

Raised Up with Jesus Christ!

10-11-2014

As believers, we are to think about the things God has done for us! We are to keep our minds on Jesus Christ and what we are in Him! As believers we are no longer identified with our flesh, or our body of sin! We are identified with Jesus Christ! God the Father sees us seated with Jesus Christ in Heaven as one day we will be; He also sees us now on earth in the body of Christ with Jesus Christ as our Head! We are to keep these thoughts.



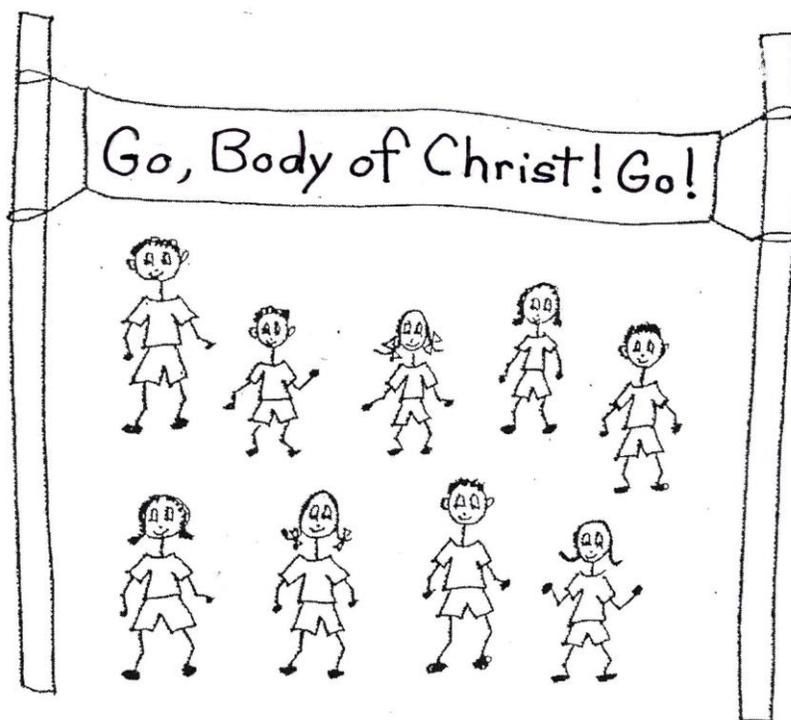
Colossians 3:1-2 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

As believers we are raised up to a new way of living in Christ. What are we in Jesus Christ? We are in the body of Christ as a new man; the old man was crucified with Jesus Christ on the Cross. All of our **sins** have been forgiven! We've been separated from **sin** itself - sin, the rebellion against God. You and I have been **declared righteous** and **free** from our **sins** and **sin**! We've been released from the dominion of sin. Sin in our body is a burden! But God says, " I release you from sin which still dwells in your flesh, in the members of your body." It doesn't have to be our master anymore! As believers we are identified with Jesus

Christ! God the Father sees us as raised up in heavenly places with Jesus!

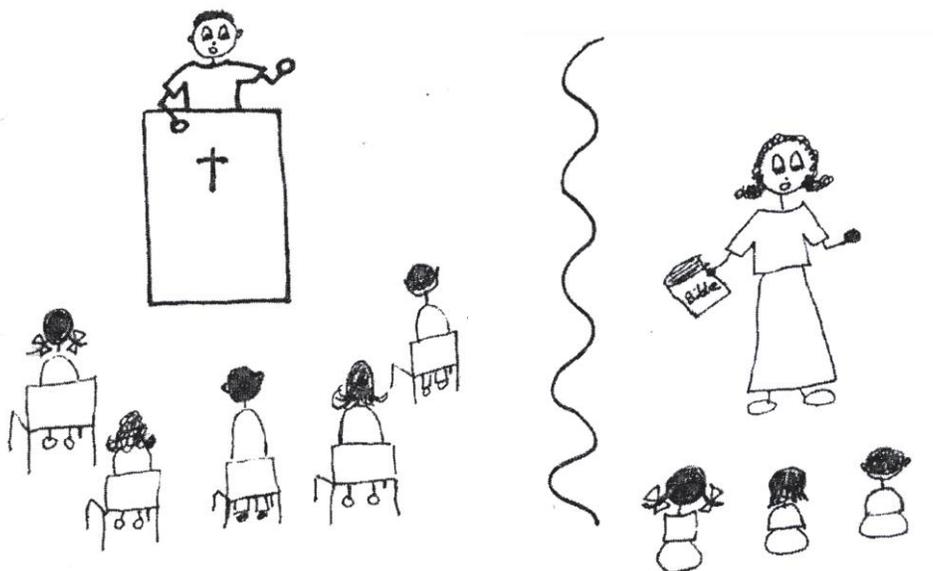


Romans 6:6-7 Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.



