



# The Cross of Christ and the Christ of The Cross

by **Gilbert James**

Time and time again we need to return to the fundamentals of the Christian faith. These are the foundational Scriptural doctrines upon which true Christianity rests, and which obviously are generally always the objects of relentless and sometimes subtle attacks by apostates, anti-Christians, and skeptics. In this article, I will focus on what I consider to be the chief of the fundamentals of the Christian faith — "The Cross of Christ and the Christ of the Cross."

The foundation of Christianity is the Cross of Christ, and the very essence of the Christian life is Jesus Christ, the Christ of the Cross. The Cross of Christ speaks of the glorious uniqueness of the work of atonement accomplished for man's sins through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. And the Christ of the Cross refers to the divine uniqueness of Him who was crucified. And so, both the greatness of the person of Jesus Christ and the glory of the propitiation work of the Cross are important factors in the reality of the Christian life.

Christianity is a life. It is the divine life of Christ within the believer, and the glorious experience it brings is one of sins forgiven, and of godliness and

true righteousness, made possible and available to mankind only through the Cross of Christ. It is through the amazing wonder of divine love and mercy, embodied and presented in the Cross of Christ and the Christ of the Cross, that fallen, depraved and helpless humanity has found the glorious hope of a full salvation.

Paul, the apostle, indicated to the church at Corinth concerning his mission among them: "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:1-2).

There are many lofty philosophies and psychologies for living being propagated in our world today. In the days of Paul, the apostle, these philosophies and psychologies abounded too, especially among the Greeks, who never seemed to cease searching out novel ideas of prudence and knowledge, and complex mysteries of life. In coming to the Greek city of Corinth, Paul understood clearly his mission among these zealous intellectuals there. He was convinced that his mission among them was not to cater to their intellectual

thirst or fancy curiosities. He knew, too, it was not to add to their already large and varied stock of sacred religions and mythical rituals. He knew that Almighty God, in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, had sent him to these curious minds at Corinth, not just to expound another human philosophy or psychology of life, nor to prescribe another set of fanciful rituals, nor to tutor another catechism of a new religious order of life, but to present the true source of real life.

Since Paul believed that Jesus Christ was the only source of real life for mankind, and this life was made available to mankind by the redeeming work of Jesus Christ on the Cross, he resolved to focus on, or to present to them, nothing else except Jesus Christ and His crucifixion on the Cross. In fact, in the first chapter of his first epistle to the Corinthians, he elaborated on what he was convinced was the precise purpose for which God had sent him to Corinth: "...Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power

of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath God not made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." (1 Cor.1:17-24).

Today, in the midst of the complex maze of elaborate human philosophies and advanced sophisticated scientific developments, multitudes of men and women are still groping for meaningful life and wisdom. There is a sickening feeling of boredom, emptiness and frustration that pervades the hearts of so many in our society today. They have listened to the lectures of scholars, applied the prescriptions of gurus, and danced to the music of entertainers in secular auditoriums as well as in religious halls. Yet, they return home empty, sick and immoral.

It is because their sophisticated mindset cannot condescend to the simplicity of God's remedy for the sin-sick soul — the Cross of Christ and the Christ of the Cross. It is that simple remedy, embodied in the message of the Gospel, that many continue to overlook, and even slight, for more seemingly eventful and sophisticated man-made programs and counsels of living, but, to their continuing misery.

Paul said that the Jews required signs, or empirical evidence, and stumbled over the uneventful ministry of the Gospel. In the same way, the Greeks sought after wisdom and despised the simple Gospel as foolishness. But the Gospel was to them, as it is to us all today — a revelation of Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Like the Jews in Paul's day, there are many devout religious people who flock church cathedrals, mosques and temples, superstitiously seeking for some

quick and astounding miracle or sign to solve their problems, or, like the Greeks, they flock to the places of learning, or peruse books and other kinds of literature, searching for life and meaning in some new doctrine or philosophy. In the process, superstition, magic, and sensual entertainment take the place of the true and spiritual worship of God; humanism and so-called situational ethics replace true Christian living.

