

# TOWARD THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST

## Overview

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# Toward the Fullness of Christ

## INTRODUCTION

God desires for believers who are mature in Him to live in the  
'Fullness of Christ's provision'

Col.2:9-10.

For in Him dwell all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; (V10) And  
you are complete in him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Eph. 3:19.

To know the love of Christ that passes knowledge; that you might be  
Filled with all the fullness of God.

Eph. 4:13.

1. Till we all come to the unity of the faith
2. And of the knowledge of the Son of God
3. To a perfect man
4. To the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

NB.

Gen. 1:26. Let us make man in OUR image...

Col. 1:15. Christ the image of God...firstborn over all creation...

2.Cor.4:4. Christ the image of God.

Rom. 15:29. But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

Jn. 1:16. And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

NASA

Light (the speed of)

186,000 MPS                      671Million MPH                      (1080 Million KPH)

7.5 times around the Equator per sec

Globe: Circumference =                      24,901.55 miles.    (40,075.16 Km)

Distance from our nearest star to the Sun =                      4.2 light years

Our nearest galaxy (Canis) to earth =                      25,000 light years

Distance across the Milky Way                      100,000 Light years

Distance from Andromeda (Galaxy) to earth    2.5 million Light years

The speed of light is also the speed at which all energy, matter and information in the universe can travel.

Sunlight requires 8 min. 17 sec. to travel from sun to earth

@ 300,000 Kl. Per. Sec.

## TOWARD THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST

### The Light of Christ

Gen. 1:1-4 Read.

V2. And darkness was upon the face of the deep

V3. And God said let there be light

V4. And God saw the light that it was good

2. Cor. 4:6.

For it was God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Heb. 1:1-3.

God...has spoken by His son whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom (Christ) He made the worlds (V3) ... who being the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He (Christ) had by himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

1. Jn. 1:5-7.

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (V6). If we say we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practise the truth. (V7). But if we walk in the light as He is in the light we have

fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin.

Jn. 1:7. John the Baptist... Bore witness of the Light (Jesus Christ)

V8. He (John) was not that Light but was sent to bear witness of that Light (Jesus Christ).

V9. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

V4. In Him (Jesus Christ) was life and the life was the light of men.

Jn. 8:12.

I am the light of the world; He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

# **TOWARD THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST**

## **The Love of Christ**

### **Introduction**

Sadly in our English language we have only one word for love; Love.

We say we love the view, the food, the family pet, and our spouse and children.

In Greek there are four major words for love:

- 1). Éros - Physical Love
- 2). Storgē - Family Love
- 3). Philío - Brotherly Love
- 4). Agápe - God (Divine) Love

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## **The Love of Christ**

### **Jn.13:34.**

A new commandment I give to you that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another (V35) By this all will know that you are my disciples.

### **Jn. 15:9.**

As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

### Jn.15:12-17.

This is My commandment (not suggestion) that you love one another as I have loved you. (V17) These things I command you that you love one another.

### 1. Jn. 4:18-19.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. (V19). We love Him because He first loved us

### O.T. Example of His Love

#### Isa. 63:9. (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

In all their sufferings he suffered, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; He redeemed them because of His love and compassion; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of the past.

(Compare NIV & NKGV)

O.T. examples cont.'

Lam. 3:32.

Even if He caused suffering, He will show compassion according to His abundant faithful love.

Psa. 103:17.

The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting to those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children.

Hos. 14:4.

He (God) loved them freely (without condemnation).

Moving on as maturing believers toward the fullness of Christ's love: we understand from the apostle Paul:

2. Cor.5:14-15.

The love of Christ *compels* (NKJV) us, (Lk. 24:29. constrains) that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

1. Cor. 13:13.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three but the greatest of these is love.

V4. Love suffers long (is patient, Holman), and is kind:

- Love does not envy
- Love does not parade itself
- Love is not puffed up

Jn.3:16. “For God so loved that He gave...”

1. Cor. 13:13. Real love costs

Apostle Paul:

Phil. 1:9-11.

“And this I pray that your love may abound still more and more...”

We speak of the fullness of Christ’s love being operational in believers, because there are now (in Christ) two natures.

Gal. 6:14-15.

V14. “...The world has been crucified unto me, and I to the world”.  
NKJV

(The world sees me as dead and I see the world as dead).

V15. For in Christ Jesus nothing avails anything but a new creation.

(NIV Readers Version)

V15. What really counts is the creation of a new nature- (Christ’s nature).

