

In Christ:

How important is being In Christ?

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Always remember Jesus did it all and we merit no credit for our salvation.

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of [*his*] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

These verses teach how to get into Christ.

Galatians 3:26-29 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye [*be*] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Let us make a list of the blessings in Christ or in Him cf:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Glorious is the thought that justification in God's sight is now available to all people, not upon the basis of their success in keeping the commandments of any law, nor upon the basis of their having achieved any degree of moral perfection, or even excellence, and not upon the basis of their fulfilling any kind of law whatever ... the sole basis is coming to Christ in the appointed way ...

Freely ... is appropriate, because nothing that man could ever do in a million years of righteous living could ever earn the tiniest fraction of the salvation God gives to people in Christ.

The redemption that is in Christ ... The expression "in Christ" is, in some ways, the most important expression in all the Pauline writings, where this expression, or its equivalent, "in whom," "in him," etc., is used no less than 169 times.

Rom. 8:1[*There is*] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

This is a shout of victory contrasting with the wail of despair which closed the seventh chapter such as

Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?,

The transition from the bleak and depressing condition of the unregenerated there, to the enthusiastic and joyful optimism of 8:1, being signaled by the adverb "now."

Rom. 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Christ Jesus our Lord ... is the final word of this flourishing burst of eloquence; and it brings the mind back to the major proposition underlying all that Paul wrote, that salvation is "in Christ" alone, and that the totality of the Christian's hope derives from the fact of his having been in faith and repentance baptized into Christ

Rom. 12:5 So we, [*being*] many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

What does it mean to be "in Christ"? It means to be in his spiritual body, called the church, the body of which Christ is the head, of which he is declared to be the Saviour, and which means having a spiritual relationship to Christ, a relationship of intimate union and identification with him.

I Cor. 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

In Christ Jesus ... In Christ alone is there salvation; and in Christ the saved possess all things not just these 4 things. In Christ is the only true ground of justification in the eyes of God. Jesus is perfect, holy, undefiled, righteous in the superlative degree. In Christ and as Christ it is true also that Christians are holy, righteous, ... It is not their righteousness, of course, in the sense that they achieved it; but it is theirs in the sense that Christ achieved it and they "are Christ," being members of his spiritual body.

1 Cor. 3:11 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, [*even*] as unto babes in Christ.

1 Cor. 4:15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet [*have ye*] not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

I Cor. 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

II Cor. 1:20-22 For all the promises of God in him [*are*] yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, [*is*] God;

22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Three things in these verses - (1) the anointing; (2) the sealing; and (3) the giving of the earnest are all references to one action, that of conversion - by which the believer is united with Christ "in Christ." This action, as evident on Pentecost, was a compound act of obedience: believing, repenting, being baptized, receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

II Cor. 2:14 Now thanks [*be*] unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

Such a triumph in the Roman world always featured the conquering of many captives which were led behind, some to be freed, others to be slaughtered as a feature of the spectacle; and Paul's appeal to this triumph metaphor envisioned Christ as the great Conqueror who leads all people, whether they will or not;

II Cor. 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which [*vail*] is done away in Christ.

II Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man [*be*] in Christ, [*he is*] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Paul had just written that all people are dead spiritually, a deadness that shall never abate unless they are risen again IN CHRIST. In Christ, a new spiritual life is given to the convert; in Christ all of his previous sins are cancelled; in Christ he is endowed with the Holy Spirit; in Christ a new and glorious life begins

18 And all things [are] of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.⁴

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech [you] by us: we pray [you] in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

The great substitutionary passages of Isaiah 53 are behind such a declaration as this. Christ bore the sins of all people; his stripes were the healing of all people; his chastisement was the peace of all people; his suffering was the salvation of all people. "God laid upon him the iniquity of us all."