The hand of God still remains outstretched to mankind. He still presents to all, who will believe and receive, His one and only plan of salvation — the Cross of Christ and the Christ of the Cross. This glorious plan is declared in the apparent foolishness and the preaching of the Gospel. Confronting the simplicity of the preaching of the Gospel, religious zealots stumble over it, and arrogant intellectuals scoff at it, but all those, including the religious and intellectuals, who are called of God, and hear His call, and believe and receive the message of the Gospel, have come to know and experience "Christ the power God and the wisdom of God."

The wonderful news of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ, through His crucifixion, has brought to mankind deliverance from sin, sickness and death, and this is good news for all of mankind, who have known the ravages, and disgrace, and shame of sin. There is no other solution or remedy for sin but the Cross of Christ and the Christ of the Cross.

Indeed, the very name of Jesus represents and defines His purpose in coming to earth. When announcing to Joseph the unusual conception of a child in Mary, a virgin, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the angel of the Lord indicated that the child will be called Jesus to represent His mission to bring salvation to mankind from their sins:

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

John the Baptist introduced Jesus as "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (Jn.1:29). The cross of Calvary became the sacred altar on which Jesus Christ, the Lamb

of God, offered himself as the worthy and acceptable sacrifice to God for the propitiation of the sins of mankind. Years before, Isaiah, the prophet, prophesying about Jesus Christ and His crucifixion, declared:

"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Is. 53:5-6).

What is indeed so unique about the Cross of Christ and the Christ of the Cross is the uniqueness of the glory and wonder that Christ gives to the Cross, and the Cross gives to the Christ. One gives glorious uniqueness to the other. It is Christ — the Messiah, God in man, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world — that makes the Cross so uniquely significant and meaningful to mankind, and it is the Cross — the historical offering of that once-and-for-all sacrifice for our sins — that gives unique purpose, or reason for being, to the Christ, as the Saviour of all mankind. The Cross is therefore uniquely meaningful to us because it is the Cross of Christ, and Christ is uniquely meaningful to us because He is the Christ of the Cross.

Paul describes this glorious wonder this way in 2 Cor. 5:18-21:

"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (NKJ).

There are philosophers and psychologists, and even misguided ministers and preachers, who, in feeble efforts to address the sin problem of humanity, are redefining sin in ways to make the sinner feel less guilty, or even

justified in his evil deeds. Distorted humanist ideas like situational ethics, positive thinking, seeing the good and lovely in every thing, and so on, are being promoted today as means of resolving the guilt problem. In other words, men and women are seeking ways to evade guilt without giving up their sinful ways. Of course, once sin and its sinfulness are ignored, then the necessity of Jesus Christ and the Cross of Christ to deal with the sin problem is removed, and so today, psychologist and philosophers are replacing the preachers of the Gospel, and they are instructing man how to free himself from guilt and sin. and pacify his troubled conscience. Man is now seen as his own redeemer and justifier. The glorious and efficacious redemption of

the Cross of Christ and the Christ of the Cross is made to seem to be of no avail to them, who are seduced and carried away in the false hope of these vain teachings of humanism.

When we realize that Jesus Christ, the Son of Almighty God, is Himself the atoning sacrifice for our sins on the Cross, and that without such a divinely necessary sacrifice there could be no remission of our sins, we can appreciate truly the Cross of the Christ and the Christ of the Cross as God's effective means of saving us and setting us free from the power of sin. Moreover, we can see sin for what it really is — a pernicious human malady of the highest gravity requiring an effective divine remedy of the highest cost. Hence,

we can face the guilt and shame of sin, and go to God for mercy and grace. Broken, contrite, convicted and ashamed, we need neither hide our sins in pretensions, nor presumptuously excuse ourselves from guilt. With faith in the Cross of Christ and the Christ of the Cross, we can go humbly and sincerely before God, saying like one songwriter:

Just as I am without one plea  
But that thy blood was shed for me:  
And as thou bidst me come to Thee  
Oh Lamb of God, I come.  
Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot;  
To thee whose blood can cleanse each spot

Oh Lamb of God, I come.

# To The Young People

## The Kingdom of God

by **A. Hinchliff**

The kingdom of God is the realm of which God is the owner and ruler. Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." In the six creative days God created everything to His satisfaction and saw that it was good. It was a beautiful kingdom.

