

## When Living Means Christ - Philippians 1:21

For Paul, all that God meant life to be is in the Person of Jesus Christ. "For me," he declares, "living means Christ" (Phil 1:21). Christ had taken such a personal possession of Paul, Paul had so willfully immersed himself in an operational oneness with Christ, he had seemingly lost any sense of separation or distance with God. Wherever he was, whatever he did, Christ occupied the whole of his life. It was all very personal, very participatory, and very practical.

Being a Christian "self" is quite uncommon! As a human uncommonly joined to divinity, living means "God in me" (Col 1:27; Phil 2:13). A total change in beingness, a new creation occurs by God's grace making us holy and righteous selves, resulting in a "rightness" of being whereby living now means that God and I are "all right" - there is nothing between us, not even space. Since this newly created Christian self is a self for others, living means life for others (I Jo 3:16; Phil 2:17). Our newness is also characterized by an indivisible oneness with God Himself, guaranteeing us a supply, a sufficiency that is inexhaustible (Heb 13:5; Col 2:9-10). Living now means that every "lack is but the finger of God pointing us to His sufficiency" (Amy Carmichael).

Nevertheless, when living, even for the believer, does not mean Christ in our dailiness, much of our Christianity "de-velops" back into the super self-consciousness of pre-Christian thinking and choosing. We may totally ignore our birthright as Christian selves and go on trying to create and complete ourselves by self-effort, cleanse and right ourselves by self-improvement, defend ourselves by self preserving means, and even attempt to fulfill ourselves by finding something created to join ourselves to. In other words, we may be a Christian self, yet act as though living means just me and myself (a false self, as though separated).

However, when living means Christ, we learn to live out of our true, new creation selves. A conversion, not just of thought, but of trust occurs as we surrender each moment and every choice to the only One able to transform us. We'd like to debate, God wants us to decide. We'd like to reason, God wants us to repent. We'd like to systematize, God wants surrender.

For you, what will it be? Will living mean "my" self, or Christ's?



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## Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

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# BITS AND PIECES

Our monthly newsletter is one of the ways we have shared "life" with one another for over two decades. We want it to be an epistle of encouragement, a letter of love, a connection of lives that glorifies God and edifies His church.

It is a source of information as well - of our schedule, our family, our plans for ministry. We value your prayers, appreciate your gifts, and pay attention to your suggestions and thoughts.

Currently we are in the midst of numerous changes - printing changes, postal changes, technology changes. As a result, you may encounter a "glitch" or two (or three!) in the coming months. Please be patient with us, yet also let us know if you have difficulties receiving this mailout either in print form or electronic form.

As of this month, our costs will rise drastically and the workload will increase greatly. Yet we have every intent of continuing "business as usual" on your end. We appreciate your consideration during this transition period.

And as always, we deeply appreciate and value your part in the journey with us on every level!!



# CALENDAR



## OCTOBER

6,13,20,27

CCF

8

Alachua Study

29

Ocala Study

## NOVEMBER

1-2

Sebring, FL (863-382-6265)

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