Eph. 4:24. (New Living Translation)

Put on the new nature, created to be like God- truly righteous and holy.

1.Jn.4: 10, 19

Herein is love- not that we love God but that He loved us.

V19. (He initiated His divine love)

We (Now) love Him because He first loved us

2. Thess. 2:16. (God's Word Translation)

“God our Father loved us and by His kindness gave us everlasting encouragement and good hope, together with our Lord Jesus Christ”.

We are encouraged to love – to love is a choice:

Deut. 6:5. Love the LORD –all your heart

Zech. 8:19. Love truth and peace

Prov. 17:17. A friend loves at all times

Matt. 5:44. Love your enemies

Heb. 10:24. Provoke unto (stir up) love

Paul asks the BIG question

Rom. 8:35,38,-39.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation or distress or persecution or nakedness or peril or sword?

V37. In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

V38. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor powers nor things present nor things to come,

V39. Nor height nor depth nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gal.5:22.

The first fruit of the Fruit of the Spirit is Love.

Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

Eph. 3:16-19.

V16. That He would grant you according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through the Spirit in the inner man, V17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you being rooted and grounded in love, V18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and depth and length and height V19 to Know the Love of Christ (AGAPE, divine love) which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Eph. 4:1-16

V1. Walk worthy of the calling...

V2 ...Bearing with one another in love

V13. – Till we all come in the unity of the faith

- And the knowledge of the Son of God
- To a perfect man
  - To the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

V15. – But speaking the truth in love

- According to the effective working by which every part does its share
- Causes growth of the body, for the edifying of its self in love.

Col. 3:16.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all:

WISDOM, TEACHING, ADMONISHING (one another) in PSALMS, HYMNS, SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING WITH GRACE IN YOUR HEARTS TO THE LORD

O.T. Moses reviews Israel's forty years:

- Red Sea
- Water from rock
- Brazen serpent
- Their victories in battle... Obedience
- Their defeats in battle ... Disobedience
- Rock struck two times instead of speaking to it... for this,
- Moses banished from the Promised land

Forty years of wilderness is now behind them

Moses speaks to the children of Israel; not now as their leader but as a shepherd/pastor, saying:

Deut. 7:6-9,13. (Read)

You are a chosen people, holy people... the LORD has chosen you for Himself—a special treasure.

Just before Joshua leads Israel across Jordan (Ch34) Moses dies on Mt. Nebo on top of Pisgah.

God showed him the land beyond Jordan from which he was barred by striking the Rock two times instead of speaking to it. The rock being a type of our Rock, Jesus Christ, Who was struck once for our sins.

Thereafter He only needed us to speak to Him for remission. Moses died there and was buried by the hand of God.

Deut. 7

V7-8. The LORD loves you because...

V9. He keeps His promise to those who love Him...

V13. He will love you and bless you and multiply you...

V15. And the LORD will take away all sickness...

We Gentiles are partakers of God's promise to Israel-

We who are from the wild olive tree are cut off and grafted in the cultivated olive tree-Israel. Rom.11:18-26.

God's divine (Agápe) love is the pure well-spring source of his love to us.

1. Tim 1:5.

Now the purpose of the commandment is to love (one another) from a pure heart. Love, not with human love but with his divine love.

Love with a:

--Pure heart

--Good conscience

--Sincere faith

1.Jn.3:21. Beloved if our heart does not condemn us we have confidence toward God

1.Jn.4:12-13,16. If we love one another God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. (V13). By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of his Spirit. (16). And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

Phil. 1:9-11. And this I pray::

1. That your love may abound still more and more

2. In knowledge

3. And discernment

4. Approve all things

5. May be sincere

6. Without (giving) offence until the day of Christ

7. Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

Matthew Henry (#6)

That we may be and inoffensive people, not apt to take offence; and very careful not to give offence to God or the brethren, to live in all good conscience void of offence toward God and men Act.23:1, 24:16.

Jn.13:34-35. Again.

Conclusion

A new commandment I give to you that you love one another; as I have loved you that you also love one another. (V35) By this all will know that you are My disciples.

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## Toward The Fullness of Christ

### His Peace

We must qualify 'peace'

This class study is mainly about the peace of God, but we must first define both.

There is:

1). Peace with God

And the

2). Peace of God

#### Peace with God:

Simply stated; How may one know peace with God?

Answer:

(Rom. 5:1). Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Rom.10:13). For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

(Act.16:31). ...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved and your house.

