

1888 Message & Controversy

Who's 'In Christ'?

1

The Epistle to the Ephesians

- ✳ The Queen of the Epistles
- ✳ The Most Sublime Communication Ever Made to Man
- ✳ The Crown & Climax of Paul's Theology
- ✳ The Most Comprehensive Message of the Christian Religion
- ✳ The Alps of the NT Among Peaks

2

Overarching Theme

- ✳ **Unity throughout the Universe**
- ✳ God would accomplish it "In Christ"
- ✳ Mystery to be manifested by the Church
- ✳ The Mystery is the Restoration of Image of God in Fallen Men
- ✳ The "In Christ" Idea Is the Key to Unity
- ✳ A New History "in Christ"

3

Paul's In Christ Motif Ephesians 1:3-5

- ✳ "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: according as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will. To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."

4

"In Christ" Motif Expressions

- ✳ "In Christ Jesus"
- ✳ "In Him"
- ✳ "By Him"
- ✳ "Through Him"
- ✳ "In the Beloved"
- ✳ "Together with Him"
- ✳ "By Whom"

5

The Salvific Benefit of Being "in Him"

- ✳ Blessing of being chosen (*eklego*) "in Him"
 - Election to Holiness
 - Predestinated to Adoption
 - Accepted in the Beloved
 - Forgiveness
 - Revelation of His will
 - Unity
 - Gift of the Spirit
 - Eternal Inheritance

6

Sequeira's Objective Gospel Beyond Belief

- * "God put you objectively into Christ."
- * The objective gospel is the salvation God accomplished for all humanity in the finished work of Christ which is called "you in Christ." (p. 36)
- * You must simply welcome your position in Christ. (p. 33)
- * Only when we come just as we are do we begin to have an objective position "in Christ"

7

R. J. Wieland's "In Christ" Concept

- * "The 'life' that anyone experiences, believer or unbeliever, is the purchase of the sacrifice of Christ. In that *legal* or *corporate* sense, 'all men' are 'in Christ,' because Christ is the second or 'last Adam' who has become the new Head of the entire human race." *You've Been Adopted*, p.18

8

Biblical "In Christ" Ideas Objective & Subjective Truth

- * Are all men in "Christ"?
- * In Him we live and move (Acts 17:28)
 - In (by) the Father [context of passage]
- * As in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive...Christ the firstfruits, then those who are Christ's at His coming. (1Cor. 15:22-23)

9

"In Christ" & 2nd Resurrection 1888 MSC Proposition

- * As children of the first Adam, we partake of the dying nature of Adam. But through the imparted life of Christ....."He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." "I am come," said Christ, "that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." {ST, June 17, 1897 par. 15}
- * "As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." And the life which Christ offers us is more perfect, more full, and more complete than was the life which Adam forfeited by transgression. Mrs. E. G. White. {ST, June 17, 1897 par. 16}

10

1888 MSC and "In Christ" R.J. Wieland

- * "Paul's message in Ephesians is that Christ has succeeded in 'creating a new man....thus making peace.' Who is that 'new man'? Jesus! But you and I are 'in Him.'" *You've Been Adopted*, p. 53-54
- * On Page 48 the same message is stated that "everybody" is "in Christ" and has been "given forgiveness of sins."

11

Who's In Christ Before the Foundation of the World?

Ephesians 1:3-5

- * "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: according as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will."

12

Chosen (Elected) in Christ

- * God elected us in Christ before the foundation of world
 - If you are Christ's (in Him), you were elected (Eph. 1:3-6)
- * Christ was elected before the foundation of the world
 - Christ is the Elect One (Isaiah 42:1)
 - The Everlasting Covenant (Rom. 16:25; Isaiah 49; Ps. 2)
 - * To restore the image of God in fallen human nature
 - The Mystery of God accomplished in Christ (Eph. 3; Rev. 10)
 - If you are Christ's (in Him), you are elected (Eph. 1:3-6)
 - * Election took place before the foundation of the world

13

The Everlasting Covenant Who's Predestined?

- * [Eph. 1.3-5 quoted] Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the covenant was made that all who were obedient, all who should through the abundant grace provided, become holy in character, and without blame before God, by appropriating that grace, should be children of God. This covenant, made from eternity, was given to Abraham hundreds of years before Christ came. With what interest and what intensity did Christ in humanity study the human race to see if they would avail themselves of the provision offered. {FE 403.1}

14

Who Is Chosen In Christ? The Exercise of Free Will

- * All blessings come to us by virtue of our union with Christ. He, the Lord of hosts, "hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy, and without blame before Him in love." He has chosen all who will receive and believe and practice the truth,-- chosen them to be united to Him by adoption, to be members of the royal family. He has made an atonement for sin, and all who by faith receives Him as their Saviour become sons of God. {BCL 56.2}

15

The Condition of Predestination

- * "The predestination of which God speaks includes all who will accept Christ as a personal Saviour, who will return to their loyalty, to perfect obedience to all God's commandments. This is the effectual salvation of a peculiar people, chosen by God from among men. All who are willing to be saved by Christ are the elect of God. It is the obedient who are predestinated from the foundation of the world." {21MR 51.2}

16

Bible Election Many are Called; Few are Chosen

- * If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." This is Bible election; for if we keep his commandments, we abide in him, and are elected in him. {ST, February 20, 1896 par. 1}

17

Paul "In Christ" after Junia

- * Adronicus was in Christ before Paul Rom. 16:7
 - Therefore one concludes the following:
 - Paul was out of Christ before the Damascus Rd. experience
 - Paul was NOT objectively in Christ before conversion
- * To be "in Christ" means "to share in His redemption and the new history inaugurated by, and grounded in, His death and resurrection." *Ivan Blazen*

18

A Personal Relationship "To Be In Christ"

- ※ "To be in Christ means that a personal union between Christ and the Christian has taken place. Indeed, it is this symbiosis between the living Christ and the Christian that makes possible the believer's entry into salvation history. There is no possibility of, or meaningfulness to, being 'in Christ' without a personal relationship with the living Christ. *Ivan Blazen*

19

To Be "In Christ" = "Christ in You"

- ※ The "Christ in us" and "we in Christ" concepts are one indivisible reality.
 - See John 14:7(ff)
- ※ "Abide in Me and I in you" (John 15)
 - The one demands the other

20

Corporate Solidarity & Objective Truth on the O.T.

- ※ *The Lord did not make this covenant [only] with our fathers, but with us, us ourselves, those who are here today, all of us who are alive. The Lord spoke to you face to face at the mountain. . . ."* (Deut 5:2-4; cf. 29:14-15). At end of Joshua's life, the covenant renewal ceremony occurred, and although almost all of those who literally witnessed the Exodus had already died, God insists that His audience is to consider that they were there (Josh 24:5-8; Deut 6:21-22)

21

Corporate Solidarity & Rahab the Harlot "You Are There"

- ※ Rahab prior to conversion
 - No participation in Exodus
- ※ Rehab after conversion
 - In corporate solidarity with Israel
 - She bore Boaz, the progenitor of David
 - She was there at the Exodus
- ※ The Exodus became the history of all who became members of Israel
 - They were there who were not there

22

Corporate Solidarity Israel & Christ

- ※ In view of corporate solidarity it is evident that what happened to literal Israel also happened to those who become members of corporate Israel. It immediately follows that what happened to Christ, the new corporate Israel, also happened to those who become members of Christ i.e., who are now "in Christ." Since Christ is the Elect One chosen from the foundation of the world, all those who unite with Christ (as Rahab united with Israel) are now said to have been "chosen from the foundation of the world."

23

Christ is the Israel of God

Israel

- Firstborn
- Brought out of Egypt
- Elect of God
- Baptized in Red Sea
- Wondered in wilderness 40 yrs
- Met temptation with the Word
- Law was given

Christ

24

Sequeira's In Christ Motif Corporate Solidarity

- ✳ "The entire human race is corporately one "in Him" just as we are one "in Adam."
What Jesus did, we have done, because we are corporately one in Him. Thus the life and death, which fully met the positive demands of God's holy law as well as its justice, are considered to be our life and death also. "In Him," we are justified because His life and ours were forever linked at the incarnation." (*Beyond Belief*, p. 35)

25

Christ, the Second Adam

- ✳ 2nd Adam
 - A new humanity united with Divinity
- ✳ Are we corporately In Christ?
- ✳ Only as we surrender in faith
 - Become part of new humanity in Christ

26

Sequeira's Objective & Subjective Gospel

- ✳ The Objective Gospel ("you in Christ") is the imputed righteousness of Christ (p. 36)
 - Applies to all men
- ✳ The subjective gospel ("Christ in you") is the imparted righteousness of Christ. (p. 36)
 - Applies to the believer
- ✳ However the in Christ motif applies only to the Believer
- ✳ The in Christ motif is the provision offered to all men

27

The Meaning of In Adam / In Christ

- ✳ The idea that all were imbedded inside Adam embraces the immortality of the soul
 - Greek Dualism and Mysticism
 - See Genesis 2:7
- ✳ In Adam / In Christ conveys the idea of:
 - Connected with / United with / Belonging to
 - As Related to

28

The Two Adams

- ✳ As related to the first Adam, men receive from him nothing but guilt and the sentence of death. But Christ steps in and passes over the ground where Adam fell, enduring every test in man's behalf. He redeems Adam's disgraceful failure and fall by coming forth from the trial untarnished. This places man on vantage ground with God. It places him where, through accepting Christ as his Saviour, he becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Thus he becomes connected with God and Christ (Letter 68, 1899). (6BC 1074.7)

29

The Two Adams

- ✳ I am lost in Adam, but restored in Christ. {SD 120.2}
- ✳ First Adam brings death to all men
- ✳ Second Adam provides Life to all who believe and surrender.

30

In Adam → In Christ The Transition

- ✳ Christ purchased & redeemed mankind
- ✳ Grants to all men a 2nd Probation
- ✳ Opportunity to receive & unite with Christ
 - Connected with God through Christ
 - Receiving justification

31

Corporate Solidarity “In Adam” (As Related to Adam)

- ✳ All men are the offspring of Adam (Acts 17:26)
- ✳ All men die because of one man's sin (Rom. 5:12)
- ✳ All men sin because of Adam's sin
 - Adam's sin caused spiritual death and separation from God for all men
- ✳ All men were ransomed by one Man (Rom. 5:18)
- ✳ All men receive the immediate benefit of a 2nd Probation (you've been bought with a price, you're not your own).

32

The Gift Abounds to All

- ✳ What we inherit from Adam
 - Condemnation & Death
- ✳ What we receive from Christ
 - We receive a 2nd Probation of temporary life
 - We do not inherit justification
 - Gift of Justification Abounds (offered) to All (Rom 5:15)

33

A 2nd Probation & Election

- ✳ We can understand the value of the human soul only as we realize the greatness of the sacrifice made for its redemption. The word of God declares that we are not our own, that we are bought with a price. It is at an immense cost that we have been placed upon vantage ground, where we can find liberty from the bondage of sin wrought by the fall in Eden. Adam's sin plunged the race into hopeless misery; but by the sacrifice of the Son of God, a second probation was granted to man. (ST, August 10, 1915 par. 12)

34

If One died for all, All Died 2 Corinthians 5:14

- ✳ Key Operative Phrase: “I judge thus”
 - In view of the redemption of man (“One died for all”)
 - Paul considers all men to have died
- ✳ Christ assumed our common corp. humanity
 - He bore the sins of a guilty race
 - That same corporate humanity was executed
- ✳ All should identify corporately with Christ (5:15)
- ✳ Now view all men as tho redeemed & justified & saved eternally (5:16)
- ✳ If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation (5:17)

35

Corporate Solidarity

- ✳ Christ came into solidarity with humanity
 - Not with you as distinct personality
 - Not with your mind
- ✳ He became our Substitute & Representative
 - “In assuming humanity, Christ took the part of every human being. He was the Head of humanity.” (1SM 252)
 - A Second Probation was granted to fallen man
- ✳ In order that we might identify with His Nature
 - Partake of the Divine Nature

36

Corporate Solidarity "in Christ" Why It's Unique

- ✳ Unites the Human Agent w/ Divine Power
 - The key to being crucified w/ Christ
 - Only divine power accomplishes the 2nd death
- ✳ Victory to Holiness → Under Grace
- ✳ Revelation 3:21

37

Objective Truth

- ✳ **The reality that exists in Christ**
- ✳ For the believer
 - His new objective, legal standing before God
 - Justified
 - Justified by faith (objective, legal justification)
- ✳ For the unbeliever
 - What his standing would be upon surrender
 - His potential new legal standing before God

38

Are You In Christ?

