudence, love, mercy and grace of God is wrapped up in the one gift: Christ in you the hope of Glory. ALL; I say again; ALL spiritual blessing are in the one and only grace gift: Christ in you, The hope of Glory.

This is God's secret that was hidden from before the foundation of the earth that was first revealed to Paul. Paul calls it the "mystery."

Col 1:26-27 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

This mystery of Christ in you was and is such a dramatic victory that the bible tells us that Satan would not have crucified Jesus if he would have known about Christ in us.

The treasure, the gift of Grace, Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ: Christ in you the hope of Glory: *Charis* = Gift: *charis* - grace gift; Far more than a good feeling!

When you read in the scripture of receiving the grace of God it is saying much more than we have been taught. The theological definition of Grace is unmerited favor, but that is merrily a human definition. In God's wonderful grace that was shed upon us is far more than a sticky feeling or passing merciful moment between fits of wrath. When God extended His grace to us it came as a package far beyond our comprehension. Grace is the very nature of God. His plan was to extend the grace Gift to us from the before we were born. God's grace gift is Christ in you the hope of glory.

The raging debate and postulation about which and how many of the manifestations of Holy Spirit are available to a born again person becomes a silly question when you realize you have Christ in you. How many spiritual blessings, wisdoms and manifestations, does Christ have? Well .... ALL of them of course. It's Christ in you the hope of Glory. The whole goal of the believers life is to allow Christ to live through us. Our prideful postulation about "OUR power and our manifestations are works of the flesh and devilish. The weekly charade of false prophets and made up prophecies are just a flim-flam show designed to appear holy. If you recall, Moses put on the veil to hide the fact that the brightness of the glory was fading from his face.

The manifestation of Holy Spirit is not about a stage show on Sunday morning but it is about allowing Christ to manifest in and through us. It's Christ in you the hope of Glory.

All of the abusive controlling structure within Religious organizations are exposed to be based on human pride and devilish influence. How can any one believer claim to have a better anointing and more authority than another when both have Christ in them? Jesus said there is but one master and the rest of us are brethren.

The Greek word for the grace gift is *charisma*.

Grace is Free: You can't earn it, you can't work for it, you can only receive it.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Grace is Equal: God is no respecter of persons, there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female in Christ Jesus

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Grace is Powerful: New birth, new life (eternal), new power, new purpose: the ministry of reconciliation.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

2Co 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;

The Effects of Grace: *Charisma*

The Effects of Grace are Free: It is Christ in you, The Comforter, Holy Spirit You were/are/will be filled to overflowing with the effects of grace. (*charisma*)

Whether 50 seconds or 50 years: The effects of grace are there. If you have received *charis*, *charisma* is the result.

The Effects of Grace are Equal: God is no respecter of persons. If one got it all have it. If Paul had it you have it. It is Christ in you

The Effects of Grace are Powerful: It is Christ in you. New life that is eternal, a new purpose which to serve. New power to build up, encourage and comfort one another. New Power to stand against the devil.

The Question Of What We Do To Serve: Service Gifts (*Charisma* - Effects of Grace)

Apostle, evangelist, prophet, shepherd, teacher, mercy, giving and so on ....  
What effects of grace flow from you? Where ever you are, whoever you are just start serving God and your fellow believers in the love of God; from your "belly shall flow rivers of living water." John 7:38

The Question Of How We Serve: Manifestations: (*Charisma* - Effects of Grace)  
The Comforter always builds up and encourages toward comfort. (I Cor 14:3)

Worship Effects of Grace:

- Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Word of Prophecy

Open your mouth and speak. You breath, you move your mouth but God gives the utterance. If you have Christ in you,; *charisma* is ready to flow.

Revelation Effects of Grace:

- Word of Knowledge
- Word of Wisdom
- Discerning of Spirits

"If any lack wisdom let him ask." "We have not because we ask not."  
Study the word. God has provided a vast amount of revelation in the bible.  
Real revelation will not contradict the Bible. Watch out for the counterfeit.

Power Effects of Grace:

- Faith
- Miracles
- Gifts of Healing

The power effects of grace always follow the revelation effects of grace. We have received the *charis* of God. (Christ in you) As we live and serve the grace of God to one another the effects of grace will be impossible to hide.

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Mark 16:20

Free – equal - powerful, The treasure: Christ in you, The hope of Glory. It is not about our earthen vessels. It's about Christ in us living his life through us.

### 3. The Simplicity That Is In Christ

We live in an increasingly complex and dangerous world. Choices between good and evil have been blurred. Everything seems to be a gray area. Politicians postulate and accuse. Theologians continue to divide and redivide their followers. Around the world wars rage on, fueled by hate of other races, other religions, other nationalities and greed. Car bombs and suicide/murder bombers give terror mongers easy reach into seemingly safe communities. Floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, disease kill, maim and cause great suffering and pain. We are easily drawn into the whirlwind of fear and anxiety that whirls around us. One would wonder who's running this world anyway ..... Well, the bible tells us that it is the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air, Satan.

We live in the *kosmos*, the world system controlled, for now, by the devil. But we have great hope.. While we as believers live in this *kosmos*, we are not of the world. We are of God. We have Christ in us which is our great and only hope of glory. He is the only separator, hedge, levee, fortress that can give us victory in this life. We are securely and for eternity placed in Christ at the right hand of God. Christ in us provides all spiritual blessing here, now in the midst of the poisonous mess.

The devil does not want you to know who you are and will go to great lengths to convince you that you are without hope and subject to his curses and power. This has been the case from the moment that Paul began teaching the mystery of Christ in you the hope of glory.

2Co 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Lets work through this verse and flesh out the importance of this warning given to the believers at Corinth and also to us. First let's go to the third chapter of Genesis and briefly look at the account of the serpent beguiling Eve. Paul is saying here that just as the devil beguiled Eve, his desire and mission is to corrupt our minds also in the same way.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

The Devil's first step is to question what God has said. Eve's first mistake was to converse with the devil. We should never converse with the devil, we simply command him in Christ. He must flee. We have NO business in common with him. He must flee from us because we have Christ in us.

subtil: H6175 *aw-room'* cunning, crafty

The devil is the most crafty and cunning creature ever created. If you submit to conversation with him you will be beguiled. Just demand he go away and he must, because we have Christ in us and we are in Christ. Have you ever witnessed the so called deliverance ministries that have long conversations with the spirits, asking their names and having them talk? What you experienced was showmanship and bewitchment ending in beguiled people.

Once drawn into conversation, the devil will, as he did with Eve, question the validity of God's word.

Gen 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Be careful to notice that Eve has added to what God told them. Compare Genesis 2:15:

Gen 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God told Adam to dress and keep the garden. He did not forbid them to touch the tree in question. They were to dress it and keep it. They were just not to eat it. So Eve was drawn into conversation by the devil, listened to the crafty question and answered, adding her own interpretation: "neither shall ye touch it." Private interpretation is the "got-cha" step.

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

The third step is for the devil to call God a liar. As you can see in this account the conclusion that God is a liar is based on a false premise.

The fourth step is an accusation of selfishness and unfairness on the part of God. After all if God is a liar, He must be unfair and selfish. All lies are based on selfishness. The devil will tell you that God is partial and unfair. Notice verse five:



Gen 3:5 For God doth know (but he's not telling you) that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And Eve was convinced. God was obviously slighting her, so, she decided to take what was rightfully hers. She wanted to be equal with God. The same sin that got Satan into trouble.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

I suppose we should mention here the subtle difference between good and God's best. Please notice here that Eve, having the absolutely best of all God can give, was lured into the devil's offering of good, pleasant, desirable and self wisdom. The devil's methods have not changed. Lets go back to where we began in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians chapter 11 verse 3:

2Co 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

So, as the serpent beguiled Eve, through his subtilty, our minds can be corrupted in the same way. What does this mean for our minds to be corrupted? The Greek word used here for corrupted is Strong's G5351 *phtheiro* which means to shrivel or wither, that is, to spoil, corrupt, defile, or destroy.

In Romans 12:2 Paul tells us to "be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." The believers in Corinth had heard and believed the gospel of the mystery which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: God's best for them and us. They had, as we have, all spiritual blessings, yet we allow ourselves to be drawn away to focus and chase the devil's offering of good, pleasant, desirable and self wisdom. The devil's methods have not changed. Paul's gospel is not complicated. God choose us, birthed us, put us in Christ and placed His seed in us and birthed us into his family. We have Christ in us and He is the one and only hope of glory. There is no other.

The Corinthian believers were renewing there minds to the simplicity of the word of God. They were learning to walk in the spirit of Christ in them. Their minds were being transformed. Their lives were changing. and then, along comes the judizers; the law boys; the curses gang; the devil's offering of good, pleasant, desirable and self wisdom in the guise of religion. he devil's methods have not changed. You know, the "God didn't really save you to the uttermost" guys.

Satan is persistent. When the true gospel is taught and believed, Satan will show up with his ministers of righteousness. Be ready. Be ready with the grace of God. Be ready with Christ in you and ready to walk and talk in Christ. Be ready to manifest the love of God in power. Satan has to flee in the face of Christ in us manifested in love. He may roar but if you standing in your freedom and liberty that was bought and paid for in Christ, He must flee.

Otherwise we get drawn into the never ending performance religion game where the mind shrivels and bondage sets in again. This verse is a strong and direct warning.

Now on to the last phrase in this verse:

II Cor 11:3b ...so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The word "from", is "*apo*" a Greek preposition that indicates AWAY from. Paul is warning that our mind will shrivel away from the simplicity that is in Christ.

So just what does this word simplicity mean? It certainly is not used in the modern connotation of simple as in not very smart. According to Webster's dictionary simplicity is a noun, and means:

1. The state of being simple, that is, uncomplicated or uncompounded
2. Lack of subtlety, innocence
3. Freedom from pretense or guile, candor
4. Directness of expression, clarity

Actually there is a figure of speech at play here that contrasts the subtlety of Satan with the lack of subtlety of Christ. There is no pretense, guile, trickery, craftiness or cunning in the gospel of Christ in you. The gospel is simple, direct and clear. It is easy to communicate. Easy to understand if you are not blinded by the god of this world. There are no 613 laws to explain and interpret. There is no self interest and greed. There is no competition for power and influence. It is all about what God has accomplished in Christ. We are the blessed recipients by God's grace. God placed us in Christ at His own right hand, in heaven. He rebirthed us and placed Christ in us. Our part is to allow Christ to live in and through us.

Stop and think about the typical fire and brimstone message. Is it not based on fear? We have not received the spirit of fear. So why would we spread fear. Think about the prophetic movement's message. Is it not about personal power, greed and status? Remember the devil presents good, attractive and wizardry of many anointings and spirits..... Oh my.....

Lets look at the next verse:

2Co 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Now let's back up and read these verse in context starting in verse one:

2Co 11:1 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.

2Co 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

2Co 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2Co 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

2Co 11:5 For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.

2Co 11:6 But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been throughly made manifest among you in all things.

2Co 11:7 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?

2Co 11:8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.

2Co 11:9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

2Co 11:10 As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.

2Co 11:11 Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.

2Co 11:12 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.

2Co 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

False apostles and Satan's ministers of righteousness: An organized pattern of misdirection spread out behind Paul where ever he had been. When ever, where ever he taught the gospel of God in Christ in you, the devil's crew was sure to follow. Nothing has changed. If the gospel is taught in it's simplicity of God's grace religion will try to set in.

We who have come out of the performance based religions and have tasted the sweet freedom of God's grace and mercy must be ever vigilant to not choose to go back to bondage.

We have been set free, reconciled to God, and given the ministry of reconciliation. Our ministry, our mission, or life is to allow Christ to live in and through us. As we live our life in Christ, we will see others reconciled to the simplicity that is in Christ. We have the ministry of Reconciliation because that is the ministry of Jesus Christ. We have Christ in us: His ministry is our ministry. Our ministry is His ministry. When we launch out on any other, well, off into the *kosmos* we go, chasing our pride and self interest. It is all about Christ. Briefly, let's look at Luke chapter four:

Luk 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Luk 4:17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

Luk 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Luk 4:19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, fellow believers, now is the time that we have been placed in Christ and have Christ in us. We are his hands, his feet, his tongue. We have been anointed to preach the gospel of Christ in us, the hope, the healing for the brokenhearted, the deliverance and liberty for those in captivity.

Jesus, the anointed one: Christ. Christ is the anointing. We have Christ, His anointing, in us. We think we need to know more, to have some kind of authorization or covering from an organization, which is just a piece of paper that will rot and fade away. College degrees, ordinations, certificates of honor, all are man's wisdom and wizardry. Plant your mind firmly and without compromise on the simplicity that is in Christ; in you.

Education, training and man's approval will not, can not recover the sight to the blind, heal the brokenhearted or birth a single new child of God: That can only be done in the might and power of Christ; in you.

**You have been called,  
you have been authorized,  
you have been filled to overflowing,  
you have been sent.**

**You walk in Christ,  
with Christ in you.  
You embody and are a purveyor  
of the only hope for this dieing world:  
Christ in you.**

## 4. Do Or Done?

In the Gospel of Mark Chapter One verse 40 we will see Jesus reach out, touch a leper and miraculously heal him. But the part of the story that is usually passed over is that the healed man was required by the law to offer a sacrifice, and get the blessing of a priest before he could be declared clean enough to rejoin the community. Jesus healed him but the law still was the task master that had to be paid.

Mark 1:40-44

40 And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

42 And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

43 And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away;

44 And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

Please note that Jesus healed the man physically but then sent him to a priest because under the law he was not ceremonially clean until he performed the prescribed ritual and sacrifice. This is performance based religion at its best, but the leper and Jesus were under the law.

Many think that we are still under some form of the same law in our time period. Denominational structures are based on the concept of the Jewish Priesthood. The Priesthood's function was to administer the law and mediate between God and the "common" man.

The Roman church was set up in the third century combining paganism and the Christian religion. The Roman priesthood has blended roots in Judaism and Pagan Temple worship. The temples, robes and other vestments of highly organized paganism were incorporated with the loose network of Christian communities to create a religion controlled by Caesar. There have always been a few believers that refused to be sucked into the vortex of performance based religion. Often these believers have been persecuted by religious organizations.

As Protestant groups splintered off the Roman church, the hierarchy was retained and the rituals were modified but many of the pagan and law based traditions continued. In the denominational churches the roots are evident in the clergy, hierarchy, tithe, ritual, and performance based religion. Paul warned the believers in Colossi to beware of such:

Colossians 2:8-14

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

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:

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened (or made alive) together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; (How did he do that?)

- 1 He blotted out the handwriting of ordinances.  
(He rubbed out or erased the law)
- 2 He blotted out the ordinances that was against us.
- 3 He blotted out the ordinances which was contrary to us.
- 4 He took the ordinances (or law) out of the way.
- 5 He nailed the ordinances to his cross.

The original disciples in Jerusalem knew and walked with Jesus the man, the king who was proclaiming his kingdom to the Jews. The Jews were under the law, Jesus was under the law and his purpose was to complete and fulfill the law. He was the sacrifice once for all under the terms of the law that redeemed all who believe from the curse of the law. He rubbed the law out, erased it and took it out of the way.

The age that we live in was not discussed, but just before his ascension, Jesus told the disciples that they should wait until the day of Pentecost at which time they would receive power when the comforter or Holy Spirit would be sent.

The misunderstanding of the disciples is plainly written. Moments before the ascension, the disciples asked Jesus if he would then establish the earthly kingdom. This account is in Acts chapter one verse six.

Acts 1:6-9

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

So, the disciples huddled in fear, waiting and praying in preparation for the physical kingdom they still assumed would be established on the day of Pentecost. While they waited, they chose one of their number as a replacement for Judas. Of course the replacement was never mentioned again in the Bible.

On the day of Pentecost the comforter did indeed come. The believers were filled to overflowing with the indwelling Spirit, but they did not understand the significance of "Christ in you" because it had not been fully revealed yet. They continued as before as Jews under the law that now had the comforter within them. They continued in the temple, sacrificing, and doing all the law required. The church grew dramatically as Jews believed and swelled the ranks.

The Jews considered them a heretical sect, but still Jews. They considered themselves still Jews but a new sect that recognized the Messiah but continued following the law. This is why Peter was so taken aback when God told him to kill and eat unclean animals in his vision on the roof top where he said: "Not so Lord!"

Paul on the other hand did not walk with and learn from the man Jesus who was living under the law. The law had been completed, rubbed out and taken out of the way and was no longer in effect. Paul was met on the road to Damascus by the glorified Lord who was now the life giving spirit. (1 Cor 15:45)

On his famous trip to Damascus, Paul was met by the lord of lords, the king of kings who was not limited by the laws of Moses or a physical earth-suit. This Christ Jesus is the supplier and author of the gospel of the mystery given to Paul. Thus Paul could truly say that he was a messenger (or in the KJV apostle) of Christ, not of men or by man.



The good news of the mystery given to Paul is not the same good news of the kingdom that was proclaimed in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. If we import the law period into the present grace period we might as well read the commands to build an ark given to Noah into our period. (So, how are you doing with that ark you are building in your back yard?)

The body of Christ, Christ in you, the hope of glory was not known or told before it was given to Paul. A clear and direct revelation for our time period has been given in the Pauline epistles. The rest of the bible is given us to understand the history, the scope and background of the revelation provided to and for us. Our relationship with God through Christ is clearly set out in the first three chapters of Ephesians and is summarized in Ephesians 2:8-10:

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.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Contrast that with the procedure given to the leper by Jesus in Mark chapter one verse 44. Jesus told him: "Shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded."

Do you see the procedure and performance?

1. Go to a priest who will intercede for you.
2. Bring a sacrifice to offer.
3. The priest will offer your sacrifice for you.

Everything was conditional. Everything was based on performance. If a healed leprous Jew did everything according to the laws of Moses they would you be declared clean. No sacrificial offering? No justification.

During the Gospel time period a go-between was necessary to receive from God and required specific works. In our time period the work and sacrifice has already been done and is complete. It's not of our works: There is nothing we can do to add to the completed work and sacrifice of Jesus the Christ. He said "it is finished. And, that's just exactly what he meant.

Our relationship of grace through faith, with an indwelling Christ is a startling contrast to the normal works based gospel that permeates the modern denominational church. Performance based religion only makes you tired. Works based performance does nothing to help your relationship with God. In fact trying to earn status within the church and working to achieve holiness is completely contrary to the gospel of grace.

Are you still submitting yourself to a priest, pastor or someone you perceive to be holier than you and then doing what they command or what Moses commanded just like Jesus told the leper to do? What are you doing to be more acceptable to God? Do you think if you could just get holier that God would like you better? Ephesians says that it's not of works. It's not about our works but His. According to Colossians 1:27, we have Christ in us. There is no other human that is holier than us, or more worthy than us, or more blessed than us. We, like Paul before us, have an intimate, always ready and always listening Christ in us. Ask him: He's already done it for you.

Consider the many self appointed "prophetic" healers and pontificators holding great meetings and seminars to play the part of the holy priest receiving your sacrifices and doling out blessings if you work hard enough and bring your offering. These performances are based upon the gospel of works and not on the gospel of grace. They hope you will "pay no attention to the man behind the curtain." We live in the time of grace, the time of law and performance is past. The time of His return is nearing.

Performance based religion masquerades in a multitude of innocent sounding methods, programs and organizations. It can be very subtle and always seems so holy, but it snares you. We have been called into the body of Christ, a living and breathing entity made up of all who are called. There is only one head and only one healer. Of course all who have Christ in them have the authority and power of the one healer because we have Christ in us. None have any more or less than the next. We are all one. God is no respecter of persons.

We have been given the word of God and are instructed to rightly divide it. In spite of a myriad of translations, versions and differing manuscripts, the simplicity of the gospel of grace shines out, proclaiming the mercy and love of God, manifested in the completed work of Christ. Based on the completed work of Christ Paul can triumphantly trumpet and shout: It is NOT of our works! We are indeed the product of Christ's works. Anything that we may do that can be classified as good works originate in Christ, because that is what he called us to do. Not our own works, but his. Our calling, our life as a believer is to allow Christ to live in and through us to carry our his ministry of reconciliation.

Do you see? It is not my ministry but his. It is not your ministry but his. How often we here the discussion: "I'm not sure what my gift or calling is, God just hasn't shown me." Read the Book! We have the ministry of reconciliation. We have his ministry. There is no question what we are called to do. Yes! Each and every believer is called to the ministry. Each and every believer is ordained with the highest calling any will ever receive: It is Christ in you! It just doesn't get any better than that.

Yet religion from the very first, established a hierarchy of callings and false positions to rule over others. The only way we can stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has set us free is to know who we are and what we have been called into; and choose not to be drawn into the devilish trap of performance based religion.

We as believers are called into the body of Christ. The body has only one head and only needs one head. When believers come together it is a meeting of the blessed, the meeting of the called out ones, to encourage, build up and comfort one another. When one elevates him or herself above the others they have assumed headship. There is only one head.

Colossians 1:27 tells us that we have Christ in us, the hope of glory. Our hope, our direction, our very life flows from Christ in us. Our hope, in fact the only hope in this world is Christ in you. The only escape from the bondage of performance based religion starts in Colossians 1:27 and Ephesians 2:8-10. Soak in these verses and pull your understanding of the rest of the bible in line with these simple truths:

1. It is NOT of our works.
2. It is by God's gift of grace
3. God's grace-gift comes by faith.
4. Our faith is a gift from God. (Its not our works)
5. God's grace gift is Christ in us.
6. Christ in us is our hope of glory.

## 5. God Is Our Sufficiency

All theological debates when boiled down to the essence are arguments about the character, ability and reliability of God. Can God be trusted? Is He good for his word? Did God accomplish what he said he would in Jesus Christ. Did God really save us to uttermost or are we stuck in limbo stretched between grace and wrath?

What you believe about the character of God is the first building block in your theology and how you view yourself. A large majority of Christians can recount unfortunate experiences with abusive church organizations. Those abusive ministry models are built upon erroneous assumptions that are a result of wrongly dividing the word.

As God leads us out of abusive man centered organizations we should not be surprised when we find we have some unlearning to do. Fear and guilt have been instilled within us. If we continue in the theology of our abused past, we are destined to perpetuate the abuse wherever we go. We must be willing to learn how to rightly divide the word of truth and then renew our minds to the rightly divided truth. Look at 2 Cor 3:4 and 5:

2Co 3:4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:

2Co 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

Who is our sufficiency? God! When we try to be self-sufficient, we are looking to the flesh for sufficiency. When we look to people for sufficiency, we are looking at flesh and blood. When we look to our job and the world commerce system, and the stock market we are looking to the *kosmos* which is controlled by Satan for our sufficiency. God is our sufficiency. How sufficient is God? HE IS ALL SUFFICIENT.

We have no sufficiency in of our self. God is our sufficiency. The word of God plainly states that we as born again people have the sufficiency of God. But what does that mean? Keep your finger in 2 Corinthians but come with me to the book of Ephesians chapter one verse one:

Eph 1:2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph 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: (Now, how sufficient is that?)

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

God has made us accepted. We did NOT earn his acceptance, He made us accepted in the beloved Christ Jesus because it was HIS pleasure. He choose us before he made the world for us. We were already his accepted children before we were born.

He choose us in Christ and placed us in Christ at HIS own right hand.

Eph 1:3 In Christ, God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

All means all. All means none left out. That means that every spiritual blessing that is available to any believer is already yours because GOD has blessed you with ALL spiritual blessings. He did not leave any out. Open the book and search it from cover to cover. All spiritual blessings, promises, gifts and manifestations are already yours because you are accepted in Christ . Now THAT is God's sufficiency!

But that is not all. Look at verse 7.

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

In verse 7 God tells us we have been redeemed. Being redeemed means that God paid our ransom in full in Christ and we have been set free from the power of Satan and his curses.

We were locked in chains and slaves to the god of this world. We were without hope. Jesus didn't come with a little hack saw to work on the chains, He came and blew the chains to smithereens! The chains are gone. How redeemed are we? The bible tells us that Jesus is the propitiation for our sins. Propitiation is full payment, not the down payment or a monthly rent payment, but full and complete payment. We have been set free. Completely free! Those who tell you that you are still under curses are trying to put the devil's chains back on you. Can you say free?! Stand fast therefore in the freedom where with Christ has set us free! Gal 5:1

If you find yourself wrapped in chains, throw them off because Jesus broke the curses and the chains have no right to be on you. Find fellow believers that have discovered their freedom. We are a redeemed people. The curses have been broken. Those who tell you that you are still under curses are under a devilish delusion and

do not have your best interest at heart. We have been accepted, ransomed, forgiven and given every spiritual blessing in Christ! Now THAT is God's sufficiency!

Oh but it gets better! In verse nine it tells us that He has made the mystery of his will known to us. Around the world on Sunday morning there are rooms full of religious people begging God to come show them His will. But God tells us that he has already given us his will in Christ because it was HIS good pleasure to do it.

God is no respecter of persons. If he revealed his will to one believer then it is available to every believer. His will has been plainly revealed to us (for this time that we live in) in the revelation of the mystery to Paul. It is Christ in us the hope of Glory.

In Christ in us is all wisdom, prudence and all spiritual blessings. None have been left out. Open the book and search it from cover to cover. The blessings, promises, gifts and manifestations are already yours because you are accepted in Christ. And God has revealed His will us. Now THAT is God's sufficiency! Let's go back to 2 Corinthians chapter three verse 5:

2Co 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

If making us sufficient in Christ was not enough, God ALSO made us able ministers of the New Testament. What is the New Testament? It does not speak here of the bound book in your hand. The New Testament spoken of here is the New covenant that was cut with Jesus as both the testor and the sacrifice. Verse six:

2Co 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

The contrast here is between the Old covenant of Law and the new covenant of Christ in you. The letter kills. The spirit gives life.

2Co 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

2Co 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

2Co 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

2Co 3:10 For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

2Co 3:11 For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

2Co 3:12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

2Co 3:13 And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

2Co 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

2Co 3:15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

2Co 3:16 Nevertheless when it (their heart) shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

The contrast here is between the Old covenant of Law and the new covenant of Christ. We have Christ in us THE hope of glory. In Christ is all wisdom, prudence and all spiritual blessings. None have been left out. Open the book and search it from cover to cover. The blessings, promises, gifts and manifestations are already yours because you are accepted in Christ . And God has revealed His will us.

These verses call the old covenant of law the ministration of condemnation and death, written and engraven in stones, but calls the New Testament the covenant of the spirit that brings life. Verse 17:

2Co 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

We have Christ in us the hope of glory! In Christ in us is all liberty, wisdom, prudence and all spiritual blessings. None have been left out. They all belong to you in Christ. Open the book and search it from cover to cover. The blessings, promises, gifts and manifestations are already yours because you are accepted in Christ. And God has revealed His will in Christ in us the hope of glory. Now THAT is God's sufficiency!

2Co 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

Now that we know that God has made us sufficient in Christ and our sufficiency is of God, let's go to the book of Colossians chapter two, verse eight:

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

The traditions of men are not after Christ but are instead the rudiments of the world or as the Greek says it: "the *stoichea* of the *kosmos*." The *stoichea* of the *kosmos* are the abusive arrangements of the god of this world, Satan. If it is not the wisdom, power and sufficiency that comes by way of Christ in you it is not of God:

Col 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Col 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

You are complete in him. Now that just shouts God's sufficiency. How complete are we? Completely, completely, complete. Nothing lacking because in Christ dwells ALL yes ALL the fullness of the Godhead bodily. We have Christ in us the hope of Glory! And we are complete in Him. HE is the one and only head of ALL principality and power.

What does it mean to be complete?

Synonyms:

all, entire, filled, exhaustive, faultless, full, intact, integral, integrated, replete, thorough, unabbreviated, unabridged, unbroken, uncondensed, uncut, undiminished, undivided, unimpaired, unreduced, whole.

Antonyms:

condensed, deficient, empty, incomplete, lacking, missing, short, wanting.

Col 2:10 Boldly proclaims that: you are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power... To claim the opposite of Col 2:10 would be to say: "We are deficient in him who only claims to be the head." When we buy the lie that we are still under the law, we reject the headship of Jesus Christ and move ourselves under the "rudiments of the world," under the "traditions of men in the course of this world." And we know who runs the world right now:

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Those who tell you that you are still under curses are saying you are not complete but deficient and not fully redeemed. But God in Christ in you declares that you are complete! And I would remind you again that the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.



We have Christ in us the hope of glory! In Christ is all liberty, wisdom, prudence and all spiritual blessings. We are complete in him. Nothing has been left out. We are completely sufficient in Christ. Open the book and search it from cover to cover. The blessings, promises, gifts and manifestations are already yours because you are accepted in Christ. And God has revealed His will to us. Now THAT is God's sufficiency!

2Co 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

Don't let anyone tell you otherwise! It's Christ in you the hope of glory. In Christ you are complete.

Open the book ...

## 6. Seeing Our Calling

1Co 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

In this verse. Paul talks about "seeing" our calling. The word see is the Greek word blepo. It's Strong's number G991 which is a primary verb that literally means "to look at." Paul is saying to the believers in Corinthians and to us to look at our calling. So if we are going to look at our calling we need to know what Paul is talking out when he says "calling."

The word "calling" is a noun and is the subject of this sentence. One would think that the word calling would be used as a verb because calling in English is the present tense of called. For example I called bob; or I am calling Bob is the word being used as a verb. But here it is used as a noun. A noun is the name of a person place or thing. Perhaps an easy way to make this clear is to read Ephesians chapter four verse one.

Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Notice the word vocation. It's the same Greek word translated calling. Vocation is actually a good translation because your calling is what you have been called to be. Please note that I did not say what you are called to do. For example if you are going to build a house you will want to hire a carpenter. A carpenter does carpentry. But a carpenter is a carpenter whether they are doing carpentry or not. Sawing a board and nailing it up does not make one a carpenter even though one may be doing a form of carpentry. Although there are many who dabble in carpentry not all are carpenters. Carpentry is a vocation. Traditionally a person became a carpenter after much training by a master carpenter. The apprentice could not declare him or herself a carpenter. Only the master could declare an apprentice a carpenter. The same is true of our calling. Only the master can call us into our calling. Only after we are declared justified, sanctified and righteous by the grace of our master are we firm in our calling or vocation. Now that we have been called and installed into the calling we can begin to do the work of the calling.

Conversely, there are those who dabble in the Christian religion but may or not be Christian. Doing a ritual or wearing a robe does not make one a Christian. No amount of religious work can make one holy. You must be declared holy by the master before you can begin to do holy work. What we do as believers is a result of who we are in Christ.

Lets go back to 1Co 1:26: Look at the first phrase in verse 16: "For ye see your calling, brethren."

This is an awesome statement that reveals a central truth. If you miss this basic truth, you will be subject to the falsehoods that are perpetuated throughout Christendom. This small statement disproves the very foundation of organized performance based religion.

"For ye see your calling, brethren:" Calling is the only singular word in this sentence. Ye is you - plural, referring to all the Corinthian believers and oh by the way, every believer that has ever read this: Plural as in, many believers are included in this little word ye. The word brethren is obviously plural and the word your in the Greek is plural and even the action verb see is plural in the Greek. Only the word calling is singular. Many believers who are brethren; each seeing or literally looking at a singular calling, that they have all been called into; not many callings. There is only one calling. One and only one vocation. None are special, but are brethren. None are different, none are better than another. They are all brethren, equal in the calling. One and only one. Jesus said there is only one master and we are all brethren.

We have all been called into the same calling. Our calling is into Christ at the right hand of God. Our calling is to allow Christ to live in and through us. It is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Philippians Chapter three verse fourteen calls our calling "the high calling."

Paul writes: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phi 3:14 Please notice the word "the." We tend to be sloppy in our use of language but the Greek language was very specific. The definite article "the" identifies it's subject as distinct from all others. In other words Paul is saying that there is only one high calling. It is one of a kind. There is no other.

In Hebrews, the author calls our calling "the heavenly calling, and our profession."

Heb 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

We are brethren, sharers in the one heavenly vocation. We all have been called into the one holy heavenly profession, the one and only heavenly high calling. We are partakers. Literally we are sharers or partners in the one calling that is heavenly.

Now let's look at Second Timothy Chapter One starting in verse seven:

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2Ti 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Paul makes it abundantly plain in verse 9 here that we were not called into our holy calling because of what we have done. We did not earn the right to be called sons and daughters of God. He called us because of his own purpose and grace.

Look at your calling! We should look at our calling and understand that we have been called into a high and holy calling, a heavenly calling. We should be aware that it was not the mighty, not the powerful and famous that were called; but He called us.

Why did God pick and call us into his holy and high vocation? Because he loves us. He choose us before the foundation of the world by his mercy and grace in Christ Jesus our lord. Our hope is built on nothing less than Christ. In of our own self we are hopeless. But we have been called into the holy calling, placed in Christ, and given the greatest gift that the universe will ever know: Christ in us.

Look with me quickly at Ephesians chapter one: Have you ever wished that you could be prayed for by someone like Paul? Well, you have been. Here it is: In this passage Paul is praying for the Ephesians believers and you and I that our understanding will be enlightened and that we will know the hope of His calling. Lets start in verse 15:

Eph 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

Eph 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Eph 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

Eph 1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Eph 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Verse 18: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling ...

You see, Paul was praying that we would understand that we have been called into the same calling as he was and that we have the same Christ in us as he does. If you have Christ in you ... how much Christ did you get? Either you have Christ in you or you don't. Look at your calling! Each one of us has been called into the holy calling, His calling. We have his profession, his vocation, his calling: His Calling is the one and only calling.

Have you ever wondered about the lasting effect of prayer? Paul's prayer is still in effect after 2,000 years. Do you suppose that his prayer is effectual? He prayed for you by revelation that you would be enlightened in your understanding of the hope that comes out of His calling.

Eph 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye (plural) are called in one hope of your calling;

There is one hope. No other. None. We tend to put our hope in the stock market, money, jobs, cars, houses other people, wives, husbands: But there is only one hope. Colossians Chapter one verse 27 identifies the hope succinctly: "It's Christ in you, the hope of glory."

There is one body: It is the body of Christ. There are not many bodies divided over men's doctrines. All who have Christ in them are a part of the one body of Christ.

There is one Spirit: It is the spirit of Christ. The circus rages on, with folks running from meeting to meeting, false prophet to false prophet looking for a new and better anointing. There is only one. Christ in you. Look at your calling! Paul prayed that you would be enlightened to the hope of your calling in Christ. Some would have

you believe that the spirit is doled out one dropper full at a time. Denominational doctrine would have you running to the soda jerk at the church on the corner to get your weekly scoop of spirit. We received the gift of Spirit according to the measure of Christ. (Eph 4:7) How big is that scoop? It's big enough! Our calling, our vocation is Christ in us, the one and only hope of glory.

Lets go back to where we began in first Corinthians and read the context of the verse we started with. We will start reading in verse 17: It's always good to understand the context of verse to see the full meaning of what you are reading.

1Co 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

(preach: G2097 *euaggelizō* to announce good news)

1Co 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

(preaching: G3056 *logos*)

1Co 1:19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

1Co 1:20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? (age) hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? (*kosmos*)

1Co 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, (*kosmos*) it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. (foolishness: G3472 *mōria* silliness, that is, absurdity)

1Co 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

(called, calling: G2822 *klētos* invited,  
church: G1577 *ekklēsia* a calling out)

The church is made up of those called. (invited) If you have accepted the invitation you have been called OUT of the *kosmos* and into the body of Christ. Christ in you, the hope of glory is your power, wisdom, purification, justification and payment in full of your ransom. You have been set free from sin and death. You are a free son of God in Christ.

1Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1Co 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

1Co 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world (*kosmos*) to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world (*kosmos*) to confound the things which are mighty;

1Co 1:28 And base things of the world, (*kosmos*) and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

1Co 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, (Which is our calling) who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

(of: G1537 ek ex ek, ex out of)

1Co 1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Look at your calling! Do you see the high and holy calling that God has called you into? We are brethren, sharers in the one heavenly vocation. We all have been called into the one holy, heavenly profession, the one and only heavenly high calling. We are partakers, sharers, partners with Christ in the one calling that is heavenly.

I pray the eyes of our understanding be enlightened; and that we may know that we know that we know what is the hope of his calling.

It's Christ in you, the hope of glory.

## 7. Reaping What We Sow

Our believing is based on our thoughts, wants, greed, pride, fear and so on. We think we have to strive and struggle in our own power and then God will be obligated to respond. It always starts with us then we wonder why we did not receive what we desired. Selfish desire, even the most honorable selfish desire is still selfish and begins and ends with ourselves. When we gather all of our own thoughts, plans desires and good intentions together in a pile we only have a big pile of selfishness. As much as we would like to think we are serving others, when you get honest it always comes back to our own interests. The seeds of self always sprout and grow more self. When we sow fear and anxiety, we reap more fear and anxiety. Mankind in the flesh is by nature self centered. We are by nature, born with sin orientation and are separated from God.

Jesus said: "that which is flesh is flesh and that which is spirit is spirit. It's like there are two parallel universes existing in the same space. The physical, side by side with the spiritual. Jesus also said that flesh and blood can not inherit the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is in the spiritual realm. When we sow in the physical we reap in the physical. The promises of God and all of his blessings are reaped from the spiritual realm. We of ourselves can not reach into the spiritual realm and drag God's blessings into the physical realm.

Human beings are born body and soul. In the natural condition, humankind can not receive the things of God which are spiritual. No amount of human ritual, incantation and sacrifice can bridge the gap between the physical and spiritual realms. We are so close but oh so far away. The very nature of our physical world testifies to the presence of a creator and the spiritual realm, yet it is unreachable in our own fleshly power.

Religious rituals, inviting a seemingly distant God to come into the ritual, following of endless rules and taboos are a clear indication of a fleshly attempt to cross into the spiritual realm under our own power. It is futile. The faster we run and the harder we try to be religious the more fleshly seeds we sow. We reap the fleshly fruit: Exhaustion, frustration, jealousy, anger, fear, hopelessness, despair and bondage. When we plant a fleshly tree we get fleshly fruit. Ye shall reap what you sow.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

We are easily deceived if we are looking to ourselves or others for the answers of life. In Galatians 3:1 Paul cried:



Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among (in) you?

Gal 3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Gal 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Paul had introduced the believers at Galatia to the Gospel of the mystery, Christ in you the hope of glory, being born of God's seed by the faith given them by God in Christ. Ah .. By the way, What God sows He reaps also. He has sown His seed in us. It is Christ in us, the hope of glory. How foolish to think we are mighty enough to keep God's seed from coming to harvest?

Paul had introduced the believers at Galatia to the Gospel of the mystery, Christ in you the hope of glory, being born of God's seed by the faith given them by God in Christ. Yet they allowed fleshly religious folks to steer them back into the bondage of the law and performance based religion. They began to sow to the flesh again. We reap what we sow. Spiritually and in the flesh. How easy it is and how we so quickly bite into the fleshly fruits that at first seem so sweet. Our pride is a powerful thing. We want it to be about us. We sow to the flesh so well. The end result is a life of misery, discontent, sadness and envy. Back to Gal 6:8:

Gal 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

How sad to choose to live under the law of sin and death reaping the fruit of confusion and bondage while at the same time ignoring the seed of God within you:

1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

God is not mocked. What mockery of God we attempt; in our selfish performance, building human organizations and calling them church of God. We set up hierarchies and take authority that is not ours and lead others away from the peace, love and rest that is in Christ. It's kind of like a couple of guys in a horse suit trying to make everyone think they are really a horse. God is not mocked. We reap what we sow.

But, Thanks be to God who also reaps what He sows. If not we would be without hope. He has sown His seed in us: Christ in us, the hope of glory. We have the greatest of hope, actually we have the only hope: Christ in us.

Look at verse 8 again; the second half of the verse:

Gal 6:8b ..but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

As believers we have a choice of seed. Unbelievers do not have a choice. They can only broadcast fleshly seed and harvest fleshly fruit that leads to death. Although we were born body and soul, God has birthed us again as His spiritual children. He placed Christ in us; the one and only hope of glory. When we sow to the spirit we harvest spiritual fruit: Let's look at Gal 5:22:

Gal 5:23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Fruit is the Greek word *karpos*. *Karpos* means "the result." The result of planting an apple seed is apples or the fruit. The apple seed dies in the process of becoming an apple tree and the end result is the manifestation of the fruit or apples. The result of human seed is a human offspring. Bean seeds produce the fruit of the bean plant which are beans. The fruit or result of sowing to the spirit is love, joy peace and so on.

Many would tell you that you have to force yourself to love, be joyful, peaceful and so on to become "spiritual." But that is fleshly seed that when sown leads to misery. The love of God, Joy and peace is the result of spiritual seed sprouting and manifesting in your life.

We have Christ in us; the life giving spirit; holy spirit; the Comforter; that became available on the day of Pentecost.

Gal 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Spiritually, we died and were crucified with him because God has placed us in Christ and we share fully in all that he has done and will do. Christ is in us. We also rose with him and ascended with him and now sit at the right hand of God with him, spiritually.

Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Paul addresses this directly in Romans Chapter eight. Let's take a look:

Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind (mind set) the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

(Keep in mind Gal 6:8b “..but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”)

Rom 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.

Rom 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

We will pause at this verse because I don't want you to miss this wonderful promise. Our "mortal" bodies refers to this flesh and bones body that serves as our earth suit while we are here on earth. Christ in us is the cure; the healing we look for; the abilities and energy to serve .....

Did you ever wonder where Paul got the energy to get up and walk to the next town and proclaim the gospel..... the day after being left for dead after being stoned? Here's the answer. Here is our hope of glory, Here is the healing we all yearn for. Are we sowing to the spirit or to the flesh? Check your fruit. seed only produces after it's own kind. Spirit produces spiritual fruit, flesh produces .... well, you know.

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Rom 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

Rom 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

We are creatures like no other. We as believers are body, soul and reborn spirit. We choose moment to moment, heart beat to heartbeat whether we sow to the flesh or the spirit. We reap from both as we sow. If you have read Romans Chapter seven you know that there is a persistent struggle between the flesh and the spirit. We choose which we follow.

The Eighth Chapter of Romans starts the discussion of the role of Christ in you in the renewed mind. In the renewed mind we can be transformed by knowing and believing the rightly divided word of God. The rightly divided word of God is the words that the spirit energizes.

God has made a way for us to receive His spiritual blessings into the physical world. We need to know how to receive from God. God has given each one of us the gift. The Gift is Christ in us the hope of glory. The gift also is referred to as Holy Spirit, "the spirit, The Comforter, The spirit of his son, the life giving spirit and in many other ways in the bible. Our gift is the indwelling eternal life gift. This is the one gift that we will receive from God. In this Gift are ALL spiritual blessings. This Gift of Christ in us truly is our great hope of glory.

The one gift has 9 manifestations or nine ways that Christ in us is brought into evidence in the physical world. These nine manifestations of the one gift are how we sow to the spirit. The result of the manifestations of the one gift are the fruit of the spirit. The more you manifest the gift, the more fruit of the spirit you will experience.

Our goal and indeed our calling is allow Christ to live in and through us. The manifestations are the workings of Christ in us to bring all spiritual blessings into evidence in the physical realm.

In any given situation we can choose to react in a fleshly way or we can ask God to give us word of knowledge and word of wisdom. If we believe and act as God spiritually directs then we have walked in the spirit. If not, we walk in the flesh. The manifestations are given to us for 24/7 life and are not for show and tell as we have been taught.

Contrary to the clicking, clucking, shaking, slaying, braying, kicking, yelling, look at me: I'm so holy, tom-foolery that is so common, the manifestations are a peaceful every second part of a believer's life. The manifestations of word of knowledge, word of wisdom and discerning of spirits are freely given to keep us informed in situations that the 5 fleshly senses can not.

The manifestations of believing, miracles, and gifts of healing are the way we impart or carry out the works of Christ in us. And then of course the manifestation of speaking in tongues is our way to pray perfectly privately. Speaking in tongues with interpretation and word of prophecy are for edification, encouragement and comforting our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The key to sowing to the spirit instead of the flesh is that the sowing must start with Christ in us. The beauty of the manifestations is that they only operate in the love of God. Believing equals receiving and we reap what we sow: Two ways of saying the same thing.

If we start off with an intention to impress or to make ourselves look good there will be no manifestation of the gift. And there will be no fruit of the spirit, but fruit of the flesh only. The manifestations are not performances any more than breathing is. The manifestations are just a supernatural part of a believer's life.

Do you recall Jesus ever kicking, hitting or slapping anyone that he healed? Then why would we expect Christ in us to tell us to do something like that? All it took was for someone to touch his garment for the manifestation to take place. No one saw anything or heard anything. But the woman had joy and a miraculous healing which is fruit or result of the spirit.

Gal 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

We are all masters at living and sowing to the flesh. We all know the fruits of the flesh very well. We however, are less versed in the fruit of the spirit: The joy, love, peace longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance that overcomes our lives as we manifest Christ in us, the hope of glory.

Believing equals receiving. We reap what we sow. The purpose of partnership one another is to build up, encourage and comfort one another. Please pray for me and the household of faith that I have been called into that we encourage one another to sow to the spirit and comfort one another when we find that we have sown to the flesh. It is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

## 8. The Return of Christ

Paul writes this letter to a group of believers that are only a few months into their new life as Christians. The second letter to the Thessalonians was written about 6 months after the first letter.

In the first letter Paul reiterates what he had taught while he was there. Paul's time in the town of Thessalonica was brief: only a few weeks. Paul had told them about the promised return of Christ but two major questions had come up: First, some had died and now there were questions about what would happen to those who die before Christ returns. Second, there was a false rumor moving through the church that Christ had already returned and they had been left behind.

The combination of the information provided in these two letters gives a good basic summary of the return of Christ. We would do well to understand this basic and direct teaching of Paul concerning the return of Christ. Using this as a foundation, those who are so inclined can delve into Daniel, Revelations and the many other scriptures that illuminate the future events in a figurative way.

Paul's letters to Thessalonica are unique, because they contain very little reference to the Old Testament. Contrast that with the book of Romans which was written years later to a group with many converted Hebrews. The book of Romans has extensive references to the old Hebrew writings.

For modern Christians with a limited understanding of the Old Testament and Hebrew idioms, the two little books of Thessalonians are a straight forward and easy to understand place to begin. The Thessalonian letters and the letter to the Galatians are the earliest New Testament books written by Paul. These three books give the most basic and easiest to understand description of the gospel as revealed to Paul.

Once we are fully versed in Galatians and Thessalonians, Paul's later writings from prison to the churches at Colossae, Ephesus and Philippi give a fuller revelation of the gospel as it relates to us in this time period. After that a study of the book of Romans rounds out the understanding of how the gospel of the mystery is related to the old covenant with Abraham and later the laws of Moses. This is the approach that will help recovering performance based religion addicts understand the rest and peace that we have been called into. Religion addiction, like all other addictions, is based upon false assumptions and expectations. We should not be surprised when the word of God proves our assumptions wrong. When that happens, rejoice! And be glad! Praise Him for His truth. Rest in His mercy and grace.

Lack of understanding of the mystery gospel of Paul leads to performance based religion. When our relationship with God starts anywhere but Christ in us, we miss

the whole point of Christianity and end in the bondage of religion. We are not a religious people. We are a Christ people. Christianity is not a religion. Religion is about WHAT you do to become acceptable to God. Christianity is about WHO we are in Christ because of what God has done. Once the WHO question is decisively answered, the “what we do” question is just a supernatural result of Christ in us, which is who we are. Look with me at the verses in First Thessalonians that describe the coming of Christ for his saints:

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, (dead) that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

I can think of no subject that has had more sensationalism and hype applied than the second coming of Christ and the resurrection of the dead. There seems to be an endless number of theories plus all of the Hollywood images that mix eastern and pagan philosophies into an everything goes tradition. This tradition has been melded into the traditional Christian religion of our day. All of these sources are to be rejected in the face of the simple and direct writings of Paul. Paul says he does not want us to be ignorant. Then he proceeds to lay out the simplicity of what will happen. The verses speak for themselves:

1 Thessalonians 4

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, (dead) that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep (are dead) in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, (revelation) that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep. (dead)

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

## 1 Thessalonians 5

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, (they: third person, those outside the body: unbelievers.) Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

(Ye: you plural, brethren: the believers. We are not in the dark, we have Christ in us the hope of glory. Evidently there is something that we should be looking for to warn us of the time.)

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Listen closely to what Paul is telling us here. This flies in the face of the religious idea that we are hapless, helpless sinners waiting to be judged by a vengeful God. Religion would tell you that you just don't know for sure until the judgment day whether or not you measure up. What a bunch of hoo-haw! We have Christ in us! God has made us to sit in the heavenlies IN Christ at the right hand of God. There is no question that we are children of light and not left in the dark. If you have been born of God's seed, and have Christ in you, God is talking to you. You are not left in the dark. Wake up! Listen, watch! Remember Romans 8:1? "There is therefore now no condemnation to those of us that are in Christ Jesus.

5 Ye are all the children of light, (Do you remember 1Jn 1:5 "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." If God is light, and we are born of God's seed then we are the children of light.) Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.



9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Now, lets go to the second letter to the Thessalonians Chapter two, verse one. After hearing the first letter from Paul, two major questions concerning Christ's return overwhelmed the church in Thessalonica. Some misunderstood and stopped working because they thought Christ would return at any moment. They were living off others and not contributing to the community of believers. There were still others that believed the false rumor that Christ had already returned and they were left behind.

Paul clarifies the expected return of Christ and gives important insight into the appearing of the "man of sin" and the "falling away" that will precede Christ's return, which is our sign that the time is near:

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. (is already come)

(NIV VERSE 2: "not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.")

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: [for that day shall not come,] except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2Th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

2Th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. (what withholdeth? Paul just told us: the man of sin.)

Now you know! Paul just told you why you can be sure that Christ has not already come because the man of sin has not been revealed yet but he will be revealed in his time.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, (letteth = holds back) until he be taken out of the way. (Come into being out of the midst.)

King James “taken out” is the Greek 1096 *ginomai* to become, i.e. to come into existence, begin to be, receive being.

The word “of “ in this verse is the Greek 1537 *ek* which means out of.

King James “the way” is 3319 *mesos* which means in the midst of or amongst.

Look at this verse in Green’s Interlinear:

7 For the mystery of lawlessness Already is working, only He is restraining now, until He comes out of the midst.

The King James, mystery of iniquity: The secret of sin or the sinful secret, was already at work in the first century. The devil has a plan and he is working his plan to pull the church away from the truth. What is the truth? The simple gospel of the mystery: Christ in you; you in Christ at the right hand of God; the body of Christ; each individual an equal member; fully sharing in the calling and ministry of Christ.

The devil has made significant progress. When will the man of sin, the son of perdition come into being in the midst of us? Only God knows. But Paul tells us here that it will be our sign of the times. We will know and we have not been left in the dark. We won’t have to guess if it’s him. We will know it.

2Th 2:8 And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2Th 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; (why?) because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

2Th 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

2Th 2:14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (We have obtained the glory! It's Christ in you the hope of glory!)

2Th 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions (Paul's gospel) which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

2Th 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, (Not works but grace)

2Th 2:17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

2Th 1:12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

So there it is; the word of God, written by revelation by Paul, the master builder. Paul, the one who received the revelation of the mystery: The body of Christ, Christ in you the hope of glory, a new race, a new man, all things new, where there is neither male nor female, Jew or gentile, but we are all one in Christ.

This is the revelation of God concerning the return of Christ. Straight forward: Simple. This is who we are. This is what will happen. This is what we are to look for. Watch and be ready. We can make it more complicated if we want to but ..... Why join in with the children of the night?

Paul comforts and encourages us to not be deceived or discouraged. He exhorts them (and us) to stick with the gospel they received from him. They would be soon visited by the judizers from Jerusalem. We too, have been indoctrinated by the descendants of the judizers. Many in Thessalonica, along with most in the other early churches were deceived and bewitched into going back under the laws of Moses and into bondage. Only a remnant, throughout the past two centuries, have lived free, manifesting and walking in Christ.

We must watch and wait,  
We must sink into the breastplate:  
The breastplate of faith and love,  
Living in the hope of Christ in us,  
Which is our helmet of salvation.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has set us free and be not ensnared again in the yoke of bondage.

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