

## CHRIST THE MEASURE

### **CHRIST -- THE STANDARD ...THE ORDER ... THE METHOD**

We have taken the scripture accounts of Acts and the Epistles, and have turned them into a system of practice and technique and Christian order, ...another New Covenant Law to replace the old.

But the Epistles were written to relate us to the Person of Jesus Christ by His Spirit. It was not to be a "Roberts Rules of Order", so to speak. It was to teach us Christ. Christ Jesus is the new order. He is heaven's order upon earth.

Look around and you will see what christianity has done with the letters, the epistles of the New Testament which were written to show us how to walk "**in the Spirit of Christ**" and "**with the Spirit of Christ**".

Those very epistles have become the spring board or foundation for hundreds, if not thousands, of various religious systems, religious orders, religious organizations, religious fellowships, religious denominations, and etc. From these epistles have come systematic theologies, systems of practice, systems of order, systematic doctrines, themes and teachings; such as.... "the kingdom", "salvation", "new birth", "baptisms", "holiness", "sanctification", "overcoming", "victorious faith", "spirit gifts", "praise", "godhead", "endtime", to ... "the second coming of Jesus".

Christ is not a religious system of practice. Christ Jesus is the Person of God. He is Our relationship with God. The true education or learning of Heaven is not all these things and parts of Him. The Holy Spirit of God teaches us Jesus Christ. He, the person of Christ, is the education or the learning of Heaven. Walking with God in Christ Jesus is a faith walk, not a standard or religious system walk, to be lived up to. When we **live-up-to-a-creed**, (even if it has greater measure of truth); it still becomes an exercise of the outward man, rather than the true walk of God coming out of the inward man. It is suppose to be a relationship with .... Christ Jesus, the person of God, the son of God, the Word made flesh by the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ Jesus, the Holy Ghost.

When the person of Christ Jesus loses the pre-eminence in our life; our life becomes one of living truths, ...of living creeds, ...of living a system of practice, ...rather than living with a person.

One is living out of Self, while the other is a life of the Spirit.... living with God in the person of Jesus Christ through the Spirit. **A walk of self always ends in discouragement and defeat.** Self-life leads to Self-defeat and Self-discouragement. No wonder so many believers are living a life of defeat, discouragement and oppression. Apprehending Christ, reaches beyond the void of the natural religious man, unto heaven's only answer;.... Faith in Christ Alone.

### **CHRIST THE STANDARD**

As each Christian movement is created it tends to incorporate standards of it's own making which are outside the scripture, rather than using Christ as their measure. Christ Jesus is the Gold Standard. Nothing is better than Christ. Written and Un-Written Denominational or creed standards gradually press an individual into applying effort to live up to a standard rather than living with the Person of Jesus Christ.

***In the Old Testament, man was given the Word of God in a written form in stone and parchment, ... the Old Testament Law. It was not God's plan to give us another New Testament Law, or Christian Law.***

2000 years ago, the Word of God came to us, not as a letter on parchment or paper, but as a living, human in the person of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. The Word was made flesh, ...not stone, ...not letter (that was Old Testament which God had fault with) and walked and lived among us... The Living Word of God. The Expressed Image of the Invisible God.

Christ did not come to give us a Christian Law to replace the Mosaic Law. Both are bondage. He came to bring a **Royal** or **Perfect Law of Liberty** which is **only in Christ Jesus**.

*2Co 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is liberty.***

*Ga 2:4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out **our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus**, that they might bring us into bondage:*

*Ga 5:1 Stand fast therefore **in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free**, ...*

### **Liberty Cautions Us:**

*Ga 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been **called unto liberty**; only **use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh**, but by love serve one another.*

*Jas 1:25 But whoso looketh into **the perfect law of liberty**, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

*Jas 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be **judged by the law of liberty**.*

*1Pe 2:16 As free, and **not using your liberty for a cloke** of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.*

*2Pe 2:19 While they **promise them liberty**, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.*

### **CHRIST THE MEASURE**

Without realizing it, the Christian community uses secular, worldly measures to gage, measure, and assess its level of effectiveness and success in the kingdom of God. Effectiveness and Success are measured in the secular world by worldly measures ....**buildings**, ...**programs**, ...**numbers**, ...**conversions**, ...**finances**, ....etc.

In the kingdom of God, Christ said our mandate was to be "**witnesses unto me**". The application of Christ into a person's life can only be measured by their yielding to the imprint of **the cross** upon their being. The **depth of the imprint of the cross of Christ Jesus** upon a person's soul is the measure the spiritual success in Christ Jesus, ...not any of the world's measures of buildings, programs, numbers, conversions, finances...etc.

### **CHRIST OUR EXODUS**

Upon the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses & Elijah talked with Jesus of his decease or **his exodus** (*Luke 9:31*) *Death was Jesus' Exodus or Way Out.*

Our way out or Exodus is also through his death. Christ's death is applied to us through the cross by the submission of a believer to the will of God in dying to their self-will, their self-desire, their self-mind, to all that self holds dear. This is the cross being applied or imprinted upon our life. We do not literally die on a cross as he did. But, each of us must lay down our lives to the will of God, just as He did, a crucifying of our self, our will ... just as he did. The cross, ...our cross which we take up, also becomes our way out, ...our exodus.

To help us with our exodus, God has given us the Spirit of Jesus Christ, His son... not His Spirit before Calvary, ... not his Spirit before the Resurrection, but after. God has given us His Spirit after

the Resurrection. His Resurrected Spirit. Christ's Spirit of Pentecost is the Overcoming death, Victorious Life, Newness of Life Spirit of our Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

## **CHRIST THE END OF THE LAW TO ALL THAT BELIEVE**

*Ro 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*

Some might say ... Then there is no more law... no rule.... No religious standards... In a sense, that is Right! But there is a standard, ...just not a any system's standard. It's a Gold Standard. It's the Christ Standard.

## **CHRIST PERFECTION / COMPLETION**

*Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

It is our level of faith-apprehension of Christ, ... our level of faith dependence on Christ alone becomes and determines our level of perfection, our level of completeness, or maturity in Christ. Our salvation in Christ.

## **CHRIST THE WAY OUT**

Apostle Paul cries out in scripture, ...*"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me? ...I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

When a man or woman begins to discern their wretchedness, ...only then can they find their only answer. God has pre-determined that the answer is Christ! The struggle is not in making a new resolution. The struggle is not in a made-up-mind to do better. The heart of the struggle is to lay hold simply and completely upon Christ Jesus. It is an **Apprehending of Christ, a spiritual faith-hold upon Christ Jesus.**

Consider this. The O. T. saint hold was on the keeping of the law. The N. T. saint's hold is simply on Christ Jesus. The first's primary hold to God, was through a creed. Now the primary hold to God, is through a person ... Jesus Christ. There is a difference. The former was a marriage of ...laws and rules. The latter is a marriage of love ...where relationship drives everything, rather than a creed.

There is no other source or fount of victory. Everything or anything else will ultimately fail. At the end of the day, the O. T. way does not see us all the way through. The struggle is to let go of confidence in all other devices and trust only in Him, ...Jesus Christ. When we get a faith-hold upon Christ, heaven comes to us. Each and every time. I can do all things, ... thru Christ that strengthens me.

## **CHRIST PLEASED GOD**

*Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, **in whom I am well pleased.***

*Matthew 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, **in whom I am well pleased**; hear ye him.*

*Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, ..*

*Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of **his dear Son**: (son of his love)*

**CHRIST THE ONLY RIGHTEOUS ONE** ...*in the History of the World*

Why?.... Because they have not clearly recognized what Christ means. Christ has answered to God on our behalf, in all that God ever requires of them; they have not grasped that by faith.

On your best day ...you will never be able to stand in presence of God, without Christ Jesus as your mediator. He alone is righteous. Our faith and trust in him alone causes us to be in him and in his righteous relationship with God. We do not stand alone. We only stand in Him!