

When Living Means Christ (Identifiers of the Christian Live - Part 1)

Paul begins his letter to the Philippians much like some of his other letters with two common words - not because they were a common cultural greeting - but because they are foundational to his understanding of Christianity. "Grace" - the activity of God in man's behalf. And "peace" - the wholeness and wellness that results from the activity of God for, and in, and through man. It is in God's grace and peace that we discover who we are and how to live. His grace and peace accurately identify and ably empower us in any context.

The Christian life of grace and peace is a holy life - we are "all... saints" (1:1). Sinners are what we were. Now we are saints. ("Just a sinner saved by grace" is just an excuse to go on sinning!) No sinner can be conformed to the image of Christ - only a saint. How did we get that way? We were made saints by the saving activity of God - by the "receptivity of God's activity." (J. Fowler) The result? We have peace with God (Ro 5:1). There is nothing between God and us - no gaps, no distance (I Cor 6:17). He separated us from our sins and sinfulness and made us holy ones in Christ.

The Christian life of grace and peace is a hopeful life (1:6). We are as confident of His Divine Continuance as we are of His Divine Initiative. How did we get this way? By the redemptive activity of God (we call that grace!). We do not finish our salvation any more than we began it. Our confidence is derived freely from Him. (The Bible has much more to say about the Perseverance of God than the perseverance of man!) We have received the peace of an unbreakable union (Ro 8:31-39), the peace of His redemptive power (Ro 8:28-29), the peace of knowing the government of our lives is upon His shoulders (Is 9:6).

When living means Christ, we set our minds on the saving activity of Christ, not merely our own actions. We celebrate our peace with God, refuse to be named by our actions or the opinions of others, and begin the gracious journey of living out of our new creationness in Christ. When living means Christ, we set our minds on the redemptive activity of Christ, not merely our circumstances or our adversaries. We celebrate the peace of God and the Spirit of Peace Himself comes and graces us with Divine Assurance that because God and we are "all right", all that comes to us is "right". (Phil 1:19-20)



- **Tax-deductible contributions** - may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.* by mailing your gifts to the address above.
- **Messages and sermons by Steve** - can be listened to or downloaded at www.stevepettitmessages.com
- **Conferences and events led by Steve** - can be arranged by calling Steve at 386-418-0913.
- **To receive this newsletter electronically** - email your request to OICnewsletter@gmail.com

Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



Please inform us of any changes to your address label



BITS AND PIECES

August means "back to school" for many. I happen to think of school teachers as front line warriors, certainly deserving of "combat pay" in many places. I am so grateful for those who see this as their mission field and choose to become salt and light in that arena. Pray for, encourage, affirm, and perhaps, volunteer if you can to serve our educators and teachers.

We are so grateful for each opportunity to continue our mission of "enlarging the awareness of Christ in you as the hope of glory." Thank you for your invitations to share and for your gifts that make it possible to make ourselves available to such requests no matter the "venue".

We understand the message sharing site was down for a while. We appreciate your letting us know. It is always a delight to know many of you not only listen but also share the contents and the site with others. I am always blessed to meet people face-to-face that we have previously "met" only through the CD/online teachings.

Have a blessed August abiding in the grace and peace of Christ!

One In Christ, Inc.
13820 NW 172nd Avenue
Alachua, Florida 32615

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CALENDAR

AUGUST

4,11,18,25 CCF
13 Alachua Study
27 Ocala study

SEPTEMBER


15-20 Almonte, CO
27-29 Binghamton, NY (607-625-4612)

NOVEMBER


1-2 Sebring, FL (863-382-6265)

PRAISE & PRAYER

 *Our educators and teachers*

 *Faithful friends*

 *Pastor search at CCF*

 *Opportunities to proclaim the truth*

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
ALACHUA, FL
PERMIT NO.11