

# Christ Is All

Colossians 3:11

**FOCAL Read Together Colossians 3:11 ... there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.**

This is a very simple phrase, but one which is the heart of the Scripture: **“Christ is all, and in all”**. This phrase answers every question. For instance, ask “How may I be saved, How can I become acceptable to God” and the answer is **“Christ is all”**. Ask the question “Why is my life such a mess, and why is my world falling apart?” and God replies **“Is Christ all, and in all that you do?”** Go to God with the cry “Why does my life seem pointless and without meaning?” Doesn't He say back to you **“How much of your life is in Christ. Is Christ all, and in all you do, or only in the minor parts of your life?”**

Is **Christ all, and in all** to you? If you have a fear of death then you need to grow in your knowledge of Him. It is inconceivable that the Christian – if you are a Christian – should fear death. The early Christians were threatened by the full force of the Roman Empire. Rome told them “If you worship that Jesus, and if you preach that Gospel, you will become feed for our lions and fools that the blood splattered crowds of the Coliseum mocks.” The early Christian said **“Christ is all, and in all”**, and valiantly died by the thousands, praising Jesus under the paw of the lion. Though no sane person embraces martyrdom the early believers knew that Christ had promised them **whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die (John 11:26)**. They clung to this great truth so much that before too many years had passed Rome fell under the weight of Christ. **Christ is all and**



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in all.

## 1. Don't Waste Your Life

**FOCAL** Colossians 3:11 ... there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

There is nothing more sad than a wasted life. We all feel shock, and grief when tragedies like 9-11 are forced on us. We were shocked at the tsunami that hit Asia killing over 100,000 people. We are sickened and dismayed when we hear of military governments and religious nuts that carry out vast, ethnic cleansing programs. The Psalmist asked God

**Psalms 2:1-3 “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? {2} The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, {3} Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”**

Why do these things happen?

Several of Jesus' disciples asked Him a similar question one day. While the Galileans – followers of Judas Gaulonites - were worshiping at the Temple the Roman Governor Pilate sent soldiers in to attack and kill them. These Galileans had refused to submit to Roman authority. The soldiers defiled the Temple by mingling the blood of these worshipers with the blood of the animal sacrifices. When the disciples asked Jesus about

this terrible tragedy the Lord said:

**Luke 13:2-3 ... Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? {3} I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

Jesus went on to say “**do not be astonished at these things, rather, be astonished that the same thing did not happen to you**”. You see, we are all sinners, and all live in a sinful world.

When we see death around us this is not because God does not love us. The Bible tells us that “**because of Adam's offense in the Garden of Eden death rules creation**” (Romans 5:17). Our world is corrupt because of sin.

Sickness and death is rampant. People do not die in tsunamis nor in any natural disaster because God is angry with us. People die because of Adam's transgression. People die because Satan has brought the corruption of sin to that which was made perfect.

Today you're here in a very nice – even a blessed – place because of God's Grace. You have life. God has given you life. He allowed you to wake up this morning, and brought you into this place to tell you **don't waste your life!**

Satan wants you to waste your life. He wants you to

come into this place and hear the words “**Christ is all, and in all**”, and then walk away unchanged.

Satan loves it when people ignore the Lord's calling to salvation. Satan loves it when he convinces you to wait until tomorrow to align your life with Christ. For you see, if the Scripture is true, and **Christ is all and in all**, then the only way that your life is going to have meaning is when that life is centered in Christ.

**ILLUSTRATE** One of the most amusing – and tragic – statements in the Bible comes from the mouth of the king of Egypt. Several times God had told **Pharaoh** through the mouth of the **Prophet Moses** “Let My people go, that they may serve Me”. But Pharaoh would not repent. In **Exodus chapter 8** we see the very first mention of **frogs** in the Bible, for God sent frogs on Egypt. Pharaoh did not want to worship the True God, nor did he reverence Jesus Christ. He and all of Egypt – an Old Testament type or shadow of *worldliness* – worshiped animals and things made with their hands. So God brought a curse on Egypt.

