

The Christ-Centered Life (Christ-enlivened, Part 2)

A Christ centered, Christ enlivened life creates a brand new anthropology - a new reality of beingness - creatures rooted in the eternal. We are called "new creations" (II Cor 5:17; Eph 4:24) because we are! Not merely in principle or position, but in person. In Christ we have been "re-lifed" - capable of participation in the Divine Life of Christ (we have received "everything pertaining to life and godliness" - II Pet 1:3). Radically new in "time" - someone not there before - and radically new in "type" - a kind of someone not there previously. A new species of co-crucified, co-buried, co-raised, co-ascended, co-glorified life in Christ.

A miraculous oneness! Never a union of equals, never an essential oneness. We're not absorbed into the Divine and we do not become 'gods'. We are re-created creatures in a relational union with God through Christ (I Cor 6:17). The self in union replaces the self in separation. The living self replaces a dead self. The righteous self replaces the sinful self. The "just me" self is replaced by the newly made "Christ in me" self.

Inhabited by Christ's Life we are now fully able to properly function according to the design and intent of our Creator. Jesus Christ Himself is the source and supply of this new life (Jo 14:6). As the Vine (Jo 15) He is the source of all true vitality, identity, and fertility. As "branches" we create none of these but express the Life within us.

So, as you can see, Christ is the center of all things Christian. If He is not proclaimed and maintained as such, Christianity loses its distinctiveness and its liveliness. Nothing about Him is peripheral to creation or re-creation. He is no correction to things gone wrong - HE IS THE CENTER OF ALL THAT IS RIGHT! You and I are never the center - only Christ. This Christ-enlivened life - wonderful as it is - is not primarily about us. It is about Him. To fail to live from - to abide in and abandon to - Him, is a failure to possess and express our possessions. He is the Truth of the gospel - we must be centered in Him.

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👏 **GREETINGS** 👏

In mid-July and August, everything seems to slow down in our neck of the woods. The relentless heat and oppressive humidity take their toll on human bodies and minds (much like February up north?) Most things seem twice as hard - exercise, cutting grass, even going to the store!

Circumstances and conditions sure have a way of affecting our lives - and they're supposed to! (Ja 1:2-4) Whether it's weather or woundedness - we are constantly reminded that this world (in its present state) is not our home. These become the "agents" of God - escorting (pressing!) us into making our home in Him no matter the externals.

As Thomas Chisolm put it in "Great Is Thy Faithfulness",

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Whether it be the summer doldrums or the winter grayness, listen for the "witness" of God in all of life's circumstances. Let each of them call us to our full and forever and faithful home in Christ.

✍️ **CALENDAR** ✍️

<u>AUGUST</u>	
7,14,21,28	CCF
9	Alachua Study
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	
16-23	Bozeman, MT
<u>OCTOBER</u>	
7-9	Binghamton, NY (607-239-5006)

♥️ **PRAISE and PRAYER** ✝️

- ♥️ God's manifold witness
- ♥️ Our sure home in Christ
- ✝️ To stay at home in Christ
- ✝️ Healing in our Land