- ✳ **Are you in Christ? Not if you do not acknowledge yourselves erring, helpless, condemned sinners.** Not if you are exalting and glorifying self. If there is any good in you, it is wholly attributable to the mercy of a compassionate Saviour. Your birth, your reputation, your wealth, your talents, your virtues, your piety, your philanthropy, or anything else in you or connected with you, will not form a bond of union between your soul and Christ. Your connection with the church, the manner in which your brethren regard you, will be of no avail unless you believe in Christ. **It is not enough to believe about Him; you must believe in Him. You must rely wholly upon His saving grace.** {5T 48.3}

38

Who Is Condemned? John 3:18-19

- 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
- ✳ Those who refuse to Believe
 - ✳ Those who reject the light available
 - ✳ No condemnation to those in Christ (Rom. 8:1)

40

Condemnation Awaits those Who Remain in Adam

- ✳ God chose this world to be the theater of His mighty works of grace. **While the sentence of condemnation was suspended over it because of the rebellion of its inhabitants, while the clouds of wrath were accumulating because of the transgression of the law of God, a mysterious voice was heard in heaven, "Lo, I come. . . to do thy will, O God" (Psalm 40:7, 8).... Pardon is offered to all who will return their allegiance to the law of God. . . But the condemnation and wrath of God are suspended over the disobedient.** {OFC 230.2}

41

The Sinner Outside of Christ

- ✳ **Without Christ he is under the condemnation of the law, always a sinner, but through faith in Christ he is made just before God.** {1SM 330.1}
- ✳ Placed on 2nd Probation
- ✳ Placed on Vantage Ground {HP 13.6}
- ✳ The Invitation: Be Ye reconciled to God

42

Sentence Postponed

- * After Adam and Eve had sinned, they were under bondage to the law. Because of their transgression they were **sentence to suffer death**, the penalty of sin. But Christ, the propitiation for our sins, declared: "I will stand in Adam's place. I will take upon myself the penalty of his sin. **He shall have another trial**. I will **secure for him a probation**. He shall have the privileges and the opportunities of a free man, and be allowed to **exercise his God-given power of choice**. I will postpone the day of his arraignment for trial. He shall be bound over to appear at the bar of God in the judgment." {AU Gleaner, August 19, 1903 par. 1}

43

Release from Pending Condemnation

- * He that believeth on him is not condemned Jn 3:19
- * **The moment the sinner believes in Christ, he stands in the sight of God uncondemned**; for the righteousness of Christ is his: Christ's perfect obedience is imputed to him. But he must co-operate with divine power, and put forth his human effort to subdue sin, and stand complete in Christ. {FE 429.3}
- * Confession is the first condition of acceptance (SC 37)

44

Unconditional & Conditional Good News

- * Thus, before the multitude he himself had given in concise words the gospel conditions of eternal life for every member of the human family, who are standing before God today {UL 221.5}
- * Altho Christ died in the sinner's stead, the sinner is liable to all the penalty of the law if he does not comply with the conditions of the Gospel; and these prescribe obedience, if he would be benefited by the obedience offered. (ST, August 4, 1898 par. 1)
- * Probationary Life: Unconditional

45

Is the 2nd Coming Part of the Gospel?

- * The proclamation of the judgment is an announcement of Christ's second coming as at hand. And this proclamation is called the everlasting gospel. Thus the preaching of **Christ's second coming**, the announcement of its nearness, is shown to be **an essential part of the gospel message**. {COL 227.2}
- * Good News & Bad News for Some

46

Accepted in the Beloved

- * Jesus stands in the holy of holies, now to appear in the presence of God for us. There He ceases not to present His people moment by moment, complete in Himself. But because we are thus represented before the Father, we are not to imagine that we are to presume upon His mercy and become careless, indifferent, and self-indulgent. Christ is not the minister of sin. **We are complete in Him, accepted in the Beloved, only as we abide in Him by faith.** {FW 107.3}

47

A New History

- * **Salvation Full & Complete was obtained for mankind in Christ Jesus**
 - That same salvation resides in Christ
- * The human race has a **New History in Christ**, so that you personally may stand justified before God and His Law
- * You may have a new history as you come to Christ in faith, submission, and obedience

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