

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

By Jeff Rath September 2015

Introduction

Christians, for the most part, have failed to understand the fullness of what the resurrection of Christ means. Because they don't understand it, they can't apply it in their lives, and therefore they continue to live the same way they did before becoming a Christian. So I would like to elaborate on these five verses in II Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 5:14

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

2 Corinthians 5:15

And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

2 Corinthians 5:16

Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

2 Corinthians 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.

2 Corinthians 5:18

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

It is human nature to live by the five senses, but things in the five senses are temporary. The five senses have limited awareness, and either miss things or quite often perceive them incorrectly. Synonyms for the five senses in the Bible are "flesh" and "carnal". The great truths in life are spiritual. To know these truths we need to learn to perceive things in a spiritual manner. One of the greatest truths of all time is what God did for us in Christ Jesus. We can now walk the earth as sons of the one true God and have spiritual perception. This truth will elude those who walk by the flesh. It will be right in front of them and yet they won't see it.

Also we need to be aware of the different names of Jesus Christ in the Bible and what they mean. When the Bible says "Jesus" it is not the same as when it says "Christ", and "Jesus Christ" is not the same as "Christ Jesus". We also should use the proper name in the proper context, and understand what it means. It seems like modern Christianity seems content to just use the name "Jesus" and rarely mention "Christ". They either don't understand or haven't been taught the differences in the names. At the end of this paper, I have a link to the names of Jesus by E.W. Bullinger and some other links for further study. God always says things in specific and exact ways in the Bible and He has reasons for using words and names exactly.

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The Love of Christ Constrains Us

2 Corinthians 5:14

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

So what does “the love of Christ constrains us” mean? In eastern culture, to constrain means you ask them 3 times. We must remember the Bible is an eastern book. To understand it we must be aware of eastern manners and customs. When the Bible says the love of Christ constrains us, it is more than a simple request. In the Gospel of Luke there is a record of a resurrection appearance of Jesus Christ.

Luke 24:25

Then he [Jesus Christ] said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

Luke 24:26

Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

Luke 24:27

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:28

And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

Luke 24:29

But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

It says they constrained Jesus Christ to spend the night and eat with them. In eastern culture they would ask once and he would say no. Then they would ask again and he would say no. Then they would ask a third time and he would say yes. That is what it means to be constrained.

We Should Not Know Any Man After The Flesh

2 Corinthians 5:15

And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

2 Corinthians 5:16

Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

In most Christian churches today the cross will be front and center, and they even have a statue of the man “Jesus” on that cross. They may even have a banner with the name Jesus on it. They talk about Jesus without mentioning that he is the risen Christ. They know Jesus after the flesh, and therefore

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pretty much stop with the crucifixion. The crucifixion is just the start. We need to know who we are and what we have in Christ. We are constrained NOT to know the man. We are constrained to know him as Christ, the resurrected Messiah and to know what we have in Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:1

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

1 Corinthians 2:2

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus **Christ**, and him **crucified**.

Christians often think their Christian identity is determined by what group they fellowship with or by what man they follow. Again, this is walking by the flesh. Our identity as a Christian is what God did for us when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the heaven. Also just because some reverend, or famous leader of a group says something that does not make it true. You don't have to be attached at the hip to a non-profit corporation to walk with God. Jesus Christ did not set up a huge non-profit corporation. Paul did not create a mega-church that made him a millionaire. They both taught small home fellowships.

1 Corinthians 3:1

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

Carnal is another way of saying "in the flesh." God wants us to be spiritual and not carnal. We should grow up and walk like men and women of God and not walk as carnal babes in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:2

I have fed you with **milk**, and not with **meat**: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

1 Corinthians 3:3

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

1 Corinthians 3:4

For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I *am* of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

1 Corinthians 3:5

Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

1 Corinthians 3:6

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

1 Corinthians 3:7

So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

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Some of the believers in the Bible would boast they were of Paul or Apollos or someone else. We are not to walk like that. Jesus Christ was the high Priest once and for all time. What he accomplished gave us direct access to God the Father. Paul, Apollos, and others are simply ministers that God sends when people are hungry for the word. We don't follow or know men after the flesh.

