

## **Christ Within Me**

### **November 27, 2005**

#### **Philip. 2:1-15 (NKJV)**

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, [2] fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. [3] Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. [4] Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

[5] Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, [6] who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, [7] but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. [9] Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, [10] that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, [11] and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

[12] Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; [13] for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.** [14] Do all things without complaining and disputing, [15] that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

**For the past three weeks** I have been preaching a series of sermons on the subject of being crucified with Christ. I am going to continue with that series today but I am changing the name of it to **Christ Within Me.**

#### **The Apostle Paul wrote....**

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

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, **but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Paul tells me that when I received Christ, I became a new person. I was born again. The person I was before I was born again no longer exists. The old me died and was buried with Christ. I am a new creation. The thing that makes me different than I was before is that Christ now lives within me.

**Last week I talked about how Christ not only lives within me and you but collectively we are His body here on the earth.**

**Christ is the head of the church. We are His body.**

**Ephes. 5:30 (NKJV)**

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

**1 Cor. 12:18 (NKJV)**

But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

**1 Cor. 12:27 (NKJV)**

**Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.**

The church of Jesus Christ is His body. He lives within us collectively and individually and He works through us.

**Listen carefully to this conversation between Philip and Jesus.**

**John 14:8-10 (NIV)**

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

[9] Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10] Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? **The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.**

**Notice what Jesus said. I believe this will help us understand how Christ does His work through us.**

He said, "I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. When you see me you see the Father. The words I say are not my words but it is the Father living in me who is doing His work through Me."

**Then He says.....**

**John 14:12 (NIV)**

I tell you the truth, **anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.** He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

**John 14:16-20 (NIV)**

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- [17] the Spirit of truth. ....you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. [18] I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [19].....Because I live, you also will live. **[20] On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.**

**Wow! That's powerful!**

Just as God was in Christ doing His work through Him, Christ is in us, through the Holy Spirit, doing His work through us!

**You and I are the body of Christ. He is doing His work through us! He lives within each of us!**

The work of Christ here on the earth today involves myriads of needs and millions of ministries and is being accomplished through the multiplied millions of Christians who collectively are His body.

**Christ is living His life in us and doing His work through us.**

Here's the way it works. Christ in me knows what He wants to accomplish through. He makes me aware of it and He gives me a burning desire to do it.

**He has given me a burning desire and a passion to do His work here at Elim Church.**

He has put you here and given you a desire to do whatever he wants to do through you here at Elim Church.

He has given **Sherrel Muckleroy** a passion and a burning desire to do His work down in Mexico.

He has given **Jerry and Sandy Owens** a passion and a burning desire to do His work in Equador.

As members of the body of Christ, the Bible says that we have the mind of Christ. If you have a passion to do a certain work, it is not because you just randomly decided you wanted to do something for Jesus. It's because Jesus wanted to do that particular work through you. It is Jesus doing His work through you!

**That brings me to what I want to talk about today.**

**As I began this message I read to you from Philippians, Chapter 2....**

The part I want to emphasize is where Paul said.....

**Philip. 2:12-13 (NKJV)**

..... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; [13] for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Paul makes it absolutely clear that we did nothing to earn or to deserve salvation. Salvation is God's gift to us that was paid for by the blood of Jesus.

**Ephes. 2:8-10 (NKJV)**

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, [9] not of works, lest anyone should boast. [10] For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

We were saved and given a new life and a new identity so that we might do the work that God created us for.

**Now Paul tells us that we must "Work out our own salvation".**

**What does he mean?**

The Greek word we have translated as “work out” is an intensive form of the word for work or labor. It means to work at something thoroughly. Here it means that we are to keep working until all that Christ died to achieve in us has been fulfilled.

**Salvation is a gift from beginning to end received by faith. But the result is Christ living within us to do His work through us.**

Paul said....”Work out your own salvation..... i.e. your own personal salvation and relationship with God.

Then he said....“For it is God who works in you”... The “in you” is plural. It means that God is at work in each of us individually but is also doing His work in us and through collectively. We are saved to be part of His body. Our brothers and sisters in the body of believers of which we are a part are vital to the success of the work we have been saved to do.

