

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

January 29, 2017

STAY IN CHRIST

A healthy fish lays on the deck of a boat. It flops a little, then just lays there. It cannot swim, take in oxygen, or eat, all the things that are natural to fish. I do not know if it has any awareness of what has happened to it. It is still a fish, but if it stays out of the water it will soon die. Water is the only environment it can live in.

Jesus said *"Abide in me, and I in you."* John 15:4 These words describe two different conditions in our walk with God. One is *"Christ in you,"* the other is *"You in Christ."* Without *"Christ in you,"* you are dead. Without *"You in Christ,"* you will die. Christ is *"our life."* Colossians 3:4 He is the life we have received within, but he is also the only *"environment"* we can live in.

Paul wrote, *"Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."* Romans 8:9 To be *"born again"* is not just a new philosophy of living. It is a real birth. If you are a child of God, the Spirit of Christ Jesus has come into you and changed everything about you. In the moment of your new birth, your sins were washed away, and your old man was found *"crucified with Christ"* where *"the body of sin was destroyed."* Romans 6:6 God gave you a new heart with his law written in it, Hebrews 10:16 and you were sanctified *"holy"* by the shed blood of Christ. Hebrews 13:12 Paul said the *"Spirit of his*

Son” came in “crying Abba, Father.” Galatians 4:6 This spontaneous hunger and cry from within to worship God and abide in his presence is one of the greatest evidences that there has been a new birth. This newborn child of God is no longer a sinner. Christ has come in and they have become “*a new creature.*” II Corinthians 5:17

Christ is not only the life that has come into the children of God, he is also the habitation, or kingdom, where God’s children live. Jesus’ admonition to “*Abide in me, and I in you,*” was not an admonition to himself. Christ comes into us to stay. His admonishment is for us to stay in him. His words carry with them a warning. “*As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, **except ye abide in me.***” John 15:4 Jesus also said, “***If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.***” John 15:6

The word “*abide*” simply means “to stay.” Every child of God is “*born again*” in Christ. They do not have to “get in Christ.” They only need to stay in Christ and they will thrive and “*bring forth much fruit.*” John 15:5 In Christ they will find that sin has no dominion over them Romans 6:14 and Satan has no place in them. With Christ as the kingdom they live in, they find life to be “*righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*” Romans 14:7 In Christ, serving God in victory is as natural as a fish swimming in water. For these, there is no struggle to serve God. Christ lives in them and they thrive in Christ. These serve God in simple faith and communion with the Lord. Paul told us the secret of this walk saying, “As (in that manner) ye have

therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so (in that manner) walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

Colossians 2:6-7 None of the glories of salvation came to you through religious effort, but they were freely given to you through simple faith in Christ. Jesus said, "*Repent and believe the gospel,*" and you did. You simply trusted him, and he changed everything. This is also how you are to walk in him. Believe the gospel and trust in Christ. Ephesians 1:13

It is sad, but true, that most people are led out of Christ from the pulpit. Paul warned of this saying, "*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.*" Colossians 2:8 Simply put, they will give you every answer except Christ. It may be the "Law," the "how to," the "striving," the "principles," or just accept that "we are all just sinners." None of this works for a child of God. They cannot live as a sinner because the life within them is repulsed by sin. The "Laws" of religion only deepen their struggle. The "how to" does not work for them, and the "principles" leave them empty and dry. They feel like the fish, flopping and gasping for spiritual breath. They sense something is wrong, but do not comprehend what has happened to them. They are told "Don't worry about it. This is just a normal thing for a Christian." They do not understand that they have been given a gospel of religious flesh; and religious flesh is death to the children of God. It is an "air" that we cannot breathe. This is what Paul was warning of when

he said, *“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die...”*

Romans 8:13 **“Christ is our life! He is our breath! He is our habitation! If we simply stay in him, WE LIVE!**