We are not to judge others by the flesh and we do not judge ourselves by the flesh. When Jesus Christ was crucified pretty much everybody that followed him, abandoned him. What about all of the people he healed? What about all of those who were delivered from devils? What about all of those who laid the palm leaves before him as he entered Jerusalem? What about the multitude who heard the sermon on the mount? What about the multitude who were fed from a couple of fishes and loaves of bread? By the five senses, Jesus Christ's ministry was a failure at the crucifixion. Israel wanted a military leader like king David who would defeat the Roman Empire. His followers saw him get beaten beyond recognition and killed. His followers without a leader, were scattered, and disillusioned. By the five senses he was a failure. His body and soul life were gone. But from God's point of view it was a huge victory. Fifty days later it became available to be born again and have God in Christ in us. We became the Devil's worst nightmare. So if we know Jesus by the flesh we are left with a beaten dead man, but if we know Christ Jesus the resurrected Messiah, we can have the same power that Jesus Christ had even greater.

John 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

We Should Not Know Christ After The Flesh

The love of Christ constrains us that we should know no man after the flesh, especially Christ. We are to know him as Christ Jesus the resurrected Messiah. We can only know Christ through the word of God. Trying to have a personal relationship with Jesus the man is trying to know Jesus after the flesh. The love of Christ constrains us not to do that. So let's learn about the phrase "after the flesh".

John 8:15

Ye judge **after the flesh**; I judge no man.

Here Jesus Christ is talking to the Pharisees. They knew the Word of God. They had the keys to the Kingdom, but they did not enter in themselves and they hindered those who would enter. They used the Old Testament to judge people by the flesh.

Romans 3:20

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no **flesh** be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

It says no flesh shall be justified in God's sight, but religion is always trying to perfect the flesh and get it to bring forth some spiritual fruit. Religion wants to put a human face on God. They want to know Jesus by the flesh.

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Romans 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.

First notice that there is no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus. It does not say there is no condemnation to them which are in Jesus. When the Bible uses the phrase “Jesus” alone it refers to the man, the human who was humiliated, beaten, and crucified. But when the Bible uses the phrase “Christ Jesus” it refers to the resurrected Messiah who is now seated at the right hand of God.

Isaiah 55:8

For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 55:9

For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Samuel 16:7

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

God’s ways are not man’s ways. God’s thoughts are higher than man’s thoughts. Man is hung up on the flesh, and has trouble getting past the flesh. Man looks at others and sees the flesh. God looks at a man and He sees the heart. We need to learn to see things God’s way. If we want to walk with God and with the power of the resurrected Christ, then knowing Jesus by the flesh will hinder that. We don’t know or judge others by the flesh.

Romans 8:2

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:3

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Romans 8:4

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not **after the flesh**, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:5

For they that are **after the flesh** do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Christ is not to be known after the flesh. The flesh has no place in true Christianity, and it profits you nothing. Walking by the flesh leads to legalism and leads you away from the power of Christ in you. Walking by the flesh leads to people judging each other as to what laws they follow, what they eat, what

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they drink, or what holidays are observed. You don't need to do works to be justified in God's eyes, Christ paid the price in full, so we can walk as Christ did in today's world.

Galatians 5:24

And they that are Christ's have **crucified** the **flesh** with the affections and lusts.

Galatians 5:25

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Most of Christianity is completely focused on the man Jesus. They address him as Jesus. They use the name Jesus and rarely use the name Christ. They follow the records in the Gospels, but they know very little about the true power they have in Christ Jesus. They do not know who they are in Christ or what they have in Christ, instead they know who they are in the flesh.

2 Corinthians 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.

Again it does not say if any man *be* in Jesus, it says therefore if any man *be* in Christ. It is not in Jesus that we are new creatures. It is in Christ that we are new creatures. A better translation is "new creations." When we are born again, God creates God in Christ in us; old things are passed away, but only if we change our thinking so we live and walk in the Spirit.

Jesus Christ's Earthly Family

Jesus Christ had a family. He had parents, brothers and sisters, and he had neighbors in the town where he grew up. They saw him grow up. Here is a record where the brothers of Jesus mock him. They knew him by the flesh, and by the flesh they could not see he was the Christ. To them, Jesus was just their brother they grew up with. Jesus walked the earth like any other man. It wasn't until he got the fullness of the Spirit, then he changed and walked with the power of God.

John 7:1

After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.

John 7:2

Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand.

John 7:3

His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.

His brothers mocked him here. They were mocking the miracles he did. They mocked the fact that he had followers. They did not believe he was the Christ, to them he was just Jesus of Nazereth, he was simply their older brother who they only knew by the flesh. They did not see that he was the Christ.

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John 7:4

For *there is* no man *that* doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, show thyself to the world.

John 7:5

For neither did his brethren believe in him.

John 7:6

Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready.

John 7:7

The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

Then Jesus Christ ordained twelve and gave them power over devils and power to heal. But his family thought he was crazy, because they knew him by the flesh. By the flesh Jesus had no power to ordain twelve apostles, but as the Christ he had that power and more. His family saw him as Jesus the man, they knew him only by the flesh.

Mark 3:14

And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

Mark 3:15

And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

Mark 3:16

And Simon he surnamed Peter;

Mark 3:17

And James the *son* of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:

James the son of Zebedee is not the same James that was his brother. Jesus Christ never ordained James his brother to a ministry of any kind.

Mark 3:18

And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,

Mark 3:19

And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.

Mark 3:20

And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.

Mark 3:21

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And when his friends [family] heard *of it*, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is **beside himself**.

Jesus Christ's family thought he was suffering from insanity. Why? They knew him by the flesh, not as the Christ. Later in the book of Acts, we see James is now head of the Jerusalem Church. So did James got born again and change his thinking about Jesus? Or did he use his position in the flesh as the brother of Jesus to usurp power and authority in the Church?

Acts 15:1

And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

The Church in Jerusalem knew Jesus Christ by the flesh. They were unwilling to accept the grace of God; they instead taught that unless you did the law of Moses you could not be saved. Again they were walking by the flesh. They were frustrating the grace of God. At this point, James was the head of the Church in Jerusalem. This is the same James that mocked Jesus in John Chapter 7, and the same James who also wrote the book of James. Notice that the book of James is not addressed to the church, Saints, or Christians, but rather it is addressed to the twelve tribes. James does not ever claim to be an apostle, he instead says he is a "servant of God" which is an Old Testament term. James never mentions the resurrection of Christ. The name Christ occurs 555 times in the New Testament, but only twice in James. The book of James is true revelation of the thoughts of James, it discusses many Old Testament customs and quotes several Old Testament scriptures, but it does not give us any doctrine of who we are in Christ. The book of James does NOT tells us we are saved by grace and not of works lest any man boast like Paul's epistles do. James believed that salvation required works. This contradicts the truth in Paul's epistles.

James 2:14

What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

Ephesians 2:9

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Galatians 2:21

I do not **frustrate** the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Galatians 3:1

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Galatians 3:2

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

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Galatians 3:3

Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Many Christians are foolish. They think they need to obey some law, but that only frustrates the grace of God. If we can somehow secure our own righteousness by the flesh then it was a waste for Christ to have been crucified. We cannot begin in the Spirit and then be made perfect in the flesh.

Peter was a very brave man. He stood up on the day of Pentecost and taught the multitude of the people gathered for the Pentecost feast that the man Jesus that they rejected was raised from the dead and is now the risen Christ. Peter walked on water, He stood up to the high priest, and he was thrown in jail, but we see in this record he was afraid of James. James had a lot of power and people feared him. He used his power to keep people under the law.

Galatians 2:4

And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

Notice they did not have liberty in Jesus; they had liberty in Christ Jesus. There is a big difference. Knowing Jesus by the flesh does not set us free, but knowing what we have in Christ Jesus does.

