

# Christian Study

Lesson 228

## Be Light

*Focusing on Church beyond Sunday*

How Can I Know and Understand What the Bible Means?

### Understanding the Basic Gospel

*IN HIM (CHRIST) YOU ARE COMPLETE*

As we did establish in our last lesson that salvation is Christ in you, we will continue to show you the truth based on what the word of God says about this great mystery. The concept of "Christ in you" has always been there for as long as the Bible has been written, but has not been totally accepted by many Christian denominations and has even brought major divide between them. In order to make it crystal clear and remove all doubts in our minds about it, let's find what the scripture says about it. **Colossians 2:9-10** "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And you are complete in Him, who is the Head of all principality and power". Simply put, these verses are pointing out two things, and total understanding if them allows us to grow in the riches of Gods abundant love. First, we see that Christ (God the Son) has full and equal power as God the Father who came in human form. Secondly, if you are in Him, you shall not want and you are complete, no matter how long you have been a child of God. (Six weeks or sixty years). He is life, He is living water and He is light.

**ATTENTION!!**

ALL means all, that's all, ALL means.

*IN HIM (CHRIST) IS NO CONDEMNATION BUT FREEDOM*

**Romans 6:1-2** "Therefore, *there is* now no condemnation to those *who are* in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 2 But the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." A preacher once said that any time a sentence starts with the word "Therefore", we must read the rest of the sentence slowly and very carefully because it is "there-for" a very good reason. This no condemnation means, as soon as you believe in your heart that Jesus as God came down from Heaven, died for all of our sins and was raised from the grave so that defying death we might live forever, no condemnation awaits us and we are totally free from the law of sin and

death. When we meet Jesus, He tells us that He doesn't condemn us no matter what the crime is. He gives us freedom. This assurance is illustrated for us in the gospel of John where the teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman who had been caught committing adultery. Their visit was two-fold. They wanted to accuse Him of not obeying the Law of Moses and also condemn the woman. Jesus, knowing their thoughts and every person who wants to condemn those who are in Him said, **John 8:10-11** "He straightened up and said to her" "Where are they? Is there no one left to condemn you? **11** "No one sir," she answered. "Well then", Jesus said," "I do not condemn you either. Go, but do not sin again".

### *IN HIM (CHRIST) WE HAVE FORGIVENESS*

**Ephesians 1:7** "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

As part of your home work, we would like you to look up the following passages and please read the whole chapter in order to be grounded in your understanding of the truth that sets us free, in order not to be enslaved by error.

Romans 12:5 one body Galatians 2:16 Justified. Ephesians 2:10 His workmanship

Ephesians 2:13 Near to God Colossians 1:27 Hope of glory

I Thessalonians 5:18 Thanks giving

**Philippians 1:21** says, "For me to live is Christ." The writer is telling us that if we do not take ourselves out of the equation of working for our eternal life, it will not be all of Him and none of us and that is not salvation according to scripture.

**Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

### *IT IS AN EXCHANGED LIFE*

To become our Savior, the Son of God first identified Himself with us in our humanity. **Philippians 2:7** "Being made in human likeness." Then on the cross, He totally identified Himself with us in our sin. 2 God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us" and even to our death. "Jesus called out with a loud voice, Father unto your hands I commit My spirit. When He had said this, He breathed His last." **Luke 23:46**

There was a double transaction through the cross, a total exchange. God took our sins and gave them to the sinless Christ, but that is not all. He then took His perfect righteousness and gave it to us who believe in His name. **2 Corinthians 5:21** "God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." You'll never experience the changed life until you experience the exchanged life. Because Christ identified Himself in our humanity, sin and death, we can be identified with Him in His death, righteousness and resurrected life.

Every Christian should be profoundly grateful for the fact that Jesus Christ has decisively dealt with the sin issue and for the mercy and grace of God that He led Him to the cross. But do not leave Him there. Christianity does not center on a dead Savior, but on a living Lord. Salvation is more than the forgiveness of sins. The whole gospel can be summed up in this statement. Jesus Christ laid down His life for you, so that He could give His life to you, so that He could live His life through you.

### SALVATION IS BY FAITH

**Ephesians 2:8-10** "For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, **9** so that no one can boast about it. **10** God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do."

We want to take this opportunity to address the word "faith", as it is through which all of Christianity depends. The word "Faith" has been watered down so much that it has become a Christian bar soap that we use so often to make ourselves holy, without realizing that a misinterpretation of the word can lead to false doctrines, cultic practices, and a whole lot of other misguided notions about the relationship we have with the living Christ. Nowadays, people are having faith in faith, having faith in themselves, having faith in people they've never meet or don't know anything about apart from seeing them playing ball, acting in a movie or sweating on a platform with fine clothing saying words that only tickles the ears of their audience.