Charles G. (Grandison) Finney. (1792-1885)

How Finney found peace with God:

Read conversion excerpts. P229/230/232/233/234/235/242/243

Peace with God must begin with the New Birth; after which one may begin to know the peace of God.

Peace of God: (Col.3:15). And let the peace of God (God's peace) rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

(Phil. 4:6-7).

Be

(1) Anxious for nothing but in

(2) Everything by prayer and

(3) Supplication, with

(4) Thanksgiving,

Let your requests be made known to God;

(V7) and the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.

Remember: One must be at **peace with God** before one may experience the **peace of God**.

(760 yrs. BC). Isaiah declared: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isa. 9:6).

(Matt. 1:21). And she (Mary) shall bring forth a son, and you (Joseph) shall call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins.

When we speak of the peace of God, and Christ’s peace; remember that they are synonymous; as in:

**God** was in **Christ** reconciling the world unto Himself... (2.Cor 5:19).

He (Christ) Himself is our peace, who has made both one (Jew & Gentile), and has broken down the middle wall of separation, (*between us* KGV) ... so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace. Eph. 2:12-13.

At that time,(Heb. 2:12)

- 1) We were lost Gentiles,
- 2) Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel,
- 3) Strangers from the covenants of promise,
- 4) Had no hope and,
5. Without God in the world.

V14. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

As believers we have the promise of His divine peace.

### **Jesus gives peace:**

(Jn.14:27). “**Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world gives**, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

### **God gives peace:**

(Heb.13:20).

Now may the **God of peace** who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (V21) make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you, what is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

God is the source of peace.

Paul to the Roman Church:

(Rom. 1:7).

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul to the Corinthian Church:

(2.Cor.13:11)

Finally, brethren, farewell, Become complete (1.Jn.2:5.KJV).By this we know we are complete in Him). Be of good comfort, be of one mind, (Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus... Phil. 2:5.) live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

## **TOWARD THE FULNESS OF CHRIST**

### The Spirit of Christ

Intro:

Matthew traces the genealogy of Christ through 42 generations back to the Patriarch Abraham. (Matt. 1:17).

Luke traces Christ's genealogy in Joseph's line as son (being as supposed) through more than 70 generations back to Adam the son of God. (Lk.3:23-38).

(Matt.1:20). Joseph: ...Behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit...".

Baptised of John in Jordan:

(Matt.3:16). When He had been baptised, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

(V17) And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”.

Then immediately following His baptism...

(Matt. 4:1).Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Christ was born of God, very God and very man.

(Jn.1:1) In the beginning was the Word, and

The Word was with God, and

The Word was God.

(Jn. 1:14) And the Word became flesh (Jesus Christ) and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

He was God in the flesh...

He was the Son of Man (Matt 16:13).

Jesus asks His disciples; “Who do men say that I the Son of Man am”?

Peter: “You are the Christ the Son of the living God”

(Isa. 61:1-3). The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor... (Read).

The coming of the Holy Spirit is the anointing.

(1.Jn. 2:20)

“But **you have** and anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things”.

The anointing breaks the yoke.

(Isa. 10:27). And the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil.

The Holy Spirit is symbolised by:

**WIND** Act.2:2;

**FIRE** Matt 3:11, 2:2;

**DOVE** Matt. 3:16;

**Holy OIL** Psa.89:20, & etc.

## Some actions ascribed to the Holy Spirit

<u>He searches</u>	1 Cor. 2:10.
<u>He prays</u>	Rom. 8:26.
<u>He teaches</u>	Jn. 14:26
<u>He speaks</u>	Jn. 16:13
<u>He testifies</u>	Jn. 15:26
<u>He guides</u>	Jn. 16:13
<u>He will glorify Christ</u>	Jn.16:14.
<u>He grieves</u>	Eph. 4:20.

Paul to the Romans:

Paul's position on the **believers walk** in the Spirit of Christ

### **Rom. 6:1-15.**

V1. What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

V2. Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

V3. Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death?

V4. 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.

V5. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

V6 knowing that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

V7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

V8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

V9 Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

V10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives He lives to God.

V11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

V12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

V13 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.

V14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

V15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

## **Rom. 8**

V2. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death". ("For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace".) (Rom. 6:14).

V5. "...But those who live according to the Spirit (set their minds on) the things of the Spirit"

V6. "...To be spiritually minded is life and peace"

V9. "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you..."

