

IS CHRIST IN YOU?

Text: 2 Corinthians 13:3-6

The Apostle Paul had a very strained relationship with the church at Corinth. He loved them greatly, yet they were always going astray with false teachers and Judaizers. These false apostles would sow doubt and discord in the church until people would turn on Paul and question his authority, apostleship and his spirituality. But this church had problems with carnality and strife, splits and divisions, a case of perverse sexual immorality and profaning the Lord's supper. Paul turns the tables on them in the final chapter of his second letter by challenging them. He presses them to examine themselves on whether they are in the faith. He tells them to prove themselves and to know that Christ is in them.

A prominent and well-respected pastor from Kentucky shared a video on his Facebook page earlier this week recounting the time that he met President Trump in 2019. He was flying into Louisville and the governor asked him if he would like to be at the airport to receive him. The president got off Air Force One and shook hands with the governor and the pastor. The president then asked them both to get in his car and travel with him. The pastor noticed that there were no other cars on the interstate (because it had been closed for the president's car) and he remarked that it looked like the rapture had taken place. The pastor told the president that when that event occurs that he was headed for heaven. He then asked President Trump if he knew for sure that he was a Christian and the president replied, yes. He told the pastor how that he had prayed the "sinner's prayer" and that he would going to heaven should Christ return for his church. Then just a few months ago President Trump said this "I want to try and get to heaven if possible. I'm hearing I'm not doing well. I am really at the bottom of the totem pole. But if I can get to heaven, this will be one of the reasons." (Referring to ending the war in Gaza)

I use this story, not for any political reasons whatsoever, but just as an illustration of the major problem in the American church. Everywhere you turn there are people absolutely convinced that they're going to heaven when they die, but there is no evidence at all that Christ is in them. If you are asked about salvation and your response is about what you have done, then you are in trouble. The president spoke of saying the sinner's prayer, the only problem is that salvation isn't in a prayer, it's in a person. The Ethiopian eunuch that Philip preached to in his chariot was saved without answering an altar call or praying at all. Salvation is not in baptism. The popular move today is people thinking that being baptized somehow saves them. Churches having Sundays set aside to baptize anyone that makes the decision to or people requesting on social media about where they can go to be

baptized. Baptism is like a wedding ring; it's a symbol to the world that a commitment has taken place and a covenant has been entered. My wedding ring is not what makes me married, it's a token to the world that I am already married. Salvation is not just a head decision. You hear phrases like so and so made the decision to follow Christ or we had x number of decisions in this meeting. Salvation is not by head decision; it's by Holy Ghost persuasion! **1 Thessalonians 1:5** For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. **Romans 10:10** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Salvation is that Jesus Christ got into you, and you got into Jesus Christ. We should be able to take the Bible and prove to ourselves that Christ is in us. Let's check the scriptures:

- **Born again** – Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again. A birth is an entrance and a beginning. Your first birth is the entrance into the natural world. The second birth is the entrance into the kingdom of God and the starting place of your spiritual life.
- **Have the Spirit of Christ - Romans 8:9-11** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. **1 John 5:10** He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.
- **You are a new creature - 2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. *If Christ be in you, you are a new creation. Religion attempts to modify the old, but salvation counts the old as dead and begins a brand-new life with new desires and appetites.*
- **Chastisement - Hebrews 12:5-8** And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth

not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. *If Christ is in you, then his Father is your Father. If God is your Father, then you have been corrected by Him for wrongdoing. The Father has had to reprove us through the Holy Spirit for wrongdoing, or for many of us we have been scourged by Him. Meaning that he had to act in our lives that hurt to get our attention so that we would repent and be partakers of His holiness.*

- **God continues his work in you - Philippians 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ: **Philippians 2:12-13** Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. *God's work is to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ and to reveal His will in us. It's our responsibility to work that out.*