

## The Believer In Christ

THE TEXT ACTS 5:14

And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.

It was Christ who gave himself from the beginning. It was He who reveals himself to mankind and walked upon the earth in the full body of grace. From earth's inhabitants the members of his eternal body would come. It is He who is the same in the beginning and throughout all eternity who would redeem man from his sin.

The Christ who planned the redemption before the world began was prophesied as the coming seed from the woman who would step upon the head of the serpent. Genesis 3:15 is the great proto-evangelium or what we would call "the first form of the gospel" Christ would offer himself as the better sacrifice in the place of mankind.

Adam tried to hide himself with the leaves of figs but these will prove to be no good for they would soon wither away. Instead God slaughtered an animal to make a sacrifice, [atonement] for fallen man and then clothed him with the skin of the animals to insure him the righteousness of God. Christ is the perfect sacrifice and He is the righteousness of God for man. No other substitute can prove worthy of such a sacrifice for He is the perfect Lamb of God.

It is inconceivable to think that we can hide ourselves in the creation to try to keep our sinful nature hidden before the eyes of Him to whom we must all give an account, Heb. 4:13 He sees us as we are and He knows everything about us, therefore we can trust that He provided the perfect sacrifice through His Son Jesus Christ.

It is by faith that we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28), We have a secure haven in the heavens above, it is through him that we can see our Heavenly Father face-to-face without shame holy and acceptable in his sight. For Christ carries our burdens daily and gives us rest in his eternal abode.

It was the sole purpose of Jesus Christ to reveal the Heavenly Father to the sons of men and by doing so grace would be given to reconcile men back to the Throne of the Father. God would ensure the power of salvation by grace through faith by providing a miracle and coming into the world through the virgin.

The virgin birth in the town of Bethlehem brought also with it a tragedy, for King Herod would send forth the soldiers to slaughter all the infants in that little town of Bethlehem. Christ brought salvation from the heavens, but the fear of evil men would try to evade it by their wicked schemes and evil doings.

We see the eternal loving glory of the Father manifested in the Son even before the foundations of the world, John 17:5, 24 for this is the comment that Christ gives about himself and teaching us the relationship between the Father and Himself.

Therefore every believer can claim that the sacrifice of Jesus was actually made on their behalf: by trust they can put their hands on Him, and make Christ their own, and therefore they may rest assured that they can never perish. The Heavenly Father would not receive the offering of his Son on our behalf, and then condemn us to die, He will not read our pardon written in the blood of His own Son, and then smite us.

Therefore we must understand that the believer can only be a believer through the amazing grace that is expressed by faith of the Son of God who loved us and gave his life for us. It is in Christ that we find the expressed purpose and chief end of the glory of God and the blessed hope of heaven.

The power of the believer is the redemption blood of Jesus Christ, for there is no force in hell that can overcome the blood. Blood is given for the atonement of our souls so that our sin [the original sin of Adam] will be taken away so that our names are written in the Lamb's book of life. He that overcomes by the blood has life, blessings and an inheritance that can never fade or spoil, 1Pete. 1:4

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### **Christ adds the believers**

This verse of Scripture is the very core of this book, it has great significance because it gives us clear and absolute evidence that the Savior adds the multitude of believers both men and women, to his body. They are completely his. How wonderful is this gospel of our beloved Jesus that both man and woman has the equal embracement of the Savior for He cares for the whole creation and delights to give us his blessings and his grace freely.

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. John 10:14

Notice the words, "And believers were the more added to the Lord" People are added to the Lord not a man-made organization or an institute. Although the body of Christ is a living organism, the Lord organizes it. We should do all that we can to make sure that our service to Him exemplifies the true nature of the gospel and is preached and taught with clarity in order to present the Savior in His Excellence and Majesty. Jesus must be wonderfully portrayed making every effort to make Him attractive to those who are outside of the sheepfold.

The church belongs to God, whether they be a singular or a community of believers they all belong to the Lord. The church stands in a unique relationship to Jesus. The church is Christ's body, a vital living extension of Jesus Himself. Christ is appointed head over everything for the church, which is his body, Ephesians 1:22. Jesus thus relates not only to individual believers, but also to believers in communities. The community as well as the individual must recognize Jesus as Lord and corporately submit to him who is the head of the church, Ephesians 5:23-24.

## **People in Community**

In order to understand the scriptural meaning of the church, we must think in terms of people in relationship-not structures, not meeting places not buildings. New Testament writers used three basic concepts almost exclusively to describe the church as God's people in community. They were called disciples, brothers, and saints.

### **Disciples**

The term "disciple" literally means both "a learner" and "a follower." It was a common concept in the first-century world. The Gospel According to John refers to the "disciples" of John the Baptist (1:35) and the "disciples" of Moses (9:28). Those who followed Christ were also identified as His "disciples," many of whom eventually no longer followed Jesus (6:66).

### **Brothers**

Biblical authors used the term "brothers" more frequently than any other word to refer to people who embodied the local church. For example, James penned this basic word in his epistle eighteen times. And overall, we encounter this concept more than two hundred times throughout the book of Acts and the epistles. Note, however, that the Greek word adelphoi, which is translated as "brothers" or "brethren," is often used generically to refer to both brothers and sisters in Christ.

### **Saints**

Hagios ("saints") is another word New Testament writers used frequently to describe born-again people in a local church. This term appears nearly fifty times in the New Testament, almost always in the context of local churches.

For example, Paul addressed the Corinthian believers as saints (2 Corinthians 1:1), even though most of them were living anything but godly lives (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). Yet, because of their faith in Jesus Christ and their true salvation experience, God viewed them through Christ's death and resurrection as perfectly hagios, or holy.

Note: However the believers are addressed they are to all appearance regarded throughout the Bible as the same class.

### **The believer and redemption**

The believer is redeemed from the guilt and power of sin, from the authority of Satan and has become the Lord's possession forever! Through the prayer of faith, there is healing and recovery for spirit, soul and body of the redeemed. We have a secure purpose in God and are held tightly by the hand of the Savior. He also promised us that nothing can pluck us out of his hand, John 10:28. In the book of Jeremiah, He also said that He would plant us and not pluck us up.

For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up. Jeremiah 24:6

And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. John8:35

Just as Jesus is the Son forever, so are all the adopted children of God shall continue being pillars in this house that shall never go out. They are no more servants, nor foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God.

And being sons, are heirs and shall never be cast out, as the bondwoman and her son had been, Gen. 21:9; Gal. 4:21-23. But these being the children of the free, shall forever enjoy the inheritance they are adopted to; once sons, always so, the relation ever continues, they will ever remain in the family, and being entitled to the heavenly estate, shall ever possess it.

True conversion is more important than our so-called church membership status. Too many people have been added to the administration list of the church and not necessarily to the Lord.

This is a small excerpt from my book, "the believer in Christ" pray for the completeness and publishing, God bless you and thank you.

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