Galatians 2:5

To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

The legalistic Christians from Jerusalem wanted to curtail Paul's freedom in Christ and he did not put up with it for even one hour. Why? So the truth of the gospel would continue. We don't compromise with legalistic Christians who want to put us under the law. We don't let them corrupt us into knowing Jesus by the flesh. Instead, we stand on the word of God and we teach others what they have in Christ.

Galatians 2:6

But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed *to be somewhat* in conference added nothing to me:

Here's another translation of that verse from the NIV.

Galatians 2:6

As for those who seemed to be important--whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not judge by external appearance--those men added nothing to my message.

The religious leaders from Jerusalem seemed to be important by the flesh. They had position, power, and authority, but it was not of God. Their message was a message of the flesh. They wanted the Christians in Galatia to follow the Old Testament law. Their message had no additional truth, no added value. There was nothing useful or profitable in what they had to say. This is a good yard stick to

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measure a teaching. When someone teaches you the word of God do they teach you anything that actually helps you? Does the teaching add anything to your life that actually helps you? Or is the teaching designed to impress you with how smart the teacher is by his flesh. As for me, I could really care less how smart somebody is or how many Greek words they know. When I hear a teaching, I want to know how does this help me. There are Bible teachers, who by the flesh, have amassed a great knowledge of the Bible, and have learned a lot of Greek words, but they don't use that knowledge to teach us the simple truths of what we have in Christ. Instead, they are off on a quest to uncover some new obscure truth hidden in an unclear verse buried deep in some chapter. In the end, these teachings add nothing to the simple message of what we have in Christ.

Galatians 2:7

But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as *the gospel* of the circumcision *was* unto Peter;

Galatians 2:8

(For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)

Did you see that? The real spiritual leader at Jerusalem was Peter, not James. The legalistic Christians in Jerusalem were zealous for the law and only knew Jesus by the flesh. The first instance of nepotism in the Church is where James, the fleshly brother of Jesus, seized power and set himself in a seat of power. He used that power to frustrate the grace of God and keep people from knowing what they have in Christ.

Galatians 2:9

And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we *should go* unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

Galatians 2:10

Only *they would* that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

Galatians 2:11

But when Peter was come to Antioch, I **withstood him** to the face, because he was to be blamed.

Galatians 2:12

For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

This devilish doctrine came from James. Who taught them to walk in the flesh and judge others by the flesh.

Galatians 2:13

And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

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Galatians 2:14

But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before *them* all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

Everywhere Paul went, James sent people to tell the people who Paul had taught that to really be saved they needed to do the Old Testament law, and to walk in the flesh to please God. They couldn't have been more wrong.

Acts 21:20

And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all **zealous** of the law:

The believers in Jerusalem were zealous for the law only knowing Jesus Christ by the flesh. They were very religious, and very passionate, and very zealous, but they were very wrong.

Acts 23:12

And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

Acts 23:13

And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy.

Acts 23:14

And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

They were so far away from the will of God that they wanted to kill Paul. They were walking by the flesh, and they hated those who walked by the spirit.

Romans 10:2

For I bear them record that they have a **zeal** of God, but not according to knowledge.

Romans 10:3

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

The Church at Jerusalem had zeal, but not according to the rightly divided word of God. Instead of walking by grace they tried to establish their own righteousness in the flesh. Under the leadership of James, they were encouraged to continue to know Jesus by the flesh and judge others by the flesh as well. There is nothing wrong with having zeal, but we should be zealous about what we have in Christ.

Christ In You And The Mystery

Colossians 1:27

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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:

Notice it does not say Jesus in you the hope of Glory, it says Christ in you. The man Jesus died and was buried, his body is gone. However when God raised him from the dead, He gave Jesus Christ a spiritual body to replace what was gone forever. He then became the risen Christ seated at the right hand of God. Biblically “seated” means his work is complete.

2 Corinthians 5:18

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

2 Corinthians 5:19

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.

2 Corinthians 5:20

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.

2 Corinthians 5:21

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.

We are not ambassadors for Jesus; we are ambassadors for Christ. God wants us to know who we are in Christ, and to know what we have spiritually. This truth was hidden in times past. God calls it a mystery. It was hidden for thousands of years. Today it is still a mystery to those who do not know who they are in Christ, and walk by the flesh.

1 Corinthians 2:7

But we speak the wisdom of God in a **mystery**, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1 Corinthians 2:8

Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1 Corinthians 2:10

But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

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Had the Devil known what God was going to do in Christ, the Devil would never have crucified the man Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ walked the earth he was one man who walked for God. He could only be at one place at a time. Now every Christian has Christ in them, spiritually they have the same power as Christ. God has given us spiritual power and the authority to use the name of Christ. No devil, no evil, no man, no disease, or anything else can withstand that authority. Now millions can walk the face of the earth like Christ did. That is why the Devil wants us to focus on knowing Jesus by the flesh, and not what we have in Christ.

Ephesians 3:3

How that by revelation he made known unto me the **mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words,

Ephesians 3:4

Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the **mystery** of Christ)

Not the mystery of Jesus, but rather the mystery of Christ. Everything that Jesus did was foretold, and well known; it was not a secret, but what we have in Christ is so big that even Jesus Christ himself did not know the full story.

Ephesians 3:5

Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Ephesians 3:6

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

Ephesians 3:7

Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Ephesians 3:8

Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Ephesians 3:9

And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the **mystery**, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:26

Even the **mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

Colossians 1:27

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:

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Why is this great truth still a mystery? Because most Christians are focused on the man Jesus. They read the Gospels, instead of the Epistles, so they don't learn what they have in Christ. Instead they learn about the man, Jesus.

How Do We Know Christ

We can only know Christ spiritually by knowing the word of God. Specifically, we need to know the New Testament church epistles, and know who we are in Christ, and what has been done for us in Christ.

John 1:14

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Jesus Christ read, and learned, and walked the word of God. He lived his life according to God's word to the end that he could be called the Word of God. To get to know Christ, we need to read the word of God and understand it.

Ephesians 3:3

How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

Ephesians 3:4

Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

Ephesians 3:15

Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Ephesians 3:16

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Ephesians 3:17

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Ephesians 3:18

May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

Ephesians 3:19

And to **know** the love of **Christ**, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

It is not the love of Jesus that surpasses all knowledge, it is the love of Christ. Jesus does not dwell in our hearts by faith, but rather it is Christ. It is through Christ that we are filled with the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:20

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Ephesians 3:21

Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

We know Christ by learning and renewing our minds to the word of God. This transforms us so we can walk with God in this world and not walk by the flesh. If we try to know Christ by the flesh and try to walk with God by the flesh, then we are thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. No other human was ever able to do that, but somehow we think we can? Our flesh is not that good. We need God's help. We need to get born again and know who we are in Christ. We need to know the word of God and act on it.

What We Have In Christ

What God accomplished was a great mystery, but it should no longer be a mystery. God wants us to know what we have in Christ. God has written it plainly in His word so we can know what we have in Christ as sons of God. There are many promises in the word of God that are available to us as sons of God. They are available because of what God has done in Christ Jesus. We did not earn our status as sons of God by any works of the flesh. God wants us to claim and stand upon our rights as sons of God. We must believe God's word and act upon it literally. Here is a partial list of what God has made available for us in Christ.

We have God's righteousness in Christ

Romans 3:21

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Romans 3:22

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:

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:24

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

Romans 3:25

Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

1 Corinthians 1:30

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

We have sanctification in Christ

1 Corinthians 1:30

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

We have the ministry of reconciliation in Christ

2 Corinthians 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.

2 Corinthians 5:18

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

2 Corinthians 5:19

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.

2 Corinthians 5:20

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.

2 Corinthians 5:21

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.

