

**Simply Christ**  
Gospel Newsletter  
*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

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## **A Place to Live**

I often write and preach about the freedom Christ's death on the cross accomplished in the children of God. The Apostle Paul summarizes this work, saying, "*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*" Romans 6:6. So real and powerful is this work that though the simple act of believing the truth we are "*made free from sin.*" Romans 6:18. Yet, for many, this glorious liberty of the children of God is quickly stolen away by the fallacies they are fed from pulpit.

Consider the difference between the "profession" of the modern church and what the word of God actually says. Paul instructs the believer to "*...reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" Romans 6:11. Yet, in spite of this clear instruction from God's word, Christians are daily told to confess "We are all sinners and we sin every day." These are opposite and opposing statements. One recognizes the reality of what Christ did on the cross that makes us free from sin. The other denies Christ's work of deliverance and clings to the false hope that sinful creatures will inherit eternal glory.

The Apostle Paul understood that we stand by faith, that is, we believe the truth and trust in Christ to fulfill his word in us. **When the truth is replaced with a fallacy, faith is changed into delusion.** This is why the apostles stood so strong in defense of the truth. In the gospel, seeing and believing the truth of the glory of Christ causes us to be *“changed into the same image.”* II Corinthians 3:18.

Because Paul understood the importance of seeing the truth of what was accomplished in Christ for the child of God, he prayed that *“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know ... what is **the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.”*** Ephesians 1:18-21. It is here that Paul begins to show us more concerning what was accomplished for the believer through Christ’s resurrection and ascension into glory. Both of these events speak of something *“wrought in Christ”* which brings a glorious reality to the child of God.

The Apostle Peter tells us God has *“...begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”* I Peter 1:3. The power for us to be *“born again”* as new creatures in Christ was accomplished when the Spirit of God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Paul says God

has *"...quicken'd us together with Christ."* Ephesians 2:5. Just as Christ's death on the cross delivered us from sin, His resurrection gave us the same life that was in Christ Jesus. John 1:4. We are not just *"children of God by faith."* Galatians 3:26. Paul says, *"And because ye are sons, **God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.**"* Galatians 4:6. What began with faith on our part, culminated with the very Spirit of Christ coming into us in its full life-giving power. As the Apostle John wrote, *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God...!"* 1 John 3:2.

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are given life. But there is still more! Paul says God not only *"quicken'd us together with Christ,"* but he also *"raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:"* Ephesians 2:6. God not only gave us the life of Christ within, He also gave us a glorious place to live! He calls this *"...heavenly places in Christ Jesus."* It is a kingdom of *"righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."* Romans 14:17.

God gave us wonderful insight into this *"heavenly place"* through the prophet Isaiah. He spoke of a time when *"...God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you."* Isaiah 35:4. This God did when Jesus Christ offered himself upon the cross. The prophet continued, saying, *"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing..."* Isaiah 35:5-6. These great miracles were seen in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, but they are also seen

every time a sinner turns to Christ and is *"...delivered from the power of darkness, and hath translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son:"* Colossians 1:13. In this *"heavenly place,"* those who were once deaf, blind, dumb, and lame, now hear, see, leap for joy, and sing praise to the King of glory." As the song "Amazing Grace" proclaims, "I was blind but now I see!"

This *"heavenly place"* is filled with *"springs of water,"* and Isaiah said, ***"No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:"*** Isaiah 35:9. Satan, as a roaring lion, may walk through this world seeking and finding those he can devour, but be assured Christ has given you a land to live in where there is no roaring lion. There is not a single devil or any other unclean spirit in Christ. God has lifted his children up in Christ to a place far above all such things. You may hear the roar of the lion from beneath, but he cannot devour you.

There is no unclean thing or person in this kingdom God has made for his children to walk in. The prophecy says, *"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; **the unclean shall not pass over it...**"* Isaiah 35:8. God was again speaking of this kingdom when he said, ***"Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified."*** Isaiah 60:21.

This is not a land for after we die. Paul says these *"heavenly places"* are *"in Christ."* All that is *"in*

*Christ*” is prepared for you today. In eternity we will not only be “*in Christ*,” we will be “with Christ.” Consider this and let it be established in your faith and in your heart. **In the death of Christ, we are delivered from sin; in the resurrection of Christ, we are given life; and in the ascension of Christ, we are given a place to live!** Jesus spoke of this the day before his crucifixion, saying, “*I go to prepare a place for you.*” John 14:2.