**Christ: The Catalyst for Change**

Chemistry definition of a catalyst. A thing which speeds up a change without itself being changed.

Q: So, what is the thing which can cause change in our life without being changed? It is Christ.

Q: What is the catalyst for change: It is “Christ in you, the hope of glory” Coll 1:27

What is the secret of transformation?

It is being attached to (in) Christ

The theme of Colossians:

The all sufficiency of Christ to save, for He is the fullness of God in you.

Outline of Colossians:

I. 1:1 – 1:23 The Person and Work of Christ

II. 1:24 – 2:7 Paul’s Ministry in Christ

III. 2:8 – 3:4 The Cure is Christ

IV. 3:5 – 4:6 The Way with Christ

V. 4:7 – 4:17 Brotherhood Through Christ

Christ in Colossians:

Col 1:14 We have forgiveness of sins in Him.

Col 1:15 The Son is the image of the invisible God.

Col 1:15 The Son is the first born over all creation.

Col 1:16 In Him all things were created: on heaven and earth,

visible and invisible, all powers, rulers or authorities.

Col 1:16 All things were created through Him.

Col 1:16 All things were created for Him.

Col 1:17 He is before all things.

Col 1:17 In Him all things hold together.

Col 1:18 He is the head of the body.

Col 1:18 He is the beginning.

Col 1:18 He is the first born among the dead.

Col 1:18 He has supremacy in everything.

Col 1:19 All the fullness of God dwells in Him.

Col 1:20 He is reconciling all things to Himself, whether in heaven

 or on earth.

Col 1:20 He made peace through His blood on the cross.

Col 1:22 We are reconciled by God through Christ’s physical body.

Col 1:22 We are presented holy in God’s sight by Christ.

Col 1:24 Christ is the head of the body.

Col 1:27 God’s glorious mystery is Christ in you.

Col 1:28 Christ is the one who is proclaimed.

Col 1:29 Christ’s power works in Paul and us.

Col 2:2-3 God’s mystery is that all the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Christ.

Col 2:5 Your faith in Christ needs to be firm.

Col 2:6 Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue in Him.

Col 2:7 Be rooted and built up in Him.

Col 2:9 In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.

Col 2:10 In Christ we have been brought to fullness.

Col 2:10 He is head over every power and authority.

Col 2:11 In Christ we were circumcised.

Col 2:11 Your whole self, ruled by the flesh, was put off by Christ.

Col 2:12 You were buried with Him in baptism.

Col 2:12 You were raised with Him in baptism.

Col 2:13 God made us alive in Christ.

Col 2:13 God forgave all our sins in Christ.

Col 2:14 God cancelled all our debts in Christ.

Col 2:14 Christ took away our condemnation.

Col 2:15 Christ made a public spectacle of our enemies.

Col 2:17 The reality is in Christ.

Col 2:18 The body grows by its connection with Him.

Col 2:20 You have died with Christ.

Col 3:1 You have been raised with Christ.

Col 3:1-3 We are seated with Christ at the right hand of God.

Col 3:1-3 We are hidden with Him and He is at the right hand of God.

Col 3:4 Christ is your life.

Col 3:4 You will appear with Him in glory.

Col 3:11 Christ is all and in all.

Col 3:13 The Lord forgave us.

Col 3:15 The peace of Christ can rule our hearts.

Col 3:16 The message of Christ can dwell in you richly.

Col 3:17 Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Col 3:17 Give thanks to the Father through Him.

Col 3:18-20 Submit to you husband, master and parents in reverence

 for Christ.

Col 3:18 Husband love your wife in Christ.

Who is it that is in us?

Coll 1:15-20 Who Christ is.

He is the image of the invisible God.

He is preeminent over all creation.

By him all things were created.

He is before all things.

All things hold together in him.

He is head of the Church.

He is the firstborn from the dead.

All of God’s fullness dwells in him.

All are reconciled through him.

What is the secret/mystery to transformation?

Coll 1:27 Christ in you, the hope of glory.

How does this work? The secret to transformation is being in Christ.

What is the most common expression in the New Testament to describe a saved person? Christian? Disciple? Saved? No. It is “in Christ.”

In Christ, In Him, In the Lord 164 times in Paul alone.

My class involves helping you to see all that we have in Christ.

Theme of Philippians: Life in Christ.

Consider all that we have in Christ:

Philippians 1:1 Saints/Holy people in Christ Jesus “To all God’s holy people (saints) **in Christ** Jesus at Philippi”

Phil 4:7 peace of God “And the **peace** of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds **in Christ Jesus**.”

Philippians2:1 **Encouragement** in Christ. “If you have any encouragement in Christ” Q: Where is our encouragement found? In Christ!

Gal 3:26 So in Christ, we are all **children of God** through faith.

Coll 1:13-14 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he lives, in whom we have **redemption**, the forgiveness of sins.

You have been redeemed. You have been bought back. Dictionary: “To gain or regain possession of something in exchange for payment.”

Colossians 2:10 **fullness** “In Christ you have been brought to fullness.” (note the prior verse Coll 2:9 In Christ the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form.

Coll 2:11-12 Pu**t off the flesh** “In him you were also **circumcised**, with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ.”

Ephesians 1:3 **every spiritual blessing** “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with **every spiritual blessing in Christ**. (Phil 4:19 all your needs met) There is not a single spiritual blessing to be found outside of Christ, but in Christ we have every blessing.

Ephesians 1:4, 11 **chosen** “For he has chosen us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”

1 Corinthians 15:22 we will be **made alive**/resurrected “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 the **righteousness** of God “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Romans 6:23 have eternal life in Christ Jesus “The gift of God is **eternal life in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 8:38-39 **secure love of God** “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from **the love of God that is in Christ Jesu**s our Lord.

Q: Where is the love of God found? In Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:9 grace “He saved us and called us… because of his grace. This **grace was given us in Christ Jesus.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 a new creation “If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. Behold, the old has gone, the new has come.

Q: Are you in Christ? Then you are a new creation.

2 Corinthians 1:20 all God’s promises fulfilled “For no matter how many **promises** God has made, they **are “Yes” in Christ**.

To that we say….

Romans 8:1 no condemnation. “Therefore, there is now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**.

The mystery of the ages is found in Christ. Coll 1:27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you the Hope of Glory. Coll 2:3 “..so that they may know the mystery of God, namely, **Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**”

Coll 2:17 These (new moons, Sabbaths…) are a shadow of the things that were to coe, **the reality, however is found in Christ**.

Outside of Christ, we have none of these things. In Christ we have all these things.

Some of the things we are in Christ are really what we are becoming.

We were saved, we are being saved and we will be saved.

We were resurrected, we are being made alive and we will be resurrected.

We were made holy. We are being made holy and we will be holy.

We were given fullness. We are becoming full and we will be made full.

We put off the flesh, we are putting off the flesh and the flesh will be put off.

Paul describes us as what we are becoming in Christ.

God sees us as the final result.

Phil 3:7-10 (if time) What is the worth of being in Christ (v. 9 to be found in him) To Paul everything the world has to offer was garbage by comparison. It was worth nothing. In fact, it was worth less than nothing (a loss compared to knowing Christ)

So how do we get into Christ?

Gal 3:26-27, Rom 6:3-4

Do we believe into Christ? Do you pray into Christ? Do we confess into Christ? Do we repent into Christ?

Analogy of a house, where inside the house represents being in Christ. Maybe believing is the driveway to the house, confessing is the walkway to the door and repenting is opening the lock to the door. But baptism is when we go through the door.

Let’s talk about the freedom we have in Christ.

Gal 4:21-31

Outside of Christ we were under Law. Colossians 2:13-15 describes this state. The Law that stood opposed to us. But Christ nailed the law (the obligation) to the cross, so we are not under law.

We were Ishmael, now we are Isaac.

We were children of Hagar, now we are children of Sarah.

We were slaves, now we are free in Christ.

Gal 5:1 (start in 4:31)

What was it like to be a child of the slave woman?

Gal 5:1 Free from what? (not sin in this context) Free from the obligation to serve God. Free to serve God because you want to.

Slavery: I have to.

Freedom: I want to.

Free at last, free at last; Thank the Lord I am free at last.

Gal 5:6 In Christ Jesus (There’s that phrase again) neither circumcision nor uncircumcision matters. The only thing that matters is faith, expressing itself in love.

We express our faith in Jesus by the things we do out of love.

Q: What are you doing out of love for Jesus?

Why do you pray…..

Back to Colossians:

Why is being in Christ so freeing?

Colossians Coll 2:13-15

We are debt free? Our debt was cancelled on the cross?

What debt? The debt of obligation due to our sins. We had a debt of 10,000 talents

The debt is wiped out.

Freedom from rules-based religion. Whew!!!!!

v. 17 Rules-based Christianity is just a shadow.

2:20 We died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of the world

*Stoichea* basic principles

The law is *stoichea*  It is the ABC’s of life. It is childish living.

Live a transformed life—catalyzed by Christ. Coll 3:1-17.

You are free to become the thing that God already sees you as.