

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE SCARLET THREAD IN SCRIPTURE

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PART 5: CHRIST IN THE EPISTLES

CHRIST IN US

In Genesis, the scarlet thread is promised. In the Law, it is foreshadowed. In the prophets, it is proclaimed. In the Gospels, it is manifested. Now, in the epistles, something deeply personal occurs. The Christ who died for us now lives in us.

The Epistles do not retell the story of Jesus' life. They explain the meaning of the God-man's life, death, and resurrection for the believer.

The question is no longer merely, *"Who is Jesus?"* It transitions into *"What does it mean that I am united to Him?"*

CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Jesus Christ is our righteousness; we are justified in the eyes of God the Father by faith.

*"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even **the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.**" (Romans 3:21-22)*

Justification is not improvement, moral progress, or God overlooking sin. It is a legal declaration.

*"Therefore **being justified by faith**, we have peace with God [God the Father] through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)*

Paul explains the great exchange.

*"For he [God the Father] hath made him [God the Son] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; **that we might be made the righteousness of God [God the Father] in him [Jesus].**" (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

Christ does not merely forgive us. He reaches into His wardrobe and clothes us with His righteousness. The scarlet thread covers every believer in Christ completely.

CHRIST OUR LIFE

The believer's old self is crucified with Christ. A new life begins, which is centered on Jesus because He now lives within. This new life is lived by faith and grounded in Christ's personal love and sacrifice.



*“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)*

Salvation is not merely believing facts about Jesus. It is union with Jesus.

*“**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.” (Romans 6:4)*

This leads the apostle Paul to say:

*“For to me **to live is Christ**, and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21)*

Christianity is not Christ beside you, behind you, or merely before you. It is Christ in you.

CHRIST IN US

Paul refers to the gospel as a mystery that was once hidden but has now been revealed.

*“Even **the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations**, but now is made manifest to his saints.” (Colossians 1:26)*

Because Christ lives in all believers, we have assurance of glory to come and our destiny is secure. This is not based upon effort or performance. It is a confident expectation because Jesus dwells within believers and the presence of Christ now is the guarantee of glory later.

*“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**.” (Colossians 1:27)*

This is not symbolic language, but spiritual reality. Christ dwells in believers through faith. Our lives are anchored in love and we are called to grasp the vastness of the Messiah’s love. This love goes beyond intellectual understanding; the result is being filled with the fullness of God.

*“**That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith**; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” (Ephesians 3:17-19)*

The same Jesus who walked the hills of Galilee now dwells in believers by the Holy Spirit. The physical body is still under the effects of sin and death, but the Holy Spirit gives life within through the born again spirit, grounding each believer in the righteousness of Jesus.

*“And if **Christ be in you**, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.” (Romans 8:10)*

The scarlet thread has reached its most intimate expression as God inhabits each person who trusts in Jesus as their Savior.

CHRIST OUR SANCTIFICATION

Jesus is our sanctification as we are transformed from within by the Holy Spirit.

*“**There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**” (Romans 8:1)*

Freedom from condemnation does not lead to lawlessness, but to transformation. The “law of sin and death” mentioned by Paul refers to the power of sin ruling in humanity, inevitably leading to death and condemnation. Sin is exposed by the Mosaic law, but only the sacrificial death of Jesus provides the cure.

*“**For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.**” (Romans 8:2)*

The Holy Spirit produces Christlike character.

*“**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**” (Galatians 5:22-23)*

Jesus made one sacrifice that perfects believers completely and permanently. Christians are fully accepted, even as they continue to grow. Jesus’ sacrifice has forever secured our standing with God the Father.

*“**For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**” (Hebrews 10:14)*

Just as justification is totally the work of God, it is equally important to recognize that sanctification flows from union, not effort, as Jesus lives through you.

CHRIST THE HEAD

God the Father has placed everything under God the Son’s authority. Jesus is the head over all creation. His authority is exercised for the good of the church. In short, Christ reigns over everything; He is the head of the church and His rule is directed toward the care and growth of His people.

*“**And [God the Father] hath put all things under his [Jesus] feet, and gave him [Jesus] to be the head over all things to the church.**” (Ephesians 1:22)*

The church is not an organization, but a living organism. The church is one unified body that consists of many different members. Each body part has a unique role and all are united in Christ.

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:12)

Christ is not merely represented by the church, but chooses to express His life through it; Jesus is the supreme authority and sustaining source of the Church.

“And he is the head of the body, the church...” (Colossians 1:18a)

The world encounters the living Christ through His body and the scarlet thread moves outward through redeemed lives.

CHRIST OUR HOPE

Jesus is our hope as we live between the present and the future that awaits us. Christians will experience real suffering, but a far greater future glory is coming that will completely outweigh the present pain. The worst suffering cannot even compare to the glory Jesus has prepared for His people.

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:18)

We live in hopeful expectation that Christ will return in visible glory. Jesus is both Savior and God and this hope shapes how we live today.

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” (Titus 2:13-14)

The Christ who lives in us now will be revealed in glory at His second return.

THE WOVEN THREAD

The epistles reveal the following:

- ❖ Christ for us (justification)
- ❖ Christ in us (union and sanctification)
- ❖ Christ through us (the church)
- ❖ Christ before us (glory)

Salvation is not a self-improvement program; it is a complete makeover brought about through repentance and faith in Christ. We were enemies of God, but we have been reconciled to God the Father, and now we are called to help bring others into the circle of faith.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God [God the Father], who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ...” (2 Corinthians 5:17-18b)

The scarlet thread has effectively been woven into every Christian. It is intertwined through every fiber of your being: body, soul, and spirit.

Do not live as though Christ were distant.

Do not think of Christianity as being a clone.

Your individuality is expressed because Christ lives in you.

You are a new creation.

Let Jesus think through you, love through you, speak through you, and live through you.