If we cooperate with Him, God the Holy Spirit will raise up our thinking; our thinking needs to be renewed! The battles are going to be in our mind. We can go to God and tell Him "I'm thinking wrong!" God says, "Put that aside and present yourself to Me again, alive from the dead." God wants us to be freely living like His sons and daughters. We simply need to present ourselves to Him and set our mind on being in Christ. With our cooperation the Holy Spirit is making this possible for us to do. He is renewing our minds with the word of God and giving us the power to live in the truth!

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.



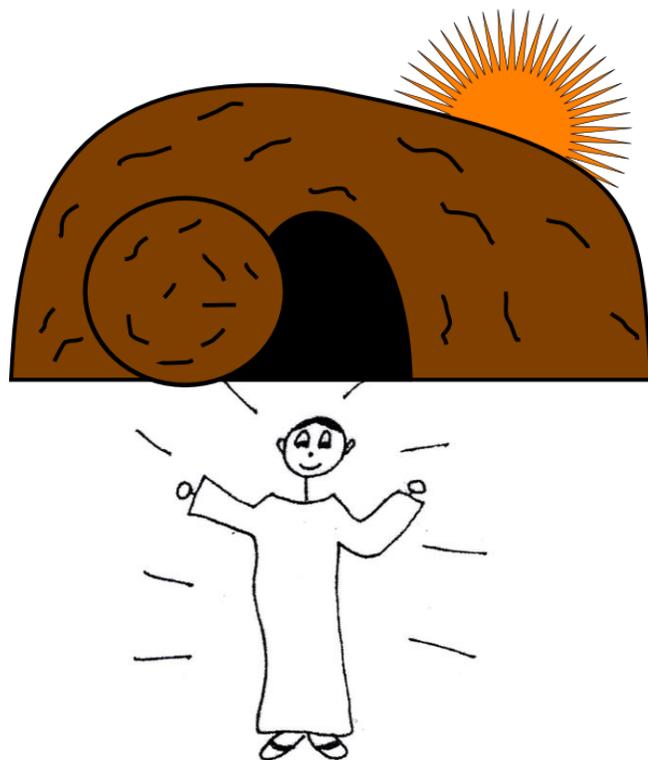
We cooperate with the Spirit by setting our minds on the things above and learning God's word. *Philippians 4:8 Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.* By believing that the old man has been put off, we can put away our old thoughts and behavior. Jesus Christ has made it possible for us to put off the old man and put away our sins because of His work on the Cross. With our cooperation, the Holy Spirit will enable us to learn God's thoughts in the Bible and set our minds on the things above.



Ephesians 4:22-24 That, in reference to your former manner of life, you put away the old man, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

We have a former way of thinking, the thinking of the old man. We now have a new way of thinking, the thinking of the new man in Christ! Satan is after our thinking. He wants the unbeliever to think that he/she is fine; he wants the believer to think that he/she is not fine! He wants believers to put themselves down! God never wants us to put ourselves down and He never puts us down. He sees who we are in Christ and wants us to do the same. Satan will even try to get the believer to think that he/she is not saved. Satan lies! We've been justified from the whole rebellion of sin! We've been given the way to deal with sin, sins, the body of sin or the flesh, and the old man - THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST!

JESUS
RULES!



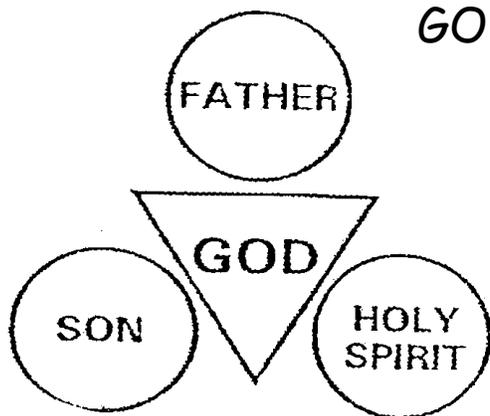
Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

It is so comforting to think of the love of God. The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit.



Romans 5:5 And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Our hearts have been changed because we are children of God; God is our Father! We don't manufacture the love of God; the Holy Spirit has poured out the love of God into us. The more of this love we know, the more we can rest in it when the doubts and fears come. We can set our minds on the things above. The Creator of the universe is saying, *Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."* God created us and loves us more than any one can imagine.

GOD IS PERFECT LOVE.





God saved us so that we could be holy and blameless before Him. Isn't that amazing? We still can present the members of our body to sin and therefore commit sins. However, God is working to free us up from habits of sin. We are to present our body to the Lord and the Holy Spirit renews our mind. *Romans 6:13* **And do not go**

on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instrument of righteousness to God.

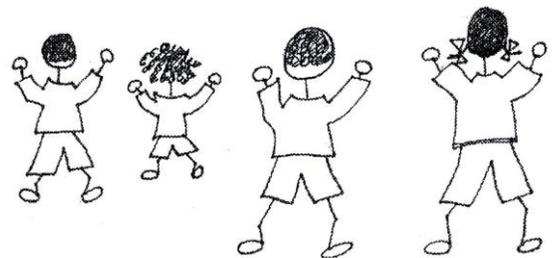
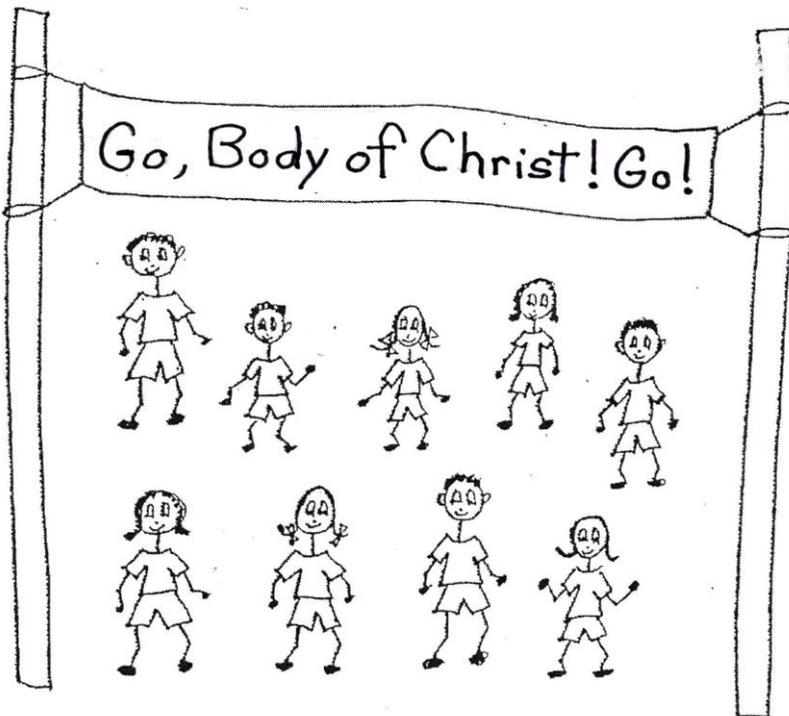
Because of Jesus Christ's work on the Cross, God the Father sees us in the body of Christ as holy and blameless! Now tell me, *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us who is against us? Romans 8:31*



Romans 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Being a Christian means we are under grace. This is so foreign to our natural mind. The flesh really gravitates or moves to law; it wants us to do works to prove to God that we are good. That can't happen! Only Jesus Christ could do and did the work on the Cross that will justify us before the Father. Believe that and God will declare you justified! God has given us the ability through the Holy Spirit to put away the desires of the flesh. Also, sin is no longer our master but Jesus Christ is our Master! Yipee! Through the power of the Holy Spirit we can live in God's grace!



Believers are really different from unbelievers. Unbelievers have a very different lifestyle. They identify themselves with the world; they are not identified with Jesus Christ. Their bodies are dominated by sin; sin is their master. They are not part of the new man, the body of Christ. Jesus Christ is not inside of them. Neither does the Holy Spirit indwell them. Therefore, they won't be able to understand the word of God. They will not have eternal life with God in heaven unless they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ! When God gives us the opportunity, let's tell an unbeliever the wonderful blessings we have in Christ and that he/she can have these same grace blessings by believing in Jesus Christ!

Ephesians 4:17-19 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

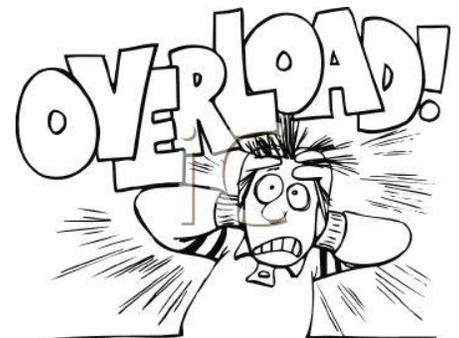
Futility of Mind

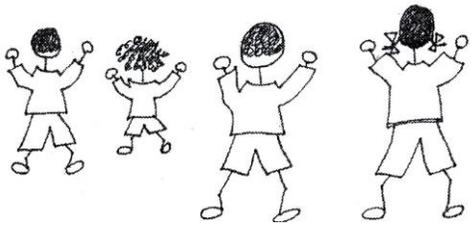


Truth



Darkened in Understanding





Believers are identified with Christ! Christ is our life. "Keep seeking the things above" is by grace through the power of the Holy Spirit. Just show up and walk in the Spirit. **"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."** Are we setting our minds on the right things through the power of the Holy Spirit? **Colossians 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.** We have all the power, wisdom and guidance we need from the Holy Spirit to do this. The Spirit both wars against the flesh and also leads us forward in the walk of renewed life in Christ. Our job is to cooperate with the Spirit by setting our minds on the things above, and taking in truth - the word of God. We are to be cooperative! God does the heavy lifting!



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Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.



John 8:31 If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