**Frogs were everywhere! Frogs in the bedroom, frogs in the kitchen, frogs in the parlor, frogs in the oven, frogs in the kneading troughs! God had said {“If you refuse Me} I will smite all your borders with frogs!” (Exodus 8:2). God keeps His Word! Look at that Egyptian woman opening her oven; she screams! out jumps frogs. There's a fellow pulling down the sheets to get into a comfortable bed and – frogs are his bedfellows! Another one putting on his clothes:**

**what's that in his pockets? Frogs! .... Frogs in the palace, frogs in the hut of squalor. Little frogs, big frogs. ... Finally Pharaoh could stand it no more. He called for Moses, the servant of God. “Intreat the Lord, that He may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the Lord”. ... So Moses said “... when shall I entreat for thee ... to destroy the frogs from thee and thy houses, that they may remain in the river only?” And Pharaoh said, “Tomorrow”.<sup>1</sup>**

Can you imagine that? Pharaoh – an unbeliever and a godless man – saw that his life was a mess. He even admitted that he knew the Lord could remove that mess. Yet when he was asked “When do you want relief from the frogs” Pharaoh answered “Tomorrow – do it tomorrow”. Before you laugh think about it for a minute. I have told you the Scripture says that **Christ is all, and is in all**. The only way you will ever be acceptable to God is by coming unto Christ. The only way your life will be blessed is by giving that life unto Him. Some of you under the sound of my voice know your life is a mess. You know that the Lord has said:

**Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**

You know that the Scripture says **there is salvation in no other, for there is no other Name under Heaven given unto men whereby you might be saved (Acts 4:12)**. You know that Jesus went to the cross for our sins (**Romans 4:25**) and know that God says:

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<sup>1</sup> From Pastor Hugh Pyle's *One More Night With The Frogs*

**2 Corinthians 6:2 ... behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**

and yet, like Pharaoh, you tell God

**I would rather spend one more night with the frogs.**

How terribly sad, and what an awful waste of life! God wants to take every life in this place today and bless it by coming into the framework of your lives. I can testify as a Christian that this is indeed a joy filled life! Consider this, dear friends. When Jesus Christ died on the Cross one of the last statements He made was **“It is finished”**. The Bible says:

**John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**

Prior to this moment Jesus rejected every effort to give Him something to drink. When they beat Him He refused the vinegar. When He carried His Cross to Golgotha He refused the vinegar. We read:

**Matthew 27:34-35 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. {35} And they crucified him ...**

He would not drink that bitter gall until after He was crucified, until after our sins were poured out on Him

and judged. Just before our Lord died He asked to drink. Look at the text:

**John 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.**

Jesus **knew that all things were accomplished**. What was accomplished? Your sins and mine were poured out on Him and judged. **He consumed our sin, being made sin for us**. The bitter vinegar, that terrible gall that He drank of just before He died symbolized every evil thing we would ever do. Drinking deeply of our sin, being punished for every transgression we would ever make, Jesus said **“it is finished”**<sup>2</sup>. This is but one word in the Greek text, **tetelestai**, meaning **“it is finished with the result that it keeps on being finished”**.

When a bill was paid off in the ancient world the merchant would mark it **tetelestai**, **“Paid in Full”**. When a prisoner was freed from prison he was given a document marked **tetelestai**, **“Paid in Full”**. The sentence has been paid, the bill is no longer due, the mortgage can be burned. **It is finished**.

Before you are saved your life is a wasteland. The Bible describes the unsaved as **dead things**, given each new day life so that you might be saved.

2 **τέλειω**, teleō, *tel-eh'-o*, From G5056; to *end*, that is, *complete, execute, conclude, discharge* (a debt): - accomplish, make an end, expire, fill up, finish, go over, pay, perform. (Perfect Passive Indicative)

**Colossians 2:13-14** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath {Jesus} quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; {14} Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

**Christ is all, and in all.** Before Christ a person has nothing but sin and condemnation before the Lord Who allows them to live. But after Christ – after we call upon Him and are saved -

**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.

Will you not come to Christ today? He has said that **whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall save it (Matthew 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24)**. Refuse to surrender your lives to Christ, refuse to believe that **Christ is all and in all** and your life will eventually be lost, wasted, destroyed. Pharaoh refused to repent and something worse came in place of the frogs.

**Following the frogs were lice, flies, locusts, boils, fire, darkness, the death of the firstborn, and eventually the drowning of the armies of Egypt in the Red Sea.** God has given you life, given you one more chance to come unto Him. Don't waste your

life!

## **2. Don't Waste Christ's Life!**

**FOCAL** Colossians 3:11 ... there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

When God gave His life on Calvary (**Acts 20:28**) He did so with the express purpose of **adopting you as sons in His Kingdom**. You who are **born again** have been given a **new life in Christ**. You are “**born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God**” (**John 1:13**). God did not will your New Birth to give you salvation with a *little “s”*. God became incarnate to die on Calvary, but rose again on the third day so that He could live through you. What does the Scripture say?