Sometime in the history of the creation rebellion appeared in the kingdom of God. Lucifer, a created being, called son of the morning, attempts to establish his throne over God's (Isa.14:12-17 and Ezek.28: 13-19). These scriptures tell of Lucifer's or Satan's, as we better know him, attempts to overthrow the work of God. They also prophecy of his complete destruction. Many angels shared in Satan's rebellion as witnessed in 2 Pet. 2:4 and Jude 6. Their judgment is also spoken of.

When Adam and Eve were created and put in the garden of Eden there was a wonderful relationship between them and God as they communed in the cool of the evening. God told Adam that he could eat the fruit of all the trees in the garden except the tree of the knowl-

edge of good and evil. Gen. 2:16,17. After Eve was created Adam must have passed this instruction on to her. Gen. 3:2,3.

Satan came and first of all tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit. She gave some to Adam and he also partook. (1 Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.)

Satan has established his kingdom in opposition to God's kingdom. When Adam partook of the fruit that God had forbidden him to eat, he partook of Satan's rebellious nature. Every descendant of Adam has inherited that nature. The only way that nature can be overcome is to partake of the nature of Christ. We partake of that nature by believing in Him as our personal Saviour and learning to walk with Him and be led by the Holy Spirit. We must believe that His death on the cross was substitutionary on our behalf. Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

As citizens of God's kingdom, it is plain from Paul's writing in Ephesians that we are in a constant battle. Ephesians 6:10-18. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the

Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

Paul also speaks of this warfare that is being waged in Romans seven. Romans 7:22 "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the

The letter to the Colossians was written

law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

When we accept Christ into our life the kingdom of God is established in our heart. Christ is the king of our life and we are subjects of His kingdom. We desire in our hearts to walk with Him and serve Him but we have that constant battle, as we pointed out, with the nature of Adam and sin.

God has established examples of His kingdom. A family that is established according to the order of God is an example of the kingdom of God. The man is the head of the family. His

wife is given to him by God as his helper and the children are the subjects of that little kingdom. They all walk together in submission to the plan and will of God. A local church is also an example of the working of the kingdom of God. The elders assume the role of headship and the deacons are set by God as their helpers. The people are the subjects of that little kingdom.

All these things are fashioned after that greater kingdom of which God Himself is the king eternal. Praise His Name for His matchless wisdom!

# Conduct From Colossians

## Comments on Paul's letter to the Colossians, Chap. 1

By A. Hinchliff

by the apostle Paul in approximately 64 A.D. Paul had never visited this church. His knowledge of their spiritual state came through Epaphras.

**Colossians 1:1 "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother."**

The letter was apparently written jointly by Paul and Timothy. Paul establishes himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God. No man can take upon himself the office of apostleship. It is a divine appointment made by Christ according to the will of God. As we read in Eph. 4:8 and 4:11 Christ gave gifts unto men and those gifts were apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

**Colossians 1:2 "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."**

Saints are righteous and godly people. To be godly means to be like God. A godly person carries God's attributes. In other words their lives manifest the fruit of the Spirit.

When Paul is speaking of faithful brethren he is speaking of those who are loyal, true and constant. Their belief establishes their loyalty.

Revelation 17:14 "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful." John is speaking here of that last great battle against the forces of evil. The company that is with Christ are described as called and chosen and faithful. Jesus said that many are called but few are chosen. Matt. 20:16.

It would seem from Paul's writing in Rom. 1:18-23 that all mankind has been called. Romans 1:20 "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and godhead; so that they are without excuse."

The company that John is speaking of has been chosen, first of all, because of their belief and then because of their faithfulness.

Paul's desire was that the grace or favour of God be extended toward the Colossian believers. He also wanted them to be a partaker of the peace that comes from God and a good relationship with Him. Romans 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and

rejoice in hope of the glory of God." What a wonderful position to be in, where we can live in harmony with Him and enjoy His peace and favour.

**Colossians 1:3,4." We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints."**

It is good to be thankful and we should be very thankful for the faithful members of the body of Christ. They are our support and lend us their strength. Always let our prayers and intercessions be heard of God on behalf of the rest of the body of Christ.

