

Kingdom thoughts

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. Hebrews 12:28

BMI Devotional July 2014

In Christ

The beginning of Stuart Townend's hymn *In Christ Alone*, reflects thoughts I have been pondering recently as to what it means to be 'in Christ'.

*In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song...
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand*

'In Christ alone' describes the state of all Christians. There is no other identity for us — we live in Christ.

We were lost in sin (that is, we were lost to and from God) but the Holy Spirit pursued us, revealed Jesