



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Our Dear Prayer Supporter,

Thank you for being part of this ministry as we share His Word to people in many lands - through missionary broadcasting; missionary literature and by missionary Internet.

We encourage you to prayerfully read and share the following article: "***Dying to Live.***" We gladly give permission for you to duplicate and distribute copies to other people. May this biblical theme bless many believers to enter in to the sufficiency of our Lord Jesus Christ in their daily walk. Yes, it is "*Christ in you the hope of glory.*"

Through your gracious gifts, CCIM continues to expand the extensive missionary outreach of proclaiming His Word. Again, we draw your attention to our pioneer ministry in Turkana land, NW Kenya, which borders Uganda, Southern Sudan and Ethiopia. The "*Turkana Family Devotional*" contains the "*Dorothy's Daily Devotional*" program in the Turkana and Swahili languages. These broadcasts include the reading of the Bible in the Turkana language. Because of the terrible dearth of Bibles among these Satanically-bound peoples, it is vital that these precious people receive the liberating power of the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your prayers and involvement make all the difference as we serve Him together for His glory.

Yours, because of Calvary,

Responses from Turkana Land Radio Listeners:

I am writing to tell you that my wife has really changed since she started listening to your Turkana program of "*Dorothy's Daily Devotionals.*" She does not complain much and is no longer involved in drinking! Please keep doing this good job through your broadcasts. Today, I listened with her to your program.

How are you? I always listen to your program even though I am not a Christian. I think what you say is the truth. I know one day I shall be a believer. Anonymous

I thank God everyday I wake up because it is another opportunity to listen to the Word of God and testify of His goodness. I have been sick for a very long time. My daughter does everything for me, but I thank God that I can listen to your program through radio!

I am blessed by your program and listen when I am able. I am an elderly woman married as a first wife in my husband's home. I really get discouraged most times; now my husband has found a second woman whom he spends all the money and time with. My children cannot go to school, and I am left to fend for them. The money I make from weaving baskets is not enough but I try to feed them and get them a few things. Please pray for my husband. I am not the only woman going through this. Most women my age go through the same and most of them end up being drunkards from the local brew. Please pray for the Turkana community.

I am not a believer but go to church occasionally. I believe that God hears your prayers. Please pray for me as I need to take my children to school but have not money and I do not want them to be illiterate like me.

Your program is really good. Can you also talk about how God values women in society? I have heard you talking about the women in the Bible and I am encouraged but my community does not value us. Please pray for the women in Turkana land.

Text message: I have been listening to your program and reading my Bible. I have some questions: Does God really love the Turkana people as He loves the Israelites? Why do we suffer more than the other Kenyans and yet God is supposed to love everyone?



Dying to Live

by Richard A. Bennett

With our heartfelt greetings, we rejoice with you that: “Christ is Risen!” His resurrection life is the source of all our heavenly blessings. “. . . our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” 2 Timothy 1:10.

In John’s gospel, chapter three, the word “**must**” is mentioned twice. There is the “must” for the sinner and there is a “must” for the Savior. When the Lord Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, a leading rabbi, He clearly said: “Ye **must** be born again” (v.7). This was followed by: “*The Son of Man must be lifted up*” (v.14). These two vital imperatives are foundational for New Life in Christ: The “must” of new birth and the “must” of the atoning Blood the Lord Jesus shed when He was lifted up on the Cross.

At the new birth, a sinner is, “*delivered from the power of darkness, and . . . translated into the kingdom of His dear Son; in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins*” Colossians 1:13,14. Such a radical experience is not merely “a decision for Christ,” nor even a willingness “to serve the Lord.” No! It is being translated out of Satan’s kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son.

We were blessed today to receive the following testimony: “Dorothy, five years ago, the Lord used your message, ‘Christ in you, the hope of glory’ . . . Now I can truly say I understand that I am a child of God. He chose you to be His vessel to help me come out of horrible darkness into His marvelous light.”

Little wonder that this lady’s testimony expressed such joy when we read in Romans 8:1: “*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.*” Three potent phrases are: “**Therefore**”; “**No condemnation**,” “**In Christ Jesus**” — each of which carry vital significance.

“Therefore”

Whenever in the Bible we read “therefore,” we ask, what is it there for? In this context the Apostle Paul develops his theme with this wonderful consequence of the previous seven chapters of Romans.

The theme was introduced in the first chapter with the life-transforming phrase: “*The Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation*” (v.16). Then, having developed his teaching about sin; justification by faith, and the grace of God, Paul’s progresses with his incisive teaching in chapter six: “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?*” (v.3). In turn, we also ask the questions: “Who is the baptizing agent?” “When does this baptism take place?”

The baptizing agent is the Holy Spirit: “*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body*” 1Corinthians 12:13. Every truly born-again believer has been wrenched from the kingdom of darkness, and by His Spirit translated into the Body of Christ. The wonderful fact is: “*If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*” 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Much time and energy is spent today in an effort to mop up puddles resulting from aborted births while the all-important theme of new life in Christ receives little attention. Christ, and Christ alone, is the Fountainhead of new life. He is totally adequate to meet the demands of life and to triumph through a born-again believer in days which would otherwise be days of despair. Truly, Christ is risen indeed!

Though Paul taught this wonderful truth, in Romans chapter seven, he humbly testified that His new life in Christ was daunted by two inner conflicts: (i) “*What I would, that I do not*” (ii) “*What I hate that I do*” (v.15). Such an ongoing battle between the residual aspects of the flesh, and the resurrection life of the Savior, caused Paul to lament: “*O wretched man that I am, Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*”(v.4). Surely this is strange language in today’s humanistic society which exalts self-love and self-pleasing!

In fact, we are solemnly warned that: “*If ye live after the flesh ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live*” Romans 8:13. Before being born-again, the body expressed habit patterns from our sin nature in thought as well as in action.

After being born-again, as part of His “*new creation,*” God provides a wonderful way of deliverance through the Divine Executioner - the Holy Spirit! A continual dependence upon, and cooperation with, the indwelling Holy Spirit alone will render inoperative (*mortify*) the deeds of the body. A good admonition for us all is to: “*Set your affections on things above, not on things on earth*” Colossians 3:2.

Dorothy and I well remember arriving at a Pastor’s house on the Canadian Prairies. He warmly greeted us and said, “Please excuse me, make yourself at home but I need to view the body of a newly deceased member of our congregation. The family is expecting me at this time.” Upon returning home, the Pastor had a smile on his face. “I can’t help laughing,” he said, “As I was about to view the corpse lying in the coffin, a lady in front of me gazing at the dead body (which the cosmetician had beautified giving a life-like appearance) suddenly said: ‘My, doesn’t she look well!’” A dressed-up dead body with the appearance of life!

Sadly, the “flesh” will gladly volunteer to become absorbed in the busyness of Christian activity but will lack a personal and vital communion with the living God through His Word! “*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal*” 1 Corinthians 13:1. Only by the indwelling life of our risen Lord Jesus Christ can agape (heavenly) love be expressed. All else will ring with a hollowness of spiritual unreality, and be void of any personal concern to share Christ with others.

By God’s grace, when we walk in the Spirit, He will snatch resurrection victory out of the grave of apparent defeat: “*That like as Christ was raised from the dead . . . we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection*” Romans 6:5.

“No Condemnation”

This joyous acclamation inspired Charles Wesley to write . . . **“No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.”**

Before Charles Wesley’s brother, John, entered into such glorious assurance, he painfully discovered the impotence of his “flesh” to serve the Lord Jesus. As a minister and missionary, John Wesley gladly linked-up with a Moravian mission. He left England to go to an Indian reservation in Georgia, USA. “I went to convert the Indians,” he confessed, “but soon discovered that which I least of all expected: I who went to convert others was not myself converted to God!” Returning to England a despondent man, John Wesley attended a prayer meeting at Aldersgate Mission. He testified that, there he had a ‘heartwarming experience’ and ‘the Holy Spirit bore witness with my spirit that I was now a child of God’ (see Romans 8:16). Such is the glorious heritage of every born-again believer!

“In Christ”

We are told that the truth of a believer being “in Christ,” is mentioned 77 times in the New Testament. This is not insignificant! In Colossians 2:20; 3:1 we read: “*Wherefore, if [since] you be dead with Christ . . . If [since] you then be risen with Christ.*” These truths are further developed in verse 3: “*You are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*”

It has been said that the word “pregnant” is a derivative from the word “hid.” An expectant mother carries her unborn baby in her womb in a perfect environment providing it with both nourishment and protection. This little life is a classic illustration of how the believer’s life is “*hid with Christ in God*” awaiting that glorious day “*When **Christ, who is our life,** shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in glory*” Colossians 3:4.

This liberating truth of being “in Christ” is also emphasized in Romans chapter 6, verses 1-11:

(v.3) - “*Baptized into His death*”

(v.4) - “*Buried with Him by baptism into death*”

(v.5) - *Union with Him: “In the likeness of His death we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.”*

Even more astonishing is the fact that: “*God who is rich in mercy . . . has quickened us together with Christ . . . by grace you are saved. . . and hath **raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus***” Ephesians 2:4. Yes, we are raised to sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. For the believer this is absolutely staggering!

I well remember a dark dismal rainy morning in Bellingham. A friend picked me up in an old yellow Volkswagen to take me to the local satellite airport. The windshield wipers went ‘clickety-click.’ As the gusts of wind blew across the car I thought: “What a nasty day!” Arriving at the airport I dashed over the wet tarmac, took my place in a ten-seater plane and sat crouched in my wet clothes. As the pilot welcomed the passengers he said: “This is a British built plane; but I have to warn you, though fuel efficient, it is very noisy.” He was right! Again I thought: “What a nasty day!” However, soon we roared down the runway and penetrated a low cloud ceiling just as the morning sun peeped over the eastern horizon. Now emerging above the clouds I gazed down to view the carpet of billowy clouds bathed in silver and golden rays. I mused: “What a wonderful day to be alive!” It was all a matter of perspective!

Are you, am I, living below the threatening clouds which herald family crisis, health crisis or cosmic catastrophe? Or, does our faith daily rejoice in the wonder of our position in Christ? From that perspective, nothing can touch us without it first going through Him, in whom our life is hid! Then, by faith we will say: “What a wonderful day to be alive in Christ!”

As Paul prayed for the Christians in Ephesus, so Dorothy and I pray for you and for ourselves that: “*the eyes of your understanding be enlightened; that ye may know . . . what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us.*” Ephesians 1:18,19.

Dying to Live!

In Christ I died:

In Christ I rose:

In Christ I triumphed over my foes:

In Christ in heaven I took my seat:

And heaven rejoiced at hell’s defeat.