**2 Corinthians 5:15** ... {Christ} died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

**We do not live for ourselves, but for Him who died for us and rose again.** We live for Jesus, and Jesus lives in us. This is a powerful truth that we illustrate when people – believers – are baptized. When we are baptized we are saying that we are bound to Jesus. We are symbolically

**Colossians 2:12** Buried with {Christ} in baptism ...

Sin killed Christ – our sins were poured out on Christ and judged. **He died for us – and we, identified with Him, died with Him.** We go under the water symbolizing this great truth – and we stay under the water but a moment. Then we are lifted out of the water, symbolizing that

**Colossians 2:12 ... ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**

Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and those of you who are saved are **alive from the dead.** You are **risen, born again creatures** who have the potential to live victorious lives in this present world. God is with you, and you are with God forever. If you understand this great statement:

**FOCAL** Colossians 3:11 ... but **Christ is all, and in all.**

**Christ is all.** He is all power, He is all majesty, He is everything to the Christian. **Christ is in all.** Christ is in all Christians. It is God's intent to make you more like Jesus *in everything.* **He is our life (Colossians 3:4),** and anything that takes us away from Jesus is *unworthy of a Christian's consideration.*

The victorious Christian is consumed with the truth that **Christ is all and in all.** The Apostle said:

**Philippians 3:13-14 ... this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, {14} I press**

**toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

There are defeated Christians wandering around aimlessly in this present dark world because they are trying to live their lives as if **Christ is half, and I am half.** As long as you have that mindset you will never be what God wants you to be.

Quit trying to handle your own problems, and let **Christ, Who is all** handle your problems. Stop trying to do it your way and start doing it His way. Stop trying and start trusting. You trusted Christ for salvation, now trust Him for life. The Scripture tells us

**Romans 6:1-4 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? {2} God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? {3} Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? {4} Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

Christ died for our sins. We who are His by faith are **dead with Him – our lives are hidden with Christ.** Christ rose again so that He – the Incarnate – could live through us. Just as Christ is **dead to sin** so are we **dead to sin.** Just as Christ was raised up from the dead **by the glory of the Father,** we who were dead are now called to walk in newness of life.

Does this mean that the Christian will not sin? No, absolutely not. But ...

you need to understand that God's purpose in the Christian's life is to *form Christ in us*. **Christ is all, and in all**. When I fail God what is my remedy but that **Christ is all**? When I sin – a thing which no Christian should willingly seek – I remedy my failure by pleading the Blood of Christ and the Indwelling Savior.

Christ is with me, and in me, and can never be separated from me. He could not leave me *even if He wanted to*, which He cannot, for **God has promised**. When trials come remember they do not come from the hands of an angry, spiteful God on an unsaved vessel. You are His by faith. Being His by faith you can say with the Apostle:

**Romans 8:34-35 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. {35} Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

God did the most for you at the point of your salvation by **bearing your own sins on His Body on the Tree**. You belong to God – and your trials belong to God. Every trial that comes your way is an opportunity to learn to trust in Him Who saved you.

In the midst of your trials do not give up, but *look up*. Do not give in, but *trust in*. You belong to God – and your trials belong to God. The Grace that saved you is the same Grace that empowers you to live. We surrendered to His Grace to be saved – now we must surrender to His Grace to *live*.

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers (a group of Carnal Christians if there ever was one):

**1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

Here is the partnership of the Christian with God. God saved you to make you more than you are now. He saved you so that He could – through you – reach the world. There are so many Christians who receive the **Grace of God in vain**, and who, like **Esau, sell their birthright for a little bit of earthly comfort**. Paul went on to tell the Corinthians:

**2 Corinthians 6:1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.**

How does one **receive the Grace of God in vain**? You receive your salvation – that precious faith that Christ paid so much for – and then never use that faith to its full

potential. God did not just save you so you could wander in the desert like Israel of old. He saved you so that He could use you, so that He could bless you, so that He could form Christ within you. **Those who are in Christ are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)**. God manifests Himself in the framework of our lives when we live surrendered to Him.

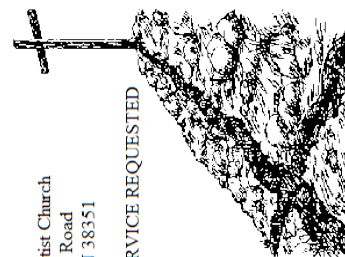
God wants you to live a victorious, joyous, happy life. God wants you to reach your full potential in Him. God wants to bless you *now*, for He lives in you. He does not want you to live defeated, empty and miserable lives. He does not want you to

**Ephesians 4:17-19 ... walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, {18} Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: {19} Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**

You who are Christians are not saved so that you can be like **the other Gentiles**. There is no power in that life. Remember that old poem:

**Only one life; Twill soon be past;  
Only what's done for Christ will last!**

You have been born again for something more. **Don't waste His life!**



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED