

CHRIST JESUS IS OUR ALL IN ALL, PART 3 (1 CORINTHIANS 15)

The writers of the gospels of Christ Jesus, that is, of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John have given us the good news of the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. And we can read about the accounts of the opposition that came against Jesus, based on His claims and His teachings, and they were primarily the leaders of the Jews (Ioudaios, (ee-oo-dah'-yos; of Judea) which included the differing religious sects of the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Essenes. There were also the political parties mentioned in the New Testament which included the Herodians, Zealots, Galileans, and Assassins-**Acts 21:38**. We won't be focusing on the political parties but the religious. Last week we read from Colossians, of which the Apostle Paul warned the folks at Colosse and now us, "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk **in Him**, rooted and built up **in Him** and established in the faith [in Him], as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according TO CHRIST. For **in Him** dwells all the fullness [pleroma: the bridge that unites us in fellowship with God] of the Godhead bodily; and you are **complete in Him**, who is the head of all principality and power." (**Colossians 2:6-10**)

1. The Pharisees, with the scribes, were mostly in charge of the synagogues, throughout Judea and then beyond, and were particularly strict according to the ordinances of ceremonial purity. "They carefully relied upon the oral traditions of the rabbis as well as the Scripture itself to help them interpret their responsibilities.¹ What became the Talmud and the Mishna. "The Mishna is the written form of Jewish oral traditions, while the Talmud includes the Mishna and its extensive rabbinical commentaries."² At the time of Christ, one example that we can read about of the scribes and the Pharisees confronting Jesus can be found in **Matthew 15**. They complained to Jesus about the disciples not washing their hands before eating. What was Jesus' response? "**Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'**" When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear and understand: Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man." (**Matthew 15:7-11**) Jesus then explained to His disciples, "**Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.** [meaning: exactly what Jesus said in **John 3:3**, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"] Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch." [There's only One who we should be

¹ Scofield Study Bible, NKJV, 2002, Mark 3:6, pg. 1365.

² <https://www.askdifference.com/mishna-vs-talmud/>.

following. As Jesus said, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep." (John 10:10-11) That is, for our salvation as well as our preservation. Back to our story of the scribes and the Pharisees confronting Jesus:] Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain this parable to us." So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man." (Matthew 15:13-20) A major problem then was that the Pharisees were not relying on the Word of God, the Scriptures, to guide them into knowing and understanding, trusting and obeying God according to who He is and according to His will, plan and purpose. The Apostle Paul though, wrote to Timothy, explaining that the "Holy Scriptures, [which] are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17) To go along then with what Paul said, in contrast to oral tradition, the Word of God always complements the Word of God. That is it "completes, makes up a whole, or brings to perfection"³, just as He is doing with us, those who have believed on Christ Jesus and received Him. Therefore the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, becomes for us a beautifully woven together picture of God's redemptive plan for mankind through His only begotten (not created) Son, Christ Jesus. What we then find is that all teachings pertaining to God and our salvation should always be leading us to and through Christ Jesus. That includes also for us what is expected of us, meaning our works. Summarized is Ephesians 2:8-10, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." As was included in our message last week, Jesus had said to His disciples, and He is now saying to us, "Abide [meno: abide, continue, dwell, remain] in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned." (John 15:4-6) Abiding in Christ, what does that mean? Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

3 <https://www.wordnik.com/words/complement>.

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. **I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.**" (**John 14:15-18**) Right after that, "Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, **"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."** (**John 14:22-24**) That is then what is called "Communion/Fellowship with Christ" (Greek koinonia: in fellowship, sharing, contribution, participation). **1 John 1:6-7** says, "If we say that we have fellowship [koinonia] with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship [koinonia] with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

2. The Sadducees were the ones that were in charge of the temple in Jerusalem, at the time of Christ and His apostles, and they strongly opposed the Pharisees. They adhered to a strict literalism of interpretaion and application of the law. They therefore did not hold to those added traditions of the Pharisees but they rejected "rewards and punishments, the resurrection of the dead or in any angels or spirits."⁴ In **Matthew 22**, we have the Sadducees asking Jesus about the resurrection. They gave Him an example of a woman who had successively married one man and then his 6 brothers after each of them had died and questioned Jesus as to whom she would be married to in heaven. "Jesus answered and said to them, **"You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."** And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching." (**Matthew 22:29-33**) Nevertheless, not all of the Sadducees were straightened out in their doctrine by Jesus, as we can read in **Acts 23**. The Apostle Paul, when he had to stand before the Sanhedrin, the Jerusalem council, Paul recognized there being Pharisees and Sadducees there, so he said "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!" And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided." (**Acts 23:6-7**)

3. The Essenes "believed in striving after purity and sharing all possessions. In their rigorous observance of the Sabbath and

