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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Colossians 2:4-15
Lesson #8
"In Christ"
03/15/2026

A robust, healthy faith is
Bible based, New Covenant
rooted, Christ centered, and:





- ✓ Cognitively **convincing**.
- ✓ Emotionally **moving**.
- ✓ Morally **transforming**.
- ✓ Spiritually **healing**.
- ✓ Culturally **inspiring**.
- ✓ Socially **connecting**.



We **IN** Christ

What Christ
has done
FOR us


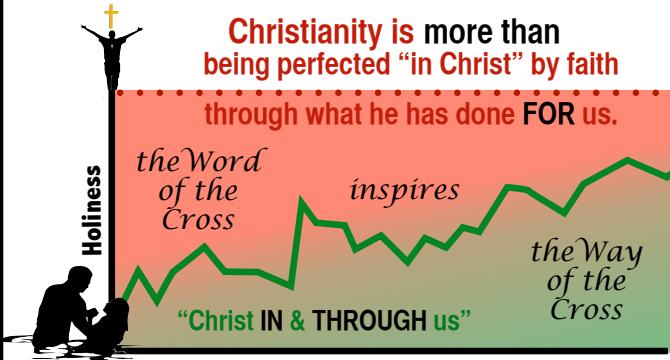


Christ **IN** us

What Christ
can do **IN &**
THROUGH us

When our identity & inheritance are realized
they should inspire & empower us
to a life of worship / service.
That is the context of Col.2:4-15

How does being "in Christ" impact "Christ in us"?

The Epistles address **early church** challenges
that find a parallel in **modern western culture**

1. Distorted tensions between Faith and Works.
 - **Marcionism** - dismissed the O.T. all together while embracing only Paul's letters.
 - **Libertarianism** - defined grace as antinomian freedom.
 - **Judaizers** - notarized saving faith by keeping the Mosaic Law.
 - **Legalism** - demanding conformance to 1) moral traditions (Roman Catholics) or 2) Fundamentalists (moral or philosophical).
2. Conflicts between finished and continuing special revelation
 - **Gnosticism** - personal spiritual knowledge displaces the material.
 - **New Age spirituality** - human spiritualism
 - **Montanism** - a 2nd cent. prophetic revival
 - **Additional revelation** - through a 1) Magisterium (Roman Catholic) or 2) a charismatic "word from God" (Pentecostalism), 3) new books (Mormonism)

As the Body of Christ, bearing God's image, Christians should
EXPERIENCE the Word and Way of the Gospel "in Christ".

EXPECT to share the suffering of the Body of Christ
EXPOSE the Gospel of (past) mysteries in Christ.
EXPORT this Gospel to the world, making disciples of Christ.
EXPLORE the fullness of one's inheritance "in Christ".

Colossians 2

"4 I say this in order that no one may **delude you with persuasive argument**. 5 For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith **in Christ**."

- Christians should expect challenges to the Christian life and message as they share it in this world.
- Doubts are inevitable and unavoidable, and **being unprepared to address them is inexcusable**.

As the Body of Christ, bearing God's image, Christians:
EXPERIENCE the Word and Way of the Gospel of Christ.
EXPLORE the full depth of our inheritance "in Christ".

Colossians 2

"6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude."

- Accepting the Grace of God in Christ by faith is a solid initiation and foundation for Christian faith.

Philippians 2

"12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed,..., **work out your salvation** with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

We work out our salvation through:

The image of God in us.

The imputed virtue of God for us.

The indwelling Spirit of God within us.

The instruction of God's word before us.

We work out our salvation turned over our lives to the Spirit of God.

Galatians 2:20

"I have been **crucified with Christ** and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me**. The life I now live in the body, **I live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

As the Body of Christ, bearing God's image, Christians:
EXPERIENCE the Word and Way of the Gospel of Christ.
EXPLORE the full depth of our inheritance "in Christ".

Colossians 2

"8 See to it that no one **takes you captive** through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."

- Understanding "worldly principles" is important in resisting them.
- Defending the faith calls for preparation - sensitivity (understanding, humility, respect) for the opposition.

1 Peter 3:15

"Always **be prepared to give a defense** to everyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with **gentleness and respect**."

As the Body of Christ, bearing God's image, Christians:
EXPERIENCE the Word and Way of the Gospel of Christ.
EXPLORE the full depth of our inheritance "in Christ".

Colossians 2

"9 For **in Him** all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and **in Him** you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

11 and **in Him** you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; 12 having been buried **with Him** in baptism, in which you were also raised up **with Him** through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

13 And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together **with Him**, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them **through Him**."

The treasure chest of being "IN CHRIST"

Explained in the Epistles Col.2:4-15
 Exposed in the Gospels Lk.24:46-49
 Expected in the O.T. Jer.31:31-34.

- ✓ It is our connection the **true Gospel**. (vs.4)
- ✓ It is our basis of **faith**. (vs.5)
- ✓ It is our motivation to **walk**. (vs.6)
- ✓ It is our **root** and **building** of life. (vs.7)
- ✓ It is our **escape** from darkness. (vs.8)
- ✓ It is our **example** for living. (vs.9)
- ✓ It is our link with the **Lord of all**. (vs.10)
- ✓ It is our mark of **identity** as Christians. (vs.11)
- ✓ It is our union with the **passion of Christ**. (vs.12)
- ✓ It is our **eternal life** together with Christ. (vs.13)
- ✓ It is our **pardon** from sin. (vs.14)
- ✓ It is our **security** from Satan. (vs.15)

The "IN CHRIST" package

Ephesians 1 (this is one sentence in the Greek text)

"3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every **spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places **in Christ**, 4 just as He **chose** us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He **predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His **grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved**. 7 **In Him** we have **redemption** through His blood, the **forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of His grace, 8 which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He **made known to us the mystery** of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed **in Him** 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the **summing up of all things in Christ**, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. **In Him** 11 also we have obtained an **inheritance**, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to **hope in Christ** should be to the praise of His glory. 13 **In Him**, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were **sealed in Him** with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a **pledge of our inheritance**, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

Be careful what you say to yourself because your soul is listening.

The worst lies we tell are the ones we tell to ourselves about ourselves and God.

This is why the Apostles spend so much time reminding us of who we are and what we have **“in Christ”**.



“work out your salvation”

The pattern of Paul’s letters

*What Christ has done **for & in** us.*

*What Christ is doing **in and through** us.*

*Our **position** in Christ by **grace** through **faith***

*Our **behavior** by Christ’s Spirit through **discipline***

Affirmation

Exhortation

Who we are and what we have

What we can do with it in this life

“work out your salvation”

Live a life of service / worship

Give yourself

Don’t kill your appetite for soul food because your stuffed up with junk food.

Get over yourself

Be in touch with the deepest longings of your soul

Identify yourself with the Gospel of Christ.

Accept yourself

Know yourself

“work out your salvation”

The strongest argument for the Christian Faith

is the power of the Gospel message as it speaks to the core of the human soul’s deep longing for serenity, significance, security, and survival.

The Christian narrative addresses “core of Life” Questions like:

- **Mortality** - Why do we die?
- **Meaning** - Why do we live?
- **Morality** - Why is there “right” & “wrong”?
- **Mankind** - Why are humans so unique?
- **Management** - Why is life so hard?
- **Mysticism** - Why is religion so common?
- **Misery** - Why do humans commit suicide?

Blaise Pascal

“There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.”

St Augustine

“You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You.”

Colossians

Next week
Col.2:16-23

Don't live
in the
shadows.