V10. “And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness”. (Jer. 23:6) ... Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

David: Rom. 4:6. “Blessed is the man to whom God imputes (reckons, considers, bestows, to be made) righteousness apart from works”.

V11. “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”.

How shall we then live?

We understand the Spirit of Christ by his action:

When His friend Lazarus died...      Jesus showed compassion  
Jn.11:35.

When children came to Him...      Jesus showed gentleness. Mk.  
10:14.

When He said “come and dine...”      Jesus showed hospitality. Jn.  
21:12.

When He acknowledged the thief...      Jesus showed forgiveness. Lk. 23:43.

Eph. 4:23-24. ...Be renewed in the spirit of your mind and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

2. Thess. 2:2. ...Not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled...

2. Pet. 3:10-13.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...V11.

Therefore... **what manner of persons ought you to be** in holy conduct and godliness, V12. Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God... V13. Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

## **TOWARD THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST**

His forgiveness

Believers have been forgiven **much**.

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Rom 3:23).

Wages of sin death but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom. 6:23).

There is none righteous no not one. (Rom.3:10).

All our righteousness is as filthy rags. (Isa. 64:6).

Since Christ has forgiven us, we now stand in His righteousness alone.

In His earthly ministry, he healed and forgave sin:

(Matt. 2:5-7. As he healed the paralytic He forgave his sin.

“Son your sins are forgiven you”

**The fullness of Christ** , in forgiving us, required that God “...laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isa.53:6.).

When the disciples asked Him; “...Lord, teach us to pray” (LK.11:2);

He said;

“When you pray, say, (V4) ...Forgive us our sins, (and in the same breath and sentence), for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us...”

Christ had every reason to show / hold resentment:

**On the day before his crucifixion (Thursday) there were many heart-breaks for Christ:**

1). Judas betrayed Him (for thirty pieces of silver) with a kiss. (Mk. 14:45).

2). Peter lost his temper and cut off Malchus, the High priests servant's ear. (Jn. 18:10)

3). The chief Priests, the elders and scribes, led Him away to the High priest. (Mk. 14:53).

4). "...Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled". (Matt 26:56).

5). Peter denied Christ, not once but three times. (Mk.14:66-72).

6). Humiliated before Pilate (Mk. 15:1-5).

7). Rejected by the House of Israel whom He came to save.

Mk. 15:12-13.

8). Mocked Him as King, purple robe, twisted crown of thorns on His head, saluted and mocked Him. (Mk. 15:16-20).

9). Carrying his own cross to Golgotha. (Jn.19:17).

10). The physical agony of his crucifixion. (Matt.27:35).

11) The two robbers railed on and reviled him. (Matt 27:44).

**Then:**

This is evidence of the **Fullness of Christ's forgiveness**

Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do. (Lk.23:34).

**This is His forgiveness**

The penitent thief is the last to receive Christ's forgiveness: "Lord remember me" ... Christ: Assuredly, "I say to you, today you shall be with me in Paradise". (Lk. 23:43).**This is His forgiveness**

**As we move in maturity toward the fullness of Christ's forgiveness:**

It demands our 'likewise' forgiveness.

We have been forgiven **much**.

**Jesus said:**

(Lk. 7:47). "...But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little"

Conversely: To whom **much** is forgiven, the same loves **much**.

Someone once said:

"One can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving".

(Lk. 6:37). "...Forgive and you shall be forgiven.

Matt. 6:14-15. "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (V15). If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses".

(Eph. 4:32). "And be kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you".

(Psa. 68:18) “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me”.

**Un-forgiveness** is listed with Paul’s litany of sins. (Rom. 1:26-32, V31).

(Matt. 5:23-24). “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, (V24). Leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift”.

There are four primary degrees of forgiveness:

1) We are forgiven by God.

2. We forgive others.

3. We forgive ourselves.

4. We forgive God:

(# 4. Not So! But to the finite mind it sometimes seems like we need to.

## **TOWARD THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST**

### **His Resurrection Power**

Christ's birth, life, ministry, judgement, crucifixion and resurrection combined, is considered the most corroborated event in human history.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most significant event in scripture and is the foundation of the believer's faith.

If Christ was not resurrected, it would be the greatest documented hoax ever perpetrated in history.

He would have no credibility, there would be no truth to his Father's claim of His Son ship; creation and its future is questionable, and we are not who we think we are.

Had Christ not risen as He said, the Apostles would not have written the New Testament nor would they have become martyrs for His cause.