4 Scofield Study Bible, NKJV, 2002, Mark 3:6, pg. 1365.

reverence for the Law they were similar to the Pharisees; in fact, some have described them as exaggerated Pharisees. But the Essenes sought an absolute purity, a freedom from the pollution that comes from being in contact with material things, in order that the spirit might find a freer and larger fellowship with the Divine. Thus they lived a life separate from the world: their settlements were in the country districts, they lived extremely simply, sharing all that they had. They lived highly disciplined lives governed by rigid rules and regulations; they were prone to secrecy and seclusion. Much of their distinctive doctrine reappears in the later Gnostic heresies.”⁵ Much could be said about that but suffice it for me to say that their lifestyle would certainly not work well with the sharing and showing of the love and the gospel of Christ Jesus which is a combination of the what Jesus said was the Great Commandments of God, to love Him with all of our heart, soul, strength and mind and the loving our neighbors as ourselves, and then the Great Commission that Jesus set forth for His disciples and then to us by saying, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**” (Matthew 28:18-20)

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[1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (The Risen Christ, Faith’s Reality)]

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you **hold fast that word** which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

[Hold fast, “katecho”-holding, keeping, seizing”. Paul said the same about holding fast in **Colossians 2:18-19**, saying “Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not **holding fast to the Head**

[Christ Jesus, He is the Head we are His body; ie: cling to Him, for He is your life-**Deu. 30:20**], from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is **from God.**]

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that [1] Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that [2] He was buried, and that [3] He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that [4] He was seen by Cephas [Peter], then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the **grace of God I am what I am**, and His grace toward me was not in

5 Ibid.

vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the **grace of God** which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

[1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (The Risen Christ, Our Hope)]

Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; **you are still in your sins!** Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. [to be pitied]

[Obviously, as Paul points out, all religious teachings that say that Christ Jesus either did not die on the cross or that He did not raise from the dead, goes contrary to what all of Jesus' apostles were preaching and testifying to. Therefore those who preach such heresies are false teachers or false prophets. The same goes for the false teaching of gnosticism, "(from Greek gnosis, meaning knowledge). This false teaching assigned to Christ a place subordinate to the true Godhead, and undervalued the uniqueness and completeness of His redemptive work."⁶ Also, there is what is called theosophy, to where one seeks a "deeper spiritual reality and that direct contact with that reality can be established through intuition, meditation, revelation, or some other state transcending normal human consciousness."⁷ Aka the "New Age Movement", and other esoteric (hidden), mystery religion teachings "[Gnosticism] insisted that between a holy God and this earth a host of beings, angels, etc., formed a bridge, of which host Christ was a member. This system included the worship of angels (v. 18) [and praying to saints] and a false asceticism (vv. 20-22 [extreme self-denial])."⁸ Regarding the praying to anyone but God, we are reminded in **Hebrews 4:15-16** that, "we do not have a High Priest [Christ Jesus] who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,** that we may obtain **mercy** and find **grace** to help in **time of need.**" "For all these errors, the apostle [Paul] had one remedy, a knowledge (epignosis, that is, full knowledge, **1:9-10;3:10**) of the fullness of God **in Jesus Christ**. Paul is not afraid of wisdom, or knowledge, and refers to them frequently, but he does insist that the knowledge be according to divine revelation [according to the Truth of the Word]. His devastating answer to this false teaching is in **1:19** and **2:9**, in

⁶ Scofield Study Bible, 2002, Colossians 2:18, pg. 1636.

⁷ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/theosophy>.

⁸ Scofield Study Bible, 2002, Colossians 2:18, pg. 1636.

which the Lord is revealed as the one in whom dwells "all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." The word "fullness" (Greek pleroma) is the very word Gnosticism used for the entire host of intermediary beings between God and humanity. The incarnate Lord, crucified, risen, and ascended is the only Mediator between God and humanity (1 Tim. 2:5)."⁹ [John 3:16-17] Jesus isn't a part of the bridge between God and mankind, He IS the Bridge! As Jesus stated, " **"I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."** (John 14:6) Likewise, the Apostle Peter testified to that when he preached after Jesus had risen from the dead and after the day of Pentecost, that we can read about in Acts, he said, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)]

[1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (The Last Enemy Destroyed)]

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that **God may be all in all**. [Then as Paul said in **Ephesians 1:22-23**, "And He [God] put all things under His [Christ Jesus'] feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills All in all." Christ Jesus is our All in all to bring us into the union of the Godhead of the Father, Son (Word) and Holy Spirit, that God may be All in all!]

[1 Corinthians 15:29-49 (Effects of Denying the Resurrection)]

Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead [meaning, Christ Jesus is dead], if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead? And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily** ["That is, I am daily in danger of death, for bearing testimony to the resurrection of Christ"]¹⁰. If, in the manner of men, I have **fought with beasts** at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!" Do not be deceived: **"Evil company corrupts good habits."** Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" Foolish one,

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ https://biblehub.com/commentaries/1_corinthians/15-31.htm, Benson Commentary.

what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. [What Paul said in **Galatians 2:20** gives us further meaning, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." We are then, living our new lives IN CHRIST!] And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. **But God gives it a body as He pleases**, and to each seed its own body. All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a **life-giving spirit**. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. [**1 John 3:2**, "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."]

[1 Corinthians 15:50-58 (Our Final Victory)]

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible [our bodies], and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in **victory**." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.