

Christ's Home - - My Heart

TEXT: ***Ephesians 3:16: That He would grant you, according to the riches of His Glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man;***
 ¹⁷ That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Without question, one of the most remarkable Christian doctrines is that Jesus Christ Himself, thru the Presence of the Spirit of Christ, will actually enter a heart and be at home there. Christ will make the human heart His abode. Paul describes it this way in:

Colossians 1:27: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the Glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the Hope of Glory:

In a conversation Jesus had with His disciples, he said:

John 14: 23: If a man love Me, he will keep My Words: and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.

If anything stumped the disciples – this would be the saying. **How was it possible for Him to make His abode in them – to live in them?**

2 Corinthians 6:16: And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the Living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.



Our Lord wants this to be real for each of us.

God does not dwell in temples made by hands. He wants to take up residence in our beings - a habitation of God thru the Spirit of God.

Ephesians 2:22: In Whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

The body of every believer is to be the temple of the Living God. Paul asks us the following and then makes a statement in verse 17

1 Corinthians 3:16-17: Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye [believers] are. (!)

1 Corinthians 6:15: Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20: What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own.

²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

It is difficult for me to think of a higher honor and privilege than to

- ♥ Make for Christ a home in my heart,
- ♥ To welcome Him,
- ♥ To serve Him,
- ♥ To please Him, and
- ♥ To fellowship with He that is in me.



We must fully embrace Christ as Saviour for it is for this reason He came – to seek and save the lost.

One of the sweetest, most tender Gospel invitations in the entire Bible is offered to the worldly, time-serving, backslidden, apostacized church of today in the third chapter of Revelation.



Revelation 3:20: Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.

This proves we can get back into favor with Christ after we have driven Him out by our loose and sinful living. The teaching here is that we can expect backsliders to be brought back into fellowship with Christ, that Christ has not deserted us, though we have forsaken Him.

I fear that the deadly chloroform of the Laodician Age has so stupefied the churches and ministers to the extent they will fail to awaken themselves to answer the call of Christ until it is too late. The terrible woes of the Great Tribulation shall come upon them before they realize the door is shut . . . and they will stand outside, begging for admission into the fold.

Brother John Hendricks' Testimony:

On November 1, 1935, about 9:45, I invited Jesus to come into my heart. What an entrance He made! It was not as spectacular, at that moment, as I expected it would be; but it was very real to me.

- ✦ The Lord Jesus came into the darkness of my heart and turned the light on.
- ✦ He built a fire in my cold heart and banished the fear and woe of my tormented mind and heart.
- ✦ He started music where there had been noise and confusion.
- ✦ He filled the emptiness with His own loving, wonderful Presence.

I have never regretted opening the door of my heart to Christ, and let Him in.

On my way home that night, the joy bells began to rightly ring, as I began to recognize Him inside. Then came the celebrating! I shouted, ran, jumped, waved my hands, and praised the Lord.

(This is the first step in making Christ a home in your heart. If you are interested, let me encourage you to invite Jesus in right now and He will surely come.)

After Christ entered my heart, and in the new found joy, I said to Him one day after a serious break came: 'Jesus, I can't stand it that I don't sense Your Presence. I can't afford to lose You for anything. Please show me why You seem to have left.' He did show me, and this is how it all happened . . .

I made a new consecration and surrendered to Christ, I made the wrong right – and said:

“I want this heart of mine to be Yours, forever, Lord Jesus. Be perfectly at home in me. Everything I have, or ever will have, is Yours to use at Your calling.”

After this, He called me into full time service for His Kingdom. Bless God forever.

FULLY SURRENDERING

We let Jesus come in alright, but it seems to be with reservations, i.e., we reserve certain rooms in our hearts for just our own selves.

I heard of one brother say when God was dealing with him about full surrender:

“Now, in my mind I see a very small room with very thick walls. Jesus entered with me into this control room and looked around at the books in the bookcase - - the magazines - - the pictures on the wall. He made me feel bad about these things and I was embarrassed. There was a lot of trash and rubbish that needed clearing out, so I asked Jesus to help me to bring every thought into captivity, to the obedience of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:5: Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Brother John Hendricks' testimony continues:

In the process of the casting down of imaginations and every high thing that exalted itself against the knowledge of Christ, the Lord helped me clean out the old reading materials, and I replaced them with new-life spiritual-food literature. He told me to fill my mind with His Word, the Bible. He told me to meditate upon it, and keep it before me day and night.

“From here, we went to the dining room of my heart, where all the appetite desires were. I showed Him all the store of leeks, garlic, onions of Egypt, which I had stored with other worldly fare of booze and tobacco. It didn’t take long for me to learn that these things now gave my indigestion - - and they lost their thrill and flavor.

“Then I asked Him what was wrong with me, for I even now turned to hate the things I once loved. He assured me all was Right, for this is the way it is supposed to be with a New Creature nature.

“We walked next to the throne room where He told me we are to start out each day together. He would sup with me, and I with Him. And, oh how He made my heart warm as He revealed His love and showed me the Scriptures, until the Word made my heart burn with holy fire, zeal and enthusiasm to work for Him.

“These were wonderful hours together; but – little by little, under the pressure of responsibilities, the time I spent each day with Jesus began to shorten. I was just too busy to spend time with Him . . . until finally I had more time on my hands than I hardly knew what to do, for I was flat on my back with a broken leg. But I couldn’t reach Him. He seemed to have departed and I knew not where.”

I felt like Job:

Job 23:8-9:

⁸ Behold, I go forward, but He is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive Him:

⁹ On the left hand, where He doth work, but I cannot behold Him: He hideth Himself on the right hand, that I cannot see Him:

Job 23:3:

Oh that I knew where I might find Him! that I might come even to His seat!

Finally, after five weeks the Lord talked to me, and let me know . . .

Jeremiah 29:13: And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.

- ♥ He let me know He had been there each morning, waiting for me.
- ♥ But I hurried in and out, hardly taking time for Him to speak to me.
- ♥ I spurted out a few words to Him and then hurried away.
- ♥ He reminded me that He wanted my love, worship, and fellowship.

Do not neglect so great a Salvation, for there is no escape for those who do reject the Lordship of Christ Jesus.

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