

The Gospel of Righteousness 3

Colossians 1:26-29 (The Message) *This mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open. God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out, regardless of their background, regardless of their religious standing. The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you, so therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. It's that simple. That is the substance of our Message. We preach Christ, warning people not to add to the Message. We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less. That's what I'm working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me.*

CHRIST IS IN YOU!

Last week we ended with a question – “Why can we believe that a person can be demon possessed but not Christ possessed?” We seem to have more faith in the devil and all his “power” than we do in God and His power! In fact, the devil no longer has any power! Christ defeated him through his death, burial and resurrection! *“And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”* (Colossians 2:15)

I believe that when Jesus spoke the words “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” from the cross, He was not only seeing those mocking Him, and those that were carrying out the role of his physical crucifixion, but He was looking down the ages at you, and I and all mankind. He was seeing all of the Laws of God being broken by us – the stealing, the covetousness, the murder of the innocent, including infanticides, abortions and euthanasia of the elderly, the exploitation of the poor. Every single sin everyone would ever commit (most of it in ignorance of what we would be doing to Him), because He had to go into hell and pay the price for each and every one. Only after we have been born again and get an inkling of revelation of that fact would we realize it was our sin that did it! We also have to realize that the price was paid! By grace we have been forgiven! By grace through faith we have been saved from an eternity in hell!

Satan’s kingdom disintegrated when Jesus conquered him and after the resurrection, Jesus handed the authority over to mankind. We once more became, spiritually, just as Adam was before the fall. Genesis 1:26 (The Message) God spoke: *“Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the*

sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature.

From this passage we see that Adam not only had complete authority on the earth, but he was in God's image, with God's nature and likeness! This is the state that Jesus, through His sacrifice and victory returned us to spiritually! Man is spirit, but this human spirit has a soul and is housed in a body that enables the spirit man to gather information from and interact with the environment of earth! Once more, instead of being ruled by the soul (mind, will and emotions) we, as born- again believers became as Adam was – governed by the spirit instead of the soul. We also communicate with God as Adam did – spirit to Spirit!

The reborn spirit man has total and complete authority over everything else – including the devil!

As we look at Genesis, 1 we note that God spoke, and everything He spoke came into existence and what is more – it was all good! We are made in His image and likeness. The words of the believer have the power to create! Our health, wealth, destiny, emotional state and everything in the world around us is influenced by our words – positive or negative. Proverbs 18:21 (AMP) *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life].* We have authority over everything!

The Bible says that we have Christ in us 1 John 4:4 (AMP) *4Little children, you are of God [you belong to Him] and have [already] defeated and overcome them [the agents of the antichrist], because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world.* And in Colossians 1:27 (NKJV) *To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

As we said before, much of Paul's teaching is centered around this revelation – that when an individual becomes born-again Christ takes up residence inside Galatians 2:20 (AMP) *20I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

Many religious folk shout heresy at the very thought that the believer has been elevated to the same status as Jesus – this is why some of them reject Paul's teachings and they are so sick and defeated and die

prematurely! We either believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God or we don't! We either believe that it is the inspired Word of God and means exactly what it says, or we don't!

I choose to believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God! It is not subject to opinion or debate! It says what it means, it means what it says! I am who it says I am; I can do what it says I can do!

Really, I am sorry for those who don't believe that because they are saved but because they do not know who they are in Christ and do not know their authority in Christ, they place themselves back under the control of the demonic forces of the world - hence the defeated lives, sickness, death and the fear of the future!

The sad part is that when calamities come then they blame it on God and say He put the calamity on them to teach them something or draw them closer to Him!

Wake up! God has already given us all He has to give! He has already positioned us in Christ in Heavenly places! What more can He do?

Awaken the gift in you! Believe the word! Get a revelation of it all!