He lives today and encourages us as He did then that first resurrection morning; saying "Peace to you" "Rejoice". Lk.24:36; Matt.28:9.

**Forty days of proof**

Act. 1:3. "...To whom He also presented Himself alive, after His sufferings, by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God".

But He is risen as He said (Matt. 28:1-15).

1. The two Marys came to the tomb- V1.
2. There was a great earthquake- V2
3. The angel of the Lord rolled back the stone-V2.
4. The guards shook for fear V4.
5. The Angel: "Do not be afraid...V5.
6. He is not here He is risen, as He said- V6.
7. Come and see where He lay; V6
8. Go quickly and tell His disciples...V7.
9. And as they went to tell, Jesus met them, saying, "**Rejoice**" V9.
10. Jesus said, "Go tell my disciples they will see me at Galilee.

**Historical proof:**

**Secular**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Historians:**

**FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS AD 37-100**

**IGNATIUS AD 50-115**

**TERTULLIAN AD 160-220**

## **BIBLICAL PROOF**

Matt. 28:11-15.

If Christ had not risen; why this subterfuge?

V11. Roman soldiers came told the resurrection events to the chief priests.

V12. After consultation with the Jewish elders, they gave large sums of money to the soldiers.

V13. Instructing them to say His disciples stole Him away in the night while they (the soldiers) slept.

V14. If it gets to the governor we will satisfy him and protect you.

V.15. This is a historical record with the Jews to this day.

The Jewish elders together with the soldiers perpetrated the hoax of Christ not being resurrected, not the disciples perpetrating a hoax of Christ's resurrection.

**The most significant chapter on the resurrection of Jesus Christ is:  
1.Cor.15: 12-22. (Whole context)**

This passage emphasises the fact of the resurrection to the Sadducees who did not believe in the resurrection from the dead.

V17. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

V18. Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

V19. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

V20. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

V21. For since by man came death, by Man came also the resurrection of the dead.

V22. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

V45. And so it is written, “the first man Adam became a living being...” (Gen. 2:7). “The last Adam became a life-giving spirit”. Rom. 5:14-15.

Peter in Act.2:26-28, cites David from the Psa.16:10 as being prophetic, relating to Christ’s resurrection, saying: “For you will not leave my soul in Sheol, (the grave) nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption”.

Eph. 1:19-23.

“...and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power (V20) which He (God) worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and seated him at His right hand...”.

### **Paul declared to the Philippians: Phil.3:8-11.**

V10. “...That I may know him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to his death.

Meaning: To be pressed into His mold (Positive pressing)

We met this word a few weeks ago as in:

Rom.12:2. “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” Do not let the world press you into its mold. (Negative pressing)

**Because He lives, we shall live also.**

His resurrection is proof that in Christ, you will also live in resurrection life. 1.Cor.6:14.

And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

Jesus Christ attests to the believers resurrection. Lk.20:36-37.

V36. "...Nor can they die anymore...for they are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. (V37). But even Moses showed in the burning bush passage, that the dead are raised, when he called the Lord:

'The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob' (38) "For He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Him"

Rom.8:10-11.

"And if Christ is in you, the **body is dead because of sin**, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

(V11) 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".

Jesus promised:

Jn.10: 17-18

"...I lay down my life that I may take it again. (V18) No one takes it from Me, because I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father".

Jn. 11:25-26.

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. (V26) And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this”.

### **The cycle of Christ, from Glory to Glory**

He came from:

Glory                      Jn.1:1-3, 14. Col.1:17. Isa.44:6. Mic.5:2. Rev.1:8, to

Galilee                    Mk.1:9.    Public ministry, to

Gethsemane            Jn. 18:1. Garden of agonizing prayer, to

Gabbatha            Jn.19:13. Herod's Praetorium,  
                          The Pavement beneath Pilates judgement seat, to  
Golgotha            Jn.19:17.The place of the skull – crucifixion, to  
Garden Tomb      Jn.19:41.Earthquake, resurrection, stone rolled  
away, to  
Glory                Lk. 24:51. At Bethany, He blessed them, taken  
to heaven.

### 2. Cor. 5:14-15.

For the love of Christ compels (NKJV)(constrains Lk.24:29) us,  
because we judge thus; that if one died for all, then all died; (V15)  
and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for  
themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again.

He is alive!!!

Because He lives we shall live also.

Conclusion:

### **Toward the Fullness of Christ**

Section one – Current study

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