

# Church in Regina

## The Enjoyment of Christ and Our Growth in Life unto Maturity—Week 4

In Colossians 3:3-4 Paul twice speaks of life, indicating thereby that **we have one life with Christ**. In verse 3 he says that **our life** "is hidden with Christ in God." In verse 4 he goes on to say "**Christ our life is manifested**." **Life here is Christ's life becoming our life**. If it were merely Christ's life, it could not be called "our life." The fact that it is "our life" indicates that it refers to something which has become ours. However, the life here is **not our natural life**, the life inherited from Adam. Such a life could never be that which is hidden with Christ in God. God would never allow the natural life inherited from Adam to be hidden in Him. The only life that can be hidden with Christ in God is the divine life, the life of Christ. It is this life which has become our life. Paul's use of the expression our life indicates that **we and Christ, and also God Himself, have one life**. We should not think that God has one life, that Christ has another life, and that we who believe in Christ have yet another life. Rather, **God, Christ, and the believers have one life**. The life of God is the life of Christ, and the life of Christ has become our life. We can declare that we have the life that Christ has, the life hidden within God.

The life of the saints is Christ, a wonderful person who is sitting at the right hand of God, with whom the saints were raised, and with whom their life is hidden in God, **in order that they may seek the things which are above and may set their mind on the things which are above** for them to be manifested with Him in glory (vv. 1-4). Therefore, we must put to death our members which are on the earth, all the fleshly and sinful members, and we must put off the old man with his practices while putting on the new man, which is being renewed according to the image of Him who created him (vv. 5-10). In doing so we are daily being transformed into the image of Christ by being sealed with the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 1:13; 4:30). As the life of the saints, as our life, Christ is also the constituent of the new man because He is all and in all; this means that Christ is us. In the new man there is no race, no nationality, no social rank, for in the new man Christ is all the members and is in all the members. The new man is the spontaneous issue of our taking Christ as our life and living Him.

In 3:1 Paul also says, "If therefore **you were raised together with Christ**, seek the things which are above, where Christ is." The word raised here refers to the raising aspect of baptism, which is altogether contrary to asceticism. We were raised together with Christ. We are now where Christ is, sitting in the heavens. Hence, we should not practice the things on earth that ascetics do. Rather, we should seek the things which are in the heavens, such as knowing Christ as everything to us so that we may take Him as life and thereby walk in Him.

**We need to live by Christ in the heavens, not by the elements of the world.** As those who have died with Christ from the things on the earth, especially to things related to asceticism, as those who have been baptized into His death (Rom. 6:3) and raised together with Christ, we should live in the heavens. The heavens are joined to the church; therefore, **to live in the heavens is simply to live in the church, for the church and the heavens are one**. This is the reason that there should not be any of the elements of the world in the church. Today, to be in the church is to be in the heavens, and to be in the heavens is to be in the church. In our Christian life the church and the heavens are one. As we participate in the church life, we have the sense that we are in the heavens. The church is in the heavens. Here, in this heavenly realm, we have no place for the elements of the world.

In Colossians 3:3 Paul goes on to say, "Your life is hidden with Christ in God." Because our life (**not our natural life but our spiritual life, which is Christ**) is hidden with Christ in God, who is in the heavens, **we should no longer care for things on the earth**. God in the heavens should be the sphere of our living. With Christ we should live in God. We should note that Paul does not say that our life is hidden with Christ in heaven. Rather, he tells us that our life is hidden in God, in the living, divine person. This indicates that God Himself is the realm, the sphere, in which we should live and walk. Colossians 3:3 says that our life is hidden with Christ in God. To be with Christ in God means that we are one with Christ. In the words of 1 Corinthians 6:17, **he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit**. We are with Christ in God because we and Christ are subjectively one (Excerpts from The Conclusion of the New Testament: Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ, Volume 2, Msgs. 323-381).

### Local Announcements:

1. Prayer Mtg—May 28—Group 1 in person; Group 2 by Zoom
2. Blending Conference in Winnipeg—June 8 to 9

### Conferences and Trainings Information:

1. Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference—Feb.10-11, Taipei, Taiwan
2. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Apr.12-14, Anaheim, CA
3. Memorial Day Blending Conference—May 24-27, Bellevue, WA
4. Summer Training—July 1-6, Anaheim, CA
5. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Oct.4-6, Warsaw, Poland
6. Thanksgiving Blending Conference—Nov.28-Dec.1, Atlanta, GA
7. Winter Training—Dec.23-28, Anaheim, CA

# Prayer Burdens

1. Lord, outwardly we are the old creation, but inwardly, we are the new creation. Thank You for such a blessing that we can know and experience You as the all-inclusive One.
2. Lord, enrich our experience daily that we may be those who freshly experience the phrases *"Christ in you (1:27), full-grown in Christ (v. 28), walk in Him (2:6), according to Christ (v. 8), made alive together with Him (v. 13), died with Christ (v. 20), holding the Head (v. 19), out from whom (v. 19), and grows with the growth of God."*
3. Thank You, Lord for placing us in You – bringing us to have one position, one life, one living, one destiny and one glory. Grant us the full knowledge of the mystery of God and live a practical life that expresses the fullness of the Godhead in whatever we do day by day.
4. Remind us continually to turn to our spirit and call on Your name. May we all really seek the things which are above, be lifted up from our personal situations, no longer looking at ourselves but realizing that we died, and our life is hidden with Christ in God.
5. Lord, we hold You as the Head. Continue to supply us, root us, and build us that we may not be defrauded of our prize—our enjoyment of Christ in this age. May our roots grow deeper as we daily absorb Your riches.
6. Cause us to hold the truth in love that we may grow up into You, the Head in all things. Get into us more and cause the growth in the church. May we all rise up and take adequate time to absorb You and assimilate You in our being.

## North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Please pray for the upcoming Bible distribution at the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris. Please pray in particular for the fresh and detailed consecrations of all the saints who will go out and that the fire of the gospel will be cast on French-speaking Europe, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Switzerland.

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1. Pray for the college students who will be joining the College Training.
2. Pray for the propagation work in Foam Lake and Moose Jaw. Strengthen the saints who are there to be a shining testimony. Remember their whole families and open them that there will be household salvation and lampstands in these places.
3. Pray for positive and immediate approval of all the immigration papers of the newcomers and their settling down, that their personal lives will be blessed and that their church life will be enriched:
  - > Sorronda Family (Dana and Yeska)
  - > Alforte Family (Radam and Rosalina)
  - > Orolfo Family (Wilson and Jenny and their three children)
  - > Jerome Family (Pravin and Abinaya and their two children)
  - > Miranda Family (Ann Margarete and her family)

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

- Lord's Table & Prophesying—Lord's Day 10:00-12:00PM
- Prayer Meeting—Tuesdays 7:00-8:00PM
- Home Meeting—Wednesdays 6:00-7:00PM
- Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading—MW 8:30-9:00PM
- College Meetings—Fridays 7:30-8:30PM
- YP Meetings—Fridays 7:00-8:00 PM
- Children's Meeting—Saturdays 10:00-11:00AM
- Small Group Meetings—Fridays/Saturdays 7:00-9:00PM

## CONTACT US:

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