

## **UNTIL CHRIST BE FORMED IN YOU**

- \* We have ***diluted*** and ***watered down*** what our salvation is all about!
  - \* Our ***redemption*** is so much more than we are living!!!!
  - \* Throughout scripture we see phrases like:
    - “Old things have passed away and new things have come”
    - “Take on the new self”
    - “Your old nature died”
    - “Be raised in newness of life”
    - “Be imitators of God like little children”
    - “Walk as He walked”
    - “You have the mind of Christ”
    - “Let Christ be formed in you”
  - \* Remember, the Lord’s command to His Church is to “go unto the world and make **disciples**”, not go and make converts!
- I. We must realize and accept that we are NOTHING without the Lord!

### **Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV)**

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live **when you followed the ways of this world** and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. **3** All of us also lived among them at one time, **gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts**. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. **4** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is **by grace you have been saved**. **6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7** in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and **this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast**. **10** For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- A. I constantly hear people say, “Well, I’ve lived a good life, tried to do the right thing and haven’t hurt anybody...I’m okay with God!”
1. “I’ve helped other people and have been benevolent”
  2. “I try to always treat people right”
  3. “I’m a good person at heart”

B. All of this may be true, but without Christ, we are separated from God!

1. Because of the Fall of Man we all have a Nature of Sin!

**Romans 5:17 (NIV)**

**17** For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

2. We are dead in that Nature of Sin!

3. Only Jesus, the perfect Man, can bridge this gap!

**1 Corinthians 1:29-31 (NLT)**

**29** As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. **30** God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. **31** Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord."

4. Jesus freed us from our Nature of Sin!!

C. After this freedom from the dead Nature of Sin, God equipped us to use this new life to bless others!

**1 Peter 4:10-11 (NLT)**

**10** God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. **11** Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

1. This brings Glory to God!!!!!!!!!!!!

2. God supplies the strength, energy, and ability!!!

D. There are "Judaizers" in the Body of Christ today!! Don't fall for their message!

1. Judaizers were Christians who decided to adopt Jewish customs, primarily the Law, in order to **win approval and favor** with God!

2. Many messages being preached today as gospel and faith explains all the things we **MUST** do in order to win God's approval!!!

3. This is Paul's explanation to the Galatians in dealing with such messages!!!

### **Galatians 3:1-5 (NLT)**

**3** Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. **2** Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. **3** How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? **4** Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? **5** I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ.

II. After Paul's dealings with the Galatians concerning "our efforts in gaining God's approval", he makes an incredible statement!

### **Galatians 4:19 (NLT)**

**19** Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives.

A. "Until Christ is formed in you!!!"

1. Wait, I thought "old things left, and new things came" at salvation!
2. Can you be a Christian and NOT have Christ?
3. The key to understanding Paul's remarks to Galatia is in the words "**fully developed.**"
4. In other words, do we act like Jesus? Think like Jesus? Do we love like Jesus?
5. Paul had previously told them earlier in the letter...

### **Galatians 2:20 (NIV)**

**20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

B. The continued **theme of redemption** throughout scripture is, "**the inward work of salvation should change my outward life.**"

1. **Romans 13:13-14 (NIV)**

**13** Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. **14** Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

## **2. Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)**

**1** Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children **2** and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## **3. 1 Peter 1:13-16 (NIV)**

**13** Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. **14** As obedient children do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. **15** But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; **16** for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

C. This "new life" is contrary to the "old life" of our sinful nature!

D. Jesus gave us the answer in...

## **John 15:4-5 (NIV)**

**4** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. **5** "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.