

Living in Christ

Colossians 2 v 6 – 15

"Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to *live in Him*, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the Faith, as you have been taught, and overflowing with thankfulness". **v 6 – 7**

- i) **v 6** *Continue in Christ – this is just the beginning! Our Faith walk is a journey with many obstacles and challenges.*
"Our hope is that you continue to grow in your faith."

2 Corinthians 10 v 15

- ii) **v 7** *Cemented in Christ – grounded in a sure foundation, which will not be shaken.*

"Put on the full armour of God that you may stand your ground when evil comes your way, and that, at the end, you may stand firm." **Ephesians 6 v 13**

- iii) **v 8** *Concentrated on Christ – don't be swayed from the truth by deceivers and sweet-talkers.*

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author, finisher and perfecter of our faith." **Hebrews 12 v 2**

- iv) **v 9 – 10** *Centred on Christ – in all your decision making and choices, make Jesus Christ the Lord of all you do and undertake.*

"Young man of God, flee ungodliness, and rather, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith love endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the promise of eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses, in the sight of God." **1 Timothy 6 v 11 – 13**

- v) **v 11 – 15** *Conformed into Christ – Day by day, as you grow in your Faith, aim to be more and more Christ-like.*

"For those whom God has known, He has also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, Jesus Christ."

Romans 8 v 29

.....as you have been taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" **v 7**

Belonging to Christ

Galatians 3 v 23 – 27

"Now, in Christ Jesus, you are all God's children, through faith. For, as you were indeed baptised into Christ, and, therefore, into a spiritual union and communion with Him – the Anointed One, the Messiah – you have actually clothed yourself in Christ, Himself." **v 26 – 27**

"Clothed yourself in Christ" – means others cannot see us, but only Christ.

Christ is Perfection

Christ is Purity

Yet I am Hurting, Broken, Unworthy, Lame

Psalms 103 v 1 – 4 "...Who forgives all your sins, and heals all your diseases..."

Psalms 51 v 1 – 9 "...cleanse me from my sin (**v 2**)...wash me and I will be whiter than snow(**v 7**)...blot out all my iniquities (**v11**)."

Revelations 22 v 14 & 17 "'Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of Life...Come! Whoever is thirsty, let him come and partake of the free gift of the water of Life."

...and yet...we are still in need of healing.

Do you hurt? Do you feel broken? Somewhat unworthy? Lame?

O, that Christ would pass by!

Acts 3 v 1 – 10 The crippled beggar – how much worse could it get?

He sat and begged at the gate called "Beautiful"!

But he sought tangible help – money to get him through.

No expectation of getting healed. He would have begged all his life.

He was broken, hurting, unworthy and lame.

Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none, but what I do have I'll give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ – Get up!" **v 6**

What did he do?

Are we sitting at the gate called "Beautiful"?

Do we settle for scraping through with all our baggage?

Jesus once asked a lame man – "Do you want to be healed?" **John 5 v 6**

When we clothe ourselves in Christ we become "...a new creation..."

2 Corinthians 5 v 17

So, being baptised into Christ does not allow for us to be hurting, broken, unworthy or lame. We belong to Him! And are in union with Him.

Dying with Christ

Romans 6 v 5 – 11

"So, if we died with Christ, we believe we will also live with Him;I want you to count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in and through Christ Jesus". **v 9 & 11**

The wonderful relationship between God the Father and God the Son. Our access to this relationship depends on our willingness to DIE WITH CHRIST. – "...if we died with Him, we will also live with Him..." **v 5 &** repeated in **v 9**

John 8 v 34 & 36 "...everyone who sins becomes a slave to sin...but if the Son (Jesus Christ) sets you free, you will indeed be set free."

v 5 Freed from Self – BURYING *me and my desires*

v 6 - 7 Freed from Sin – BURYING *my old life and old nature*

v 8 – 9 Freed from Death – BURYING *myself in Christ's death*

v 10 – 11 Freed to live in fellowship with God – BURYING my love of the world.

"Dying" is an expression of: *no longer living for any other purpose.*

Romans 7 v 6 "But now, dying to that which once bound us, we have been released from the law of death, and now serve God in the new way of the Holy Spirit."

God doesn't want dead believers, He wants us, "to offer our bodies as LIVING SACRIFICES, holy and pleasing to God, for this is your spiritual act of worship to Him." **Romans 12 v 1**

Christ died that we might have life.

1 Peter 2 v 24 "He bore our sins in His body, on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live unto righteousness; for by His wounds you have been healed."

So it is as though I myself have died.

Philippians 1 v 20 – 21 "May I not be ashamed, but will have the courage for Christ to be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For, to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."