We have been redeemed in Christ

1 Corinthians 1:30

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

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

Romans 3:24

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

We are justified in Christ

Romans 3:20

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:21

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Romans 3:22

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 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:24

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

Romans 3:25

Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 5:2

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:3

And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Romans 5:4

And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Romans 5:5

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:6

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:7

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:9

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

We have eternal life in Christ

John 3:15

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

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.

We are in God's household through Christ

Ephesians 2:19

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

We are in God's family through Christ

Ephesians 3:14

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 3:15

Of whom the whole **family** in heaven and earth is named,

Ephesians 3:16

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Ephesians 3:17

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Ephesians 3:18

May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

Ephesians 3:19

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Ephesians 3:20

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Ephesians 3:21

Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

We have 9 manifestations of the spirit through Christ

1 Corinthians 12:7

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

1 Corinthians 12:8

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

1 Corinthians 12:9

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

1 Corinthians 12:10

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

We have the fruit of the spirit through Christ

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Galatians 5:23

Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:24

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Galatians 5:25

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

We can do the works of Jesus Christ and greater works because of Christ

John 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

We can earn heavenly rewards that cannot be taken away because of Christ

Matthew 10:41

He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

Matthew 10:42

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

We have an inheritance from God Almighty because of Christ

Romans 8:17

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Ephesians 1:11

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:

Ephesians 1:12

That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

We are saved from the wrath to come because of Christ

Romans 5:9

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

We are not judged according to our sins because of Christ

Romans 5:16

And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification.

Romans 5:17

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Romans 5:18

Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.

We have God's protection because of Christ

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

We have God's blessings because of Christ

Ephesians 1:12

That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Ephesians 1:13

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,

We are saints of God because of Christ

Ephesians 2:18

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Ephesians 2:19

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

We have health and prosperity because of Christ

3 John 1:2

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

We have the deliverance and victory over sin because of Christ

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 6:15

What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Romans 6:16

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 6:17

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Romans 6:18

Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

Romans 6:19

I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

Romans 6:20

For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

Romans 6:21

What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death.

Romans 6:22

But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We have an abundant life through Christ

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

We have Christ in us the hope of glory

Colossians 1:26

Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

Colossians 1:27

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 1:28

Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

We are filled with all the fullness of God because of Christ

Ephesians 3:19

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

We can use the name of Jesus Christ – Our Power of Attorney

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

John 14:13

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

We will be gathered together with Christ when Christ returns

1 Thessalonians 4:13

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:14

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1 Thessalonians 4:15

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.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

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:

1 Thessalonians 4:17

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.

1 Thessalonians 4:18

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:22

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:23

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

1 Corinthians 15:52

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:53

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

1 Corinthians 15:54

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

We have a home in heaven because of Christ

Ephesians 2:6

And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 3:20

For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

We can be free from condemnation through Christ

Romans 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.

We are bold in God's presence and be free from fear through Christ

2 Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Romans 8:15

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

We are as he (Christ) is

1 John 3:1

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:3

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

We have direct access to the Father because of Christ

Romans 5:2

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

Ephesians 2:18

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Ephesians 3:12

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

An Evil Generation Seeks a Sign

Luke 11:27

And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed *is* the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked.

Luke 11:28

But he said, Yea rather, blessed *are* they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Luke 11:29

And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet.

Seeking a sign is another form of walking by the flesh and not by the Spirit. Trying to know Jesus Christ by the flesh is trying to force God to show a sign. You see in verse 27 that some of the followers of Jesus Christ wanted to start to worship Mary. Jesus Christ shut that down and told them to know the word of God and keep it. We cannot force God to show us a sign. We should not try to know Christ after the flesh.

Jesus Christ is Not God

Good sincere people who love God and love the Lord Jesus Christ are not always satisfied with simply hearing the word of God and keeping it. Some will assign to Jesus attributes that he does not have like omnipresence, or they will pray to him instead of God. They decide that Jesus is God the son. The Bible clearly refers to Jesus Christ as the Son of God 50 times; it never refers to him as God the Son. The phrase, Son of God, is in the genitive case; showing that Jesus Christ originated from and belongs to God. In no way can the Son of God be the same as God the Son. That violates grammar, language and common sense. God the Son is not a biblical term, and it does not appear in the Greek, Hebrew, or Aramaic texts.

