

YOU ARE
COMPLETE
in
HIM.
COLOSSIANS 2:10

A new creation focus through Colossians ...

When Christ is our Life

Members of the human race are dedicated to many diversionary, earthly things. Some are dedicated to the continual rounds of beauty pageants; some to following the paths of the auto racing circuit; some to traipsing around the country from rodeo to rodeo. These are just some random selections out of the hundreds or thousands of things that occupy people's lives. For some, the family farm occupies their total interest and time. For some, the business enterprise constitutes their total focus. For some, the family — children, grandchildren, family reunions — take up the great majority of their interest and avocation. For some, the upcoming Communist revolution absorbs what author Benjamin Gitlow called "The Whole of their Lives." No matter what it is, it is what absorbs their life's focus; it is their life.

▼ **The life of the Christian** — For the saint of God, the new life beckons. "The world," said Paul to the Galatians, "has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14). With the world and the cross behind him, what would be before him? "When Christ, who is our life, is revealed," writes he to the Colossian church, "then you also will be revealed with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:4). No longer is the racing circuit the life of the saint, no longer the farm, no longer even the family. "Christ is our life." Christ is now the total focus of the saint's thoughts and affections. Jesus and the upcoming nuptials to His bride — the church — occupy the interest of his/her time and tabloids. Conversations with the Christ garner his attention and effort. The spread of Christ's gospel, and the affects of His spiritual revolution absorb his intense interest and what his desire for the latest news of progress. Christ, indeed, is our life!

▼ **Attaining to glory** — Life on earth is short, no matter if it should last as long as Methuselah's 969 years. What is important is that each disciple of Jesus attain to eternal glory. The challenges of attaining to that glory are not to be minimized, however. The saints are fellow heirs of the riches of the glory of Christ, asseverated Paul, "if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may be glorified with Him" (Romans 8:17). All the positive motivations of the scripture are designed to help the brothers and sisters of Christ power through the trials and travails of earthly existence successfully so that they may enter into eternal fellowship with Him who lives forever and ever. "After you have suffered for a little while," contributed the apostle Peter, "the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you" (1 Peter 5:10).

▼ **Revealed in glory** — The presentation of the triumphant saints — "those who had come off victorious from the beast and from his image and from the number of his name" (Revelation 15:2) — is one of the signal events of all eternal history. "For the anxious longing of the creation," averred Paul, "waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God" (Romans 8:19). It is worth everything a Christian might have to endure in life to hear the approving words of Jesus, "Well done, good and faithful slave" (Matthew 25:23). "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time," superadded the apostle Paul, "are not worthy to be compared to the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). What encouraging words: "When Christ is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory!!!"

Such glory is worth going after. The sin of glory-seeking is not the seeking of glory itself; the sin is where a person might seek for that glory. "How can you believe," Jesus excoriated the Jews, "when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that comes from the one and only God?" (John 5:44). Blessed are "those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality" (Romans 2:7). If Christ is indeed our life, then we will be revealed with Him in glory!

JAY WILSON

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