Biblical faith is not an organization you join where everyone pays their membership fees, look a certain way, make a lot of money and or be related to some famous celebrity or family. The writer of Hebrews spent a whole chapter on the issue of faith. What it is, who it must be in and its result when applied the biblical way. The first verse explains what faith is. **Hebrews 11:1** "Now faith is *the* substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

The following is the rest of the chapter starting from verse two to the end in verse forty. We would like you to take the meaning of faith in verse one above and put it in the place of the word faith every time it comes up and let the Holy Spirit teach you more understanding so anytime after this exercise we come across the word, we will be able to get a good grasp of God. Also, you can go back to the Old Testament and read the whole story of these men and women who are mentioned in this chapter and how faith was what delivered them from the error of the devil. For example, verse three will read like this "By (*the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*) we understand *that the ages were framed by a word of God, so that the things being seen not to have come into being out of the things that appear.*"

### HEBREWS 11:2-40

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report. 3 By **faith** we understand *that the ages were framed by a word of God, so that the things being seen not to have come into being out of the things that appear.* 4 By **faith** Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness *that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts. And by it he, being dead, yet speaks.* 5 By **faith** Enoch was translated *so as not to see death, and he was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.* 6 But without **faith** *it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

7 By **faith** Noah, having been warned by God of things not yet seen, moved with fear, prepared an ark to *the saving of his house, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.* 8 By **faith** Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out into a place which he was afterward going to receive for an inheritance. And *he went out, not knowing where he went.* 9 By **faith** he lived in the land of promise as a stranger, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs of the same promise with him. 10 For he looked for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is God.* 11 By **faith** also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged Him who had promised *to be faithful.* 12 Because of this came into being *from one, and that of one having died, even as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.* 13

These all died by way of **faith**, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off. And they were persuaded of *them* and embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they who say such things declare plainly that they seek a fatherland. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from which they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they stretch forth to a better

*fatherland*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. **17** By **faith** Abraham, being tested, offered up Isaac. And he who had received the promises offered up his only-begotten *son*, **18** of whom it was said that in Isaac your Seed shall be called, **19** concluding that God *was* able to raise him up, even from *the* dead, from where he even received him, in a figure.

**20** By **faith** Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. **21** By **faith** Jacob, *when he was* dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and worshiped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff. **22** By **faith**, Joseph dying remembered concerning the Exodus of the sons of Israel and gave orders concerning his bones. **23** By **faith** Moses, having been born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw *he was* a beautiful child. And they were not afraid of the king's commandments. **24** Having become great, Moses by **faith** refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, **25** choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time, **26** esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. **27** By **faith** he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. **28** Through **faith** he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest He who destroyed the first-born should touch them.

**29** By **faith** they passed through the Red Sea as by dry *land*, which the Egyptians attempting to do were drowned. **30** By **faith** the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been compassed seven days. **31** By **faith** the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace **32** And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah; also David, and Samuel and the prophets, **33** who through **faith** subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped *the* mouths of lions, **34** quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the strangers. **35** Women received their dead raised to life again, and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. **36** And others had trial of *cruel*/mockings and scourgings; yes, more, of bonds and imprisonments.

**37** They were stoned; they were sawed in two, were tempted, and were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented. **38** The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains and dens and caves of the earth. **39** And these all, having obtained a good report through **faith**, did not receive the promise, **40** for God had provided some better thing for us, that they should not be made perfect without us.

## *Our Mission*

Our mission is to help people find strength and security on the foundation that can never be shaken, cracked or shattered. This foundation is the remarkable truth of God's unconditional love and His indisputable grace experienced in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The critics of Christianity have launched a full attack to discredit the person and works of Jesus Christ and the reliability of His word. We cannot be silent anymore. Let us as children of light, stand firm in the faith, because He who has taken us this far will never forsake us. You are called Christians, be careful of that name. Let not our Lord Jesus Christ be blasphemed on your account

**Remember this**, "Jesus did not come to make bad people good, He came to make dead people live."

### Keep It Simple

**Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.**

If you have any questions, comments or you know anybody else who will benefit from this study please feel free to give us their email address and they will be added to our mailing list to receive weekly lessons. The email address is [santigiemandol@yahoo.com](mailto:santigiemandol@yahoo.com)

**REMEMBER!! A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle** (Ephesians 5:8)

**Let's go light another candle**