

YOU ARE
COMPLETE
in
HIM.
COLOSSIANS 2:10 NKJV

Died and Hidden

The great and loving God is totally committed to the spiritual success of each of His spiritual children. The Father is "not wishing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Saints are requested to pray for all men, even for kings and those in authority. "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior," asseverated the apostle Paul, "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3,4). Clearly, then, the earnest intent of the Creator is that each person be saved initially, and be able to stay strong

in the faith to his last breath. Principles for the spiritual success of each saint, therefore, are going to be inculcated in the follow-up teaching of the word of God. The Almighty thus does His best to help each of His spiritual children to have success in overcoming the forces of despair and darkness that can overwhelm the disciple in his fight of faith.

- ◆ **Dying with Christ** — One of the huge principles built into the gospel is making certain that the past is not a barrier to present progress. The apostle Paul in this epistle to the Colossian brethren had emphasized that the focus of the saints is to be on "the things above." But one of the big challenges in establishing and maintaining that focus is ensuring that the past sin and guilt does not obscure the powerful and life-changing vision of Christ in glory. The initial part of obedience to the gospel deals with the elimination of the old self in the waters of immersion. (If the theme seems to be a little repetitive, apparently it needs to be!) "For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death," the apostle definitively stated to the brethren in Rome, "certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with" (Romans 6:5,6). The same power that worked with Jesus to raise Him from the dead is the same power at work in making sure that the old "body of sin" is truly executed in a spiritual crucifixion. This old self, therefore, is clearly dead and buried.

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- ◆ **Hidden** — The body of Christ had to be buried in the sight of witnesses, and His resurrected body had to be demonstrated to be alive in the presence of witnesses, as Peter noted in his comments to the first Gentiles to be saved: "God raised Him up on the third day," the apostle testified, "and granted that He should become visible, not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us, who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead" (Acts 10:40,41). But, by contrast, the All Wise did not want the body of Moses found. "So Moses died there in the land of Moab," is the tag end of Deuteronomy, "according to the word of the Lord. And he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab ... but no man knows his burial place to this day" (Deuteronomy 34:5,6). The devil wanted the hidden body found, and there was quite the argument between Satan and Michael the archangel over that body. In the same way, the devil would like your "body of sin" — that was buried in the waters of immersion — to be found. But the Lord is equally emphatic: "Your life is *hidden* with Christ in God."

If something is hidden, no one can find it. If it can be found, it is not hidden. The scripture is clear: the past life is hidden; Satan cannot bring it up as a point of discouragement. God is interested in the spiritual success of His children, and He is not willing that the past be used as a demotivating tool by the forces of darkness. Move on!!!