

“Christ for me, in me, through me!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Story: Stalin** was eating a meal when a someone came up & asked him, “how can you inflict such pain on your people?” He continued to eat then said, “bring me a live chicken.” He stroked it, then started feathering the chicken. It struggled but he denuded the whole bird. Then he set it down, picked up some bread & walked away from it & stood. The chicken hobbled over to find some warmth between his pant legs. He put his hand down & the chicken started pecking away at the food. Stalin said, “There is your answer!” “If you want a chicken to follow you for life you must **inflict pain** on it, it will follow you for food the rest of its life. **People** are like that **chicken**, you inflict pain on them & they will follow you for food the rest of their life.”¹
1. Man sure has come up with some bizarre ideas to get men to follow them.
 2. **What system of control did God use?** Oh He didn’t use a system of control & manipulation to get something from man. **Instead** He did something **for** rather than **to** mankind!
- B. Let’s read the most Christological statement in the NT. {pick up from vs.13}
- C. **Outline: Christ for me** (is my substitution & sacrifice); **Christ in me** (is my sanctification & satisfaction); **Christ through me** (is my service & sufficiency).²

II. **CHRIST FOR ME which is my Substitution & Sacrifice!(15-20)**

- A. (15) **Image** - Copy. In Greek thought an image shares in reality what it represents.³
1. The word contains the idea of **representation & manifestation**.
 2. **Christ is the perfect likeness of God**.
 3. He is the **visible** image of the **invisible** God.
 4. Some argue, “if God the Father is the signet ring, then Jesus is the image or imprint of that ring, but not the ring itself.”
 - a) But, the bible claims the ring is 3-in-1. So it can imprint itself 3 times, if He choose to reveal Himself 3 ways, but only choose to reveal Himself once.

¹ Ravi Zacharias; Podcast 9-22-08; Absolute Truth in Relative Terms(Part 2 of 5)

² J. Sidlow Baxter; Awake My Heart; pg.173

³ Linguistic Key to the Greek N.T.; pg.567

- B. (15) **Firstborn over all creation doesn't mean** Jesus was a created being & not eternal God
Firstborn from the dead does not mean He was the 1st one raised from the dead.
1. **Firstborn** is a term of *honor* & means **the highest, of first rank & importance**
 2. Jesus was **prior to** all creation; is the **highest in** creation; & He is the **highest** of all who were raised from the dead.
- C. (16,17) Notice the prepositions: *by* Him; *through* Him; *for* Him; *in* Him.
1. **Christ Himself is:** the **instrument & cause** of creation(*by*); the **mediating agent**(*through*); the **purpose**(*for*); & the **sustaining power**(*in*).
- D. He **created** all things (16); He **sustains** all things (17); He will **reconcile** all things (20)
- E. Creation vs. Created - 2 Box Analogy []-[] (2 squares: in 1 is whoever did the creating; in the other is all of the things created) {no other box? can't be in both boxes}
- F. (17) **In Him all things consist** - to hold together, to cohere.
1. He is the principle of cohesion in the universe. (Lightfoot)
 2. Jesus holds all things together, not only the **largest** things in the universe, but also the **smallest** things.
 3. **Have you seen Louie Giglio's You-Tube on Laminin?**
 - a) **Laminin** is a **protein molecule**. It is a **cell adhesion molecule**. (The rebar of the human body) Google Laminin when you get home & see what it looks like...it's the shape of the cross.
- G. (18) **Preeminence** - (Moule) "**A Savior** not quite God is a bridge broken at the father end"
- H. (20) **Peace through the blood of the cross** - 1 Cross + 3 nails = 4given
- I. Story of **substitution & sacrifice!**
1. During the 17th century, **Oliver Cromwell**, Lord Protector of England, sentenced a soldier to be shot for his crimes. The execution was to take place at the ringing of the evening curfew bell. However, the bell did not sound. The **soldier's fiancée** had climbed into the belfry and clung to the great clapper of the bell to prevent it from striking. When she was summoned by Cromwell to account for her actions, she wept as she showed him **her bruised and bleeding hands**. Cromwell's heart was touched and he said, "**Your lover shall live because of your sacrifice. Curfew shall not ring tonight!**" [Daily Bread]
 - a) God the Father told Jesus after the cross "**Your lover shall live because of Your sacrifice!**"
- J. **#1 Christ for me, which is my substitution & sacrifice!**

- III. **CHRIST IN ME which is my Sanctification & Satisfaction!**(21-27)
- A. (22) To present you holy, blameless, above reproach .
1. John Flavel - It is easier to cry against 1000 **sins** of others, than to kill one of your own.
 2. Thomas a' Kempis said, "Be not angry that you cannot make **others** as you wish them to be, since you cannot make **yourself** as you wish yourself to be."
- B. (23) **Hope** is a **foundation** on which you stand when all around you is **shaking**.
1. The city of Colosse was located on an earthquake area, so Paul's admonition was especially meaningful to them. **Not moved**.
 2. False teachers were trying to shift their foundation.
 3. Paul pointed them to Jesus Christ who was: **Savior**(13,14); **Eternal God**(15); **Creator**(16,17); **Head of the church**(18).
 - a) What a perfect foundation for our **Hope**!
- C. (27) **Christ in you = hope of glory**.
1. Heaven is more than a destination; it is a motivation because Christ lives within us.
 2. It is a **living hope**(1 Pet.1:3) that affects how we think & act all day long.
 3. Because **Christ is within us**, we need not fear what is **ahead of us!**
 4. "The One in whom Deity dwells, dwells in us!" *Amazing!*
- D. (27) **Christ in you = hope of glory**.
1. In the Messianic prophecies of the OT there are many & varied aspects of the coming Christ, **but nowhere** are we told that He would **indwell** His people.
 - a) The verse right above this reveals this was part of the *divine mystery*, the sacred secret, hid for ages & generations. **But now, the secret is divulged**.
- E. We must know Christ in **3 ways**: **Christ for me** (Christ dying on the cross); **Christ in me** (living in my heart); **Christ through me** (Christ speaking by my life).
- F. **Christ for me** (is my substitution & sacrifice); **Christ in me** (is my sanctification & satisfaction); **Christ through me** (is my service & sufficiency).⁴
- G. **Christ for me** is my only **acceptable standing** before God.
Christ in me is my only **true victory** over sin.
Christ through me is my only **real power** for spiritual ministry.

⁴ J. Sidlow Baxter; Awake My Heart; pg.173

H. We need to sustain a **3-fold relation to Christ**, represented by 3 words: *purchased; possessed; permeated.*

1. His **dying for me** means that I am Christ-**purchased!**
2. His **living in me** means that I am Christ-**possessed!**
3. His **working through me** means that I am Christ-**permeated!**

I. He died **for** me; I am to **take** Him. He lives **in** me; I am to **prove** Him. He moves **through** me; I am to **transmit** Him.

J. #1 Christ **for** me, which is my **substitution & sacrifice!**

K. #2 Christ **in** me, which is my **sanctification & satisfaction!**

IV. **CHRIST THROUGH ME which is my Service & Sufficiency!** (28,29)

A. **Him** we preach - I was reading Kelly's last lesson in 2nd Pet, she says, "We can't just have the knowledge of **what's in** the Bible; we have to **know Jesus Christ**, the central theme of the Bible. We can't just know "**of**" Him, we need to know "**Him.**"

1. So its not only **what** we preach, but truly **whom** we preach!
2. The theme of Christianity is **not a theory**, not a set of **rules**, not simply a **code of morals**, not even just a **system of truth**; **but a living Person!**

B. **To this end - To what end? Presenting every man perfect!!!** (28).

1. Here is Paul's **specific object**, his **definite aim**. Why he **preaches, warns, teaches, strives, labors, works.**

C. **Perfect? You mean sinless? No way! Men & women are being perfected!**

Moses stuttered; David's armor didn't fit; John Mark was rejected by Paul; Timothy had ulcers; Hosea's wife was a prostitute; Amos' only training was fig-tree pruning; Jacob was a liar; David had an affair; Solomon was too rich; Jesus was too poor; Abraham was too old; David was too young; Peter was afraid of death; Lazarus was dead; John was self-righteous; Naomi was a widow; Paul was a murderer; So was Moses; Jonah ran from God; Miriam was a gossip; Gideon and Thomas both doubted; Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal; Elijah was burned out; John the Baptist was a loudmouth; Martha was a worry-wart; Samson had long hair; Noah got drunk; & Moses had a short fuse.

1. **None of these saints were sinless!**
2. **Perfection - never** means **sinlessness**. **But instead** always refers to **maturity, ripeness of character & experience.**

3. From the moment of our conversion we are to **make progress** until we all arrive at the **full ripeness** of our position in Christ.
 - a) Eph.4:13 (Message) **until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. :-)**

D. **Warning & teaching:**

1. **Warning** - Especially necessary for those who have **not** received Christ.
2. **Teaching** - The Christian religion is essentially **educational**. From beginning to end we need road signs of Divine teaching saying ***This is the way; walk in it!***
 - a) **Biblical teaching** should **inform** the mind & **guide** the soul *in everything*.

E. **In Christ Jesus** - We **start** with “**Christ in us**” & **end** being “**in Christ**”.

F. **Every man perfect?** - notice 3x's.

1. **Every man**/everybody - the doors are flung wide open & all are invited to enter
 - a) This universality of the gospel. All nations, all capacities, rich & poor, old & young, respectable & outcast, peer & peasant. **Because amid all the differences there is the same sin, same heart, same need, & therefore the same salvation!**

G. **#1 Christ for me**, which is my **substitution & sacrifice!**

H. **#2 Christ in me**, which is my **sanctification & satisfaction!**

I. **#3 Christ through me**, which is my **service & sufficiency!**

J. F. B. Meyer used to say, In ***all*** His people Christ is **present**. In ***some*** he is **prominent**. In a ***few*** He is **pre-eminent**.

1. **Which of these classifications do you & I belong?**

K. **Communion:**

L. (22) **In the body of His flesh through death** - **Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you.** [explain dble cup; partake on own]

M. (20) What **peace** did Jesus bring to your life **thru the blood of His cross?** [Thank Him 4 that]