



NEW Testament Introduction

1. A new addition - Inspired Scripture
2. A new message - The Word of life
3. A new covenant - The Biblical context
4. A new lifestyle - The Way of the Cross
5. A new nature - The Spirit of Christ
6. A new Israel - The Body of Christ
7. A new mission - The Disciples of Christ
8. A new hope - The Return of Christ

The Gospel was a mystery (shadow) until it was revealed to the Apostles.

Hebrews 10:1
 “The law has but a **shadow** of the good things to come, instead of the true form of these realities.”

John 16:13
 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth**; . . . and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

Ephesians 3
 “4 the **mystery** of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has **now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit**.”



What do evangelicals think is at the heart of the Christian Message?

- **Scriptural truth** - Biblical authority
- **Systematic theology** - denominations
- **Soul winning** - world evangelism
- **Spirit filling** - charismatic baptism
- **Social justice** - world reform
- **Something else** - ?

1 Corinthians 1
 “11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. 12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, **“I am of Paul,”** and **“I of Apollos,”** and **“I of Cephas,”** and **“I of Christ.”** 13 **Has Christ been divided?**”

1 Corinthians 3:11
 “For no man can lay a **foundation** other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

The Body of Christ is not defined **denominationally**.
“Major on majors and minor on minors.”
“The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing.”

The great symbols of the Christian faith are **NOT**



The Law



The towel and basin



Crown of a King

reminding us of the life of Jesus

The great symbols of the Christian faith **ARE**



The Cross



The Lord's Supper



Baptism

reminding us of the death and resurrection of Jesus

The emphasis of the Four Gospels is **JESUS' CRUCIFIXION and RESURRECTION.**

Jesus' teaching and miracles

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Jesus' Passion and Resurrection

Jesus' 3 year ministry

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

The Death & Resurrection

The emphasis of the Epistles

NOTE: Jesus is seldom quoted nor are his miracles and ethical teachings emphasized.

Epistles

The MESSAGE is centered in Christ and our faith response to God's grace in our:

living worship of God Significance

Indwelling Spirit of God Security

Imputed holiness of God Serenity

Implanted image of God Status

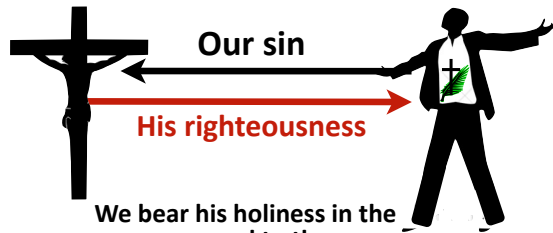
God **Jesus** Man

Once we understand the Cross we see that what stands between us & God is not our sin so much as faith in Jesus.

The great exchange

2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”



We bear his holiness in the same way and to the same extent that he bore our sin.

Three great imputations

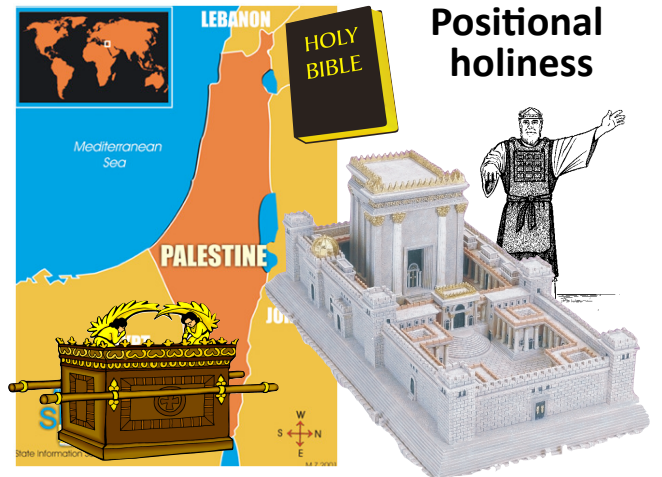


Positional righteousness

- ✓ It is a declaration & not experiential.
- ✓ It is finished & not a process.
- ✓ It fully satisfies the demands of a perfectly holy God.
- ✓ It is not conditioned on human merit.
- ✓ It is not notarized by moral reform.
- ✓ **It must be learned through teaching & applied by faith.**

Christ's work FOR us

Positional holiness



Water baptism

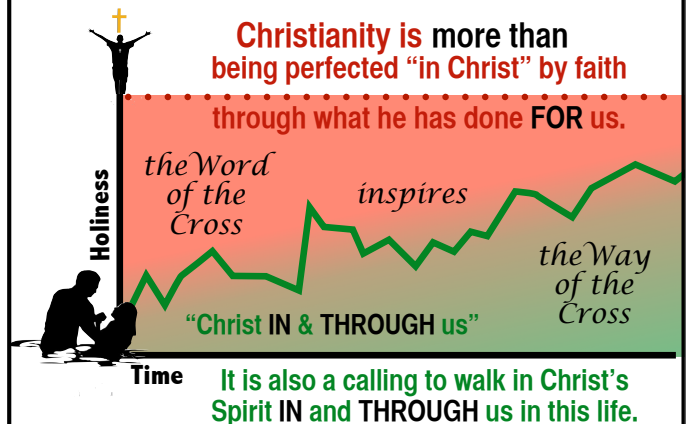
is a positional washing of believers.

“... baptism now saves you, not the washing of the filth of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 3:21

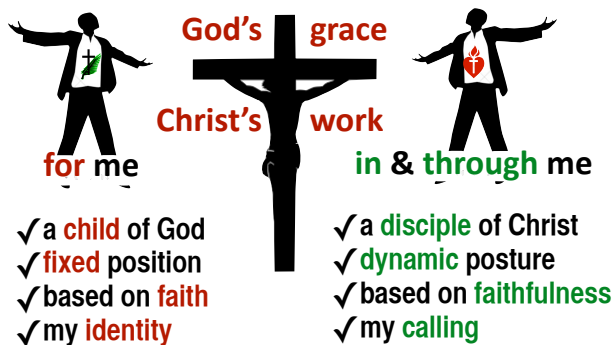


How does being “in Christ” impact “Christ in us”?



THE MAIN THING

The **WORD** and the **WAY** of the CROSS



The **NEW** message is the **GOSPEL**
as the Word and Way of the Cross

It is not the kind of gospel that
“the world”(in the 1st cent. or our day)
would make up -

1 Corinthians 1

“23 but **we preach Christ crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

- but for the called it is
“good news”.

“work out your salvation”



“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.”