Matthew 19:16

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

Matthew 19:17

And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

Matthew 19:18

He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

Matthew 19:19

Honour thy father and *thy* mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

There is none good but God. Obviously Jesus Christ was a good man, and if ever there was a man who walked the face of this earth who deserved to be called good it was Jesus Christ. But clearly Jesus Christ was shutting down any attempt for people to give him the worship and reverence that is reserved for God the Father and not the son.

Matthew 16:13

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

Matthew 16:14

And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

Matthew 16:15

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

Matthew 16:16

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matthew 16:17

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Peter knew that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God, and not God the son. Peter did not figure out that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God by the flesh, it was information from God. That is how we know Jesus Christ, not by the flesh but by the word of God.

Conclusion

The truth of God's word is simple. You don't need a PhD to understand it, or a degree in theology to teach it. But quite often false doctrine needs the foundation of a highly intellectual approach to God's word. I have seen so called scholars ignore the clear verses on a topic and then magnify and misinterpret an unclear verse on that topic. The simple truth gets lost in the mix. You don't need to be a Greek, Hebrew, or Aramaic scholar to understand the simple truth of God's word. The love of Christ constrains us so that we do not know Christ after the flesh. Instead God wants us to know who we are in Christ and what we have in Christ, and to walk in these simple truths. So when someone starts making a complex argument to convince you of something in the word of God then step back and see where they are coming from spiritually.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:4

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*.

There is more than one Jesus in the world. We don't want to follow another Jesus. Or deceiving spirits teaching false doctrine. There is only one Christ, and there is only one true God the Father. People talk about having a personal relationship with Jesus. They want to talk to, glorify, honor, and they want to worship Jesus. That is trying to know Jesus by the flesh. The love of Christ constrains us not to do those things.

1 Corinthians 1:29

That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1 Corinthians 1:30

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

Philippians 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.

Philippians 3:9

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:

Colossians 2:6

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

Galatians 5:16

This I say then, **Walk** in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:17

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Galatians 5:18

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Galatians 5:25

If we live in the Spirit, let us also **walk** in the Spirit.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

Romans 13:14

But **put ye on** the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

How do we “put on” the Lord Jesus Christ? It is by reading God’s word, putting it into our thinking, and acting on it. The flesh desires things of the flesh, but our mind can over-rule the desires of the flesh, and do what the love of Christ constrains us to do. We put on the scriptures in our minds and make no provisions for the flesh.

2 Corinthians 5:14

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

2 Corinthians 5:15

And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

2 Corinthians 5:16

Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

2 Corinthians 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.

2 Corinthians 5:18

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

Ephesians 2:1

And you *hath he quickened*, [made alive] who were dead in trespasses and sins:

Ephesians 2:2

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, [we walked by the flesh] according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Ephesians 2:3

Among whom also we all had our conversation [citizenship] in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Ephesians 2:4

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Ephesians 2:5

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US (LIVING ON RESSURECTION GROUND)

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us [made us alive] together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Ephesians 2:6

And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:7

That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

We were made alive in Christ, not Jesus. We were raised up together, and in the future God will show the exceeding riches of his grace towards us in Christ Jesus. We are also seated at the right hand of God, just like Jesus Christ. We do not understand what the fullness of what this means. It is like a child who sees a parent go off to work and come back home. They don't understand the fullness of that situation, but when they grow up they will. We don't fully understand what it means to be seated at the right hand of God, but someday we will. We did not, by the flesh, deserve what God did for us by Christ. We understand and operate a little. We are constrained to NOT know Christ after the flesh. We are new creatures, and ambassadors for the one true God. The overwhelming Biblical evidence is that we are not to know Christ after the flesh, but rather we are to know who we are in Christ. God wants us to live on Resurrection ground.

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