

Total Involvement With Christ

Introduction:

- A. Texts: Col.2:12,20; 3:1-4.
 - 1. "With Christ" and "with Him" are used three times each in these passages.
 - 2. He is emphasizing the total involvement we have with Christ as Christians.
 - 3. He is emphasizing that "Christ is all and in all."
- B. This truth is emphasized in other declarations: Col.1:18; 3:17; Gal.2:20.
- C. We cannot substitute another – Acts 4:12.
- D. In this lesson we will emphasize many passages which depict the process of our total involvement with Christ in our effort to go to heaven.

I. Dead With Christ – Crucified.

- A. We must crucify the old man – Rom.6:1-8.
 - 1. Jesus willingly put to death His fleshly body when He died on the cross of Calvary.
 - 2. Symbolically we must put to death our sinful flesh – Rom.6:6,2; Col.3:5; Gal.5:24; Rom.6:12.
- B. We die with Christ by crucifying the old man of sin, and this is repentance – 1 Pet.4:1,2.
- C. We are dead with Him – Gal.2:20.

II. Buried With Christ – Baptism.

- A. After He was crucified the body of Jesus was buried.
- B. We must not only be crucified with Him but also buried with Him – Rom.6:4; Col.2:12.
 - 1. Christ's burial drew the line between the life He lived in the flesh and the new glorious life to which He was raised.
 - 2. In the same way baptism draws the line of separation between the old man of sin and the new man of righteousness.
- C. We must bury the dead, penitent man.
 - 1. Only the penitent man is prepared for burial – only he has put to death the old man of sin.

III. Raised With Christ – Made Alive.

- A. Christ's life, aims, and purposes would have been wasted without His resurrection.
 - 1. He was raised to new life – Rom.6:10.
- B. Likewise we are buried with Him and raised to walk in newness of life – Rom.6:4,5; Col.2:12.
- C. And like Christ, we are raised to:
 - 1. Be made alive – Eph.2:5,6.
 - 2. Newness of life – cf.Rom.6:4.
 - 3. Forgiveness – Col.2:13.
- D. You cannot be raised to walk in newness of life with Christ until you have been buried with Him.

IV. Your Life Hid With Christ.

- A. A life hid – Col.3:1-4.
 - 1. Hid means to hide or conceal.
 - 2. Paul said he lived as Christ lived in Him – Gal.2:20.
 - a. Christ becomes our life – cf.Col.3:4.
- B. What we were, is hid by what we become, through Christ.
 - 1. We follow His example – 1 Jn.3:3.
- C. It means that our old life is now hid by the new life in Christ we now live.
 - 1. The old man is dead and buried – hid.
- D. You can't be hid with Christ until you die with Him, are buried with Him and raised with Him.

V. We Reign With Christ as Kings and Priests.

- A. The word reign carries with it the idea of royalty.
 - 1. Christians are said to be royal priests – 1 Pet.2:9.
 - 2. Jesus cleansed us in His blood and made us kings and priests – Rev.1:5,6.
 - 3. 2 Tim.2:11,12– *“11 Faithful is the saying: For if we died with him, we shall also live with him: 12 if we endure, **we shall also reign with him: if we shall deny him, he also will deny us:”***
 - 4. Jesus is reigning now and will reign until the end comes – 1 Cor.15:24,25.
- B. The Corinthians had reigned with Christ but had departed from Him – 1 Cor.4:8.
 - 1. Paul longed to reign with them again.
 - 2. We reign now – Rom.5:17.
- C. You cannot reign with Christ until you have died with Him, been buried, raised and hid with Him.

VI. Suffering With Christ – Persecution.

- A. "If we suffer" we will reign – 2 Tim.2:11,12.
 - 1. We suffer in changing our lives – Rom.12:1; 2 Tim.3:12.
- B. We suffer through trials.

VII. Joint-Heirs With Christ – Our Inheritance.

- A. Rom.8:17– *“and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and **joint-heirs with Christ...**”*
- B. Jesus has been appointed heir of all things – Heb.1:2.
 - 1. We become heirs also and for the same reason – Gal.4:7.
 - a. We have been begotten unto an inheritance – 1 Pet.1:3-5.
- C. No one can be an heir with Christ unless they have joined with Christ in all the other areas we have discussed.

Conclusion:

- A. 1 Thess.4:17– *“then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and **so shall we ever be with the Lord.**”*
 - 1. Eternity with Christ depends upon what precedes it.
 - 2. Have you died with Him, been buried, raised and hid with Him?
 - 3. If not, you cannot spend eternity with Him.
- B. Why not obey Him today?