The righteousness of God ... All of the righteousness of God ever achieved upon earth was wrought by Jesus our Lord. Those who would participate in the righteousness of God must do so "in him," that is, "in Christ." It

Galatians 1:22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:

Gal. 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified

Gal. 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Eph. 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Chosen us does not mean He has chosen us and rejected others but rather God chose a plan which is to have a people for Himself which is the Church of Christ cf: Titus 1:2. Holiness is the proof that we are in Christ or in Him.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

We are sold into bondage to sin, Christ redeemed or bought us back from sin and the price He paid to buy us back was His blood.

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [*even*] in him:

Fullness of time is the last age beginning at the birth of Jesus cf: Galatians 4:4. It is also known as the last days, cf: Hebrews 1:1-2, or the last dispensation. The “mystery of His will” in V:9 is that He has gathered together all things, both Jew and Gentile. They are gathered together in one family and united as a body under one head which is Christ, who is over all things, angels and humans.

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Inheritance, cf: I Corinthians 2:9, is everlasting life which fits in the predestinated plan that the church is made up of His adopted children. This was brought about by God’s own power working throughout the ages, cf: Genesis 3:15, 22:15-18, II Samuel 7:12-16, II Timothy 2:8, Galatians 3:16 & Galatians 3:26-29.

13 In whom ye also [*trusted*], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Eph. 2:6 And hath raised [*us*] up together, and made [*us*] sit together in heavenly [*places*] in Christ Jesus:

**Buried into the death of Christ, we are risen up with Him cf:
Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**

Risen as new creatures to walk with the risen Christ with our minds on heavenly things cf:

Ephesians 2:10-14 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.³

It is God who has saved us as new creatures that He has made through the gospel. We are therefore His workmanship designed to henceforth abound in good works. God has always ordained that all who believe the gospel and are saved should practice good works. God hath graciously quickened us, saved us and made us new creatures and prepared us unto good works.

11 Wherefore remember, that ye [*being*] in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Once so far off and separated from God they have been brought nigh and the means that brought them is the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition [*between us*];

Jesus is the creator of peace between Jew and Gentile and between alienated man and God. Jew and Gentile are one the old distinctions are destroyed in Christ. All are on the same footing before God. Jesus hath broken down or ended the Law of Moses which built up a wall between the Jews and Gentiles.

Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [*stone*];

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

All brethren are built into the Temple of God. God's word as declared by the Apostles and prophets is the foundation of their faith. The corner stone was a stone of double size at the corner which became part of both walls and joined them together. Jesus has joined Jew and Gentile in the Temple of God. He is the foundation stone upon which the building rests and the stone of union.

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

The Shekinah righteousness of God descended and dwelt in the Holy of Holies between the cherubim above the Ark of the covenant. But now God by means of the Holy Spirit dwells in the spiritual temple in the hearts of all believers. This new temple is composed of living stones.

Eph. 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

The old wall is broken down both Jew and Gentile are heirs alike of the gospel. Both are fellow members and fellow partakers of the Church of Christ.

Gal 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

10-12 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly [*places*] might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

To the intent – this mystery was hidden through all the ages but is now revealed in order that the manifold over and over wisdom of God is made known by both preaching and announcing the gospel to all V:9 Jews, Gentiles and angelic beings both good and bad.

11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

The one and only purpose that God in all ages and through all time purposed within Himself to save all by Jesus Christ our Lord.

I Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Both Jew and Gentile can come boldly to God. Notice the definite article the before faith it means the gospel the faith or the way the pure religion established by Jesus Christ. Without the revelation of Christ we would not know of God's love.

Phil. 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons

14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

Phil. 2:1 If [*there be*] therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Phil. 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

9-10 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Col. 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace [*be*] unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Col. 2:3-7 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.²

4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, [*so*] walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Col. 2:8-14 8 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.^{3 4}

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with [*him*] through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

I Thess. 4:14-17 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [*and*] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.⁷

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive [*and*] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

II Tim. 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called [*us*] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

II Tim. 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory

All the above verses teach the benefits of being in Christ or in Him.

These verses teach how to get into Christ.

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Sources: KJV, the Word.com, Coffman's Commentaries