**I Corinthians 12 makes it clear that the human body is a picture of the Body of Christ.** If one part is sick it affects all of it. If my tooth hurts I hurt all over. If my kidneys stop functioning I must get them restored or my whole body will die. Therefore we must encourage our brothers and sisters and help them to be healthy and strong in the Lord. We’re in this thing together.

**Paul said.... “God is working in us both to will and to do His good pleasure.”**

Just as God was in Christ doing His work through Him, Christ is in us doing His work through us.

**He has given us His power, His ability, His strength, and His wisdom so that we can do His work.**

And not only does He give us the ability to do it but He gives us the will to do it.

We would never do it unless we had the desire to do it or the will to do it. It is the will or the desire or the want to that causes us to do it.

You may realize that something needs to be done or ought to be done, but if you don't have the will to do it, or the desire to do it, chances are you will not do it. Or even if you start doing it, you will not continue.

A preacher can tell you that you ought to pray, or that you ought to tithe, or that you ought to read your Bible, or that you ought to attend the Bible study, or that you ought to witness to people. He can even put a guilt trip on you, and he may even get you to do some of those things temporarily. But if God hasn't put the will in you to do it, you will not continue.

Before we were born again all we wanted to do was live for ourselves and do our own thing. We didn't care about doing the work of Christ. We were controlled by the god of this world.

But now Christ lives within us and He gives us the will to do "His good pleasure."

**So He give us the will or the desire to do it, and He also gives us the power to do it.**

**"God is working in us both to will and to do His good pleasure."**

**Now it's up to each of us to yield to the Spirit that works in us to do God's good pleasure. We must obey Him and not our flesh.**

#### **Romans 6:4 (NKJV)**

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

#### **Romans 6:11-13 (NKJV)**

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **[12] Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.** [13] And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

### **Romans 8:8-13 (NKJV)**

So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. [9] But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. [10] And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. [11] But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

[12] Therefore, brethren, we are debtors--not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. [13] For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

### **1 Cor. 6:20 (NKJV)**

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

### **2 Cor. 6:17 (NKJV)**

Therefore

"Come out from among them  
And be separate, says the Lord.  
Do not touch what is unclean,  
And I will receive you."

### **2 Cor. 7:1 (NKJV)**

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

If you have been born again you have become a new person. Christ now lives inside of you by the Holy Spirit. And He gives you the will do what is right. He also gives you the power to do what is right. Therefore you have no excuse for not living a victorious, overcoming life in Christ.

**Listen to the words of Paul to the Corinthian Church...**

### **2 Cor. 12:20-21 (Living)**

For I am afraid that when I come to visit you I won't like what I find, and then you won't like the way I will have to act. I am afraid that I will find you quarreling, and envying each other, and being angry with each other, and acting big, and saying wicked things about each other and whispering behind each other's backs, filled with conceit and disunity. [21] Yes, I am afraid that when I come God will humble me before you and I will be sad and mourn because many of you who have sinned before and don't even care about the wicked, impure things you have done: your lust and immorality, and the taking of other men's wives.

Wow! No wonder Paul was upset with those church members. It sounds like they were living just like everybody else. There was no difference between them and the world. They were certainly not living like Christ wanted them to live.

**So Paul tells them...**

### **2 Cor. 13:2 (Living)**

I have already warned those who had been sinning when I was there last; now I warn them again and all others, just as I did then, that this time I come ready to punish severely and I will not spare them.

### **2 Cor. 13:3-4 (Living)**

.....Christ is not weak in his dealings with you but is a mighty power within you. [4] His weak, human body died on the cross, but now he lives by the mighty power of God. We, too, are weak in our bodies, as he was, but now we live and are strong, as he is, and have all of God's power to use ....

That's what I have been teaching for the past four weeks. We have God's power within us. We must use it to crucified our old sinful desires and to live for Him in victory.

**Now listen to Paul's next statement.**

### **2 Cor. 13:5 (Living)**

Check up on yourselves. Are you really Christians? Do you pass the test? Do you feel Christ's presence and power more and more within you? Or are you just pretending to be Christians when actually you aren't at all?

**That's as serious as it gets. It's time for all of us to check up on ourselves. Are you really a Christian or are you just pretending to be a Christian?**

Do you feel Christ's presence and power more and more within you? If not it's time for you to get serious about your relationship with Christ. Is He Lord of your Life or not?

Give invitation!