**Colossians 1:5 "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;"**

Paul's prayer of thanksgiving extended to being thankful for their heavenly hope. That is something that every born again Christian has and should be thankful for...Heaven is the realm of the Spirit and is entered either by death or by the resurrection, (entering into life) In Phil. 1:20 Paul speaks of Christ being magnified in his body whether it is by life or death. To the Christian death is just entering into the spiritual realm. He goes on to say, "For to me to

live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body this will mean fruitful labour for me. yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two. I desire to depart and be with Christ which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body." N.I.V.

The only reason Paul wanted to remain in this earthly realm was to be able to minister in person to the members of Christ's body. Our reason for remaining on this earth is be of use to God in ministering to mankind and in fact to His whole creation. That hope that is laid up for us in heaven gives the Christian a desire to depart and be with Christ, but we too have responsibilities in our ministry that has been given us by God.

**Colossians 1:6 "Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:"**

The fruit spoken of here is the fruit of the Spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The term "Born Again" is used very loosely in our day. People have said that they have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and that they were born again but there has been no change in their lives. A new birth brings a change in lifestyle. A new birth brings with it the production of the fruit of the Spirit.

We are so thankful for the grace of God. Grace is the free unmerited favor of God toward us. It brings about the operation of the Spirit of God within us to regenerate us in the image and likeness of God.

**Colossians 1:7,8. "As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit."**

The Colossians had learned and accepted the truth of the gospel through the ministry of Epaphras. Paul described Epaphras as a faithful ministry of Christ. He had carried the message to Paul concerning their experience in the things of the Spirit.

**Colossians 1:9 "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;"**

Paul's prayers were constant for these Colossians. His longing and prayer for them was the same as the prayer and desire of the present day apostles' is for the church of today, this was that they might be wise in the knowledge of God's will for them and that they might have spiritual understanding. Spiritual understanding is much different than natural understanding. I Corinthians 3:18 "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Therefore let no man glory in men."

**Colossians 1:10 "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"**

Paul's prayer continues with the desire that they might walk worthy of the Lord. He wanted to see them walk in such a way that they would bring credit and honour to God's Name and please Him.

Not only should we please God but our life should be pleasing to other people. To all pleasing has to do with the testimony that our life bears to others both inside the church as an example and on the outside as a testimony of the grace of God...In Col. 4:5 Paul says to walk in wisdom toward them that are without,, it is so important that we be a good example to the unbeliever. I have heard people say that if a certain person was a Christian I want nothing to do with it. This is a shame and should not be. Also in 1 Thess. 4: 12 we read, "That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without." Also an elder must have a good report of them that are without. 1 Tim. 3:7.

When being fruitful is mentioned

here it is speaking of the works that we do. In the living Bible it speaks of doing good and kind things for others. Jesus said, John 15:8 "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." In Luke 13:8 Jesus speaks of the tree that bore no fruit. Except for the intercession of the gardener the tree would have been cut down.

Paul also prays that they might increase in their knowledge of God. To get to know someone you have to spend time with them. It is the same in getting to know God. As we walk with Him we get to know and understand His ways. We learn to be led by the Holy Spirit.

**Colossians 1:11 "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;"**

He prays for their strength and might. There is no way that we can stand alone against the evil that is around us in the world. We need the strength and might of our Heavenly Father. We need the help of the Holy Spirit. We need the support of the other members of the body of Christ. Ephesians 6:10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

Patience is among the Christian virtues that Peter writes about. II Peter 1:5 "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance **patience**; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Longsuffering means "long and patient endurance of injury or provocation." Note that he says the longsuffering should be mixed with joyfulness.

**Colossians 1:12,13,14. "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his**

**blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**

The scripture very often exhorts us to be thankful. In this case we are to be thankful to our Heavenly Father who has made us meet or fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Another translator says that we are made a partaker of the kingdom of light. Firstly, He delivers us from the power of darkness. What a tremendous deliverance is ours when we are set free from the power of sin. He makes us fit by the cleansing that is ours through the blood of Christ that was shed on our behalf. We are born in to the kingdom of His Son. Then day by day He changes us into that image portrayed by the glory of the Lord. II Corinthians 3:18 "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." Redemption means to buy back. Christ purchased us by shedding His blood in our place thus paying the redemptive price for our salvation.

**Colossians 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:"**

The writer of Hebrews describes Christ in this way. Hebrews 1:3 "Who being the brightness of his glory, (He

radiates God's glory.) and the express image of his person, (the exact representation of His Being) and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high".

In 1 Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." Jesus displayed godliness or was like God: so much so that the scriptures declare that He was God manifest in the flesh. Here Paul says that He is the image of the invisible God. No man has seen God at any time but we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour, that He should taste death for every man. The Son of God existed before God made anything else. In fact he is the creator of everything.

**Colossians 1:16 "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or**

**powers: all things were created by him, and for him:"**

This verse continues to tell us about the creator and is also spoken of by John in his gospel in John 1:3. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. John also mentions this in John 1:10. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

The writer of the book of Hebrews confirms this in several places. Hebrews 1:2 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." Speaking of the Son he also says this: Hebrews 1:10 "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands."

We are told here that all things were created by Him and for Him. Much of His creation is in rebellion against Him. We look forward to the day when as the prophet said, all shall know Him, from the least to the greatest. Romans 8:21 "Because the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

# Jesus' Reason

Christ Jesus was born, Rejoice and be glad,

Into this world so sinful and bad.

He might not have been born in the month of December,

But the reason he came we must always remember.

His birth and His coming in the Bible foretold,

God's promises, written by His prophets of old,

So mankind would live in peace with God and one another.

Conceived by Mary, His virgin mother,

He came as a babe born in a stable and laid on the hay.

Heralded by Angels, He later was found by shepherds on that glorious day.

Wise Men came from countries far.

They were led to Bethlehem by His traveling star.

Their gold, incense and myrrh

to bring.

As gifts to the Holy child, Our Saviour and King.

Christ willingly came to redeem us from sin,

To overcome Satan and Eternal Life win.

For whosoever on Him would believe,

And confessed it would His pardon receive.

It would cost us nothing but His mercy and grace,

By faith in his love we would go to His heavenly place.

Where there's no more sorrow illness or pain.

To follow Him for us is all gain.

He was willing to do His Father's will.

And all the prophecies He did fulfill.

Alas, it would cost Him His life and His all.

On the cross, to God in His anguish

He'd call.

Pure and innocent He hung on the tree.

To save the likes of you and me.

His body was pierced, His flesh was torn.

He gave up the ghost feeling rejected, forsaken forlorn.

But He conquered death with a victorious win,

And bought eternal life for those who repent of their sin.

On the third day He rose from the dead.

To prepare us a place, He has gone on ahead.

To return for us soon with His angels in glory,

I know 'cause I read the end of the story.

Given by the Holy Spirit Nov. 1, 1997 to E.V. Petryk

# Entering Into Life

by Patti C. Neal

Entering into Life, what a great revelation..Thy Life, The Life of Christ..

Becoming — Being — The world will see Christ..

Unfolding revelation - - Our God Reigns...He's in control, and our part is to yield to His leading, His molding of us into Manifested Sons. Those who will rule and reign with Christ..

Oh may we allow the changes to be made.

May our vision be increased to see (in each circumstances and each trial) that it is for our good, and for the good of the Kingdom..

Help us not to "kick against the pricks", but to submit to the Potter's hands, as He shapes, and reshapes, and cuts away all that hinders us from becoming that perfect vessel (fit for the Master's use)..

There is such a peace in your Presence oh Lord. We make the choice many times a day, whether to fret and worry — whether to become too involved with earthly cares, or in a split second, we can turn our thoughts to The Prince of Peace, and allow ourselves to be enveloped in your very Presence, where there is no evil, no fears, no doubts — only hope, only peace, joy, comfort, and revelation, and where Thy word comes to liberate, and Songs of Deliverance arrive..

The pull in the other direction seems strong at times. May we grow into those Spiritual Beings who will quickly say NO to all that robs us of our inheritance.

It is ours. Waiting for us.. It has been there all the time. You have been there all the time. We're the problem! We have allowed ourselves to be pulled into the cares of the world -the entertainment of the world, which drowns out your magnificent voice, which is ever wooing, and drawing us closer..

Oh Rise up Mighty Christ (in us) to make the right choice — day by day, moment by moment that we might allow your Resurrection Life to envelope us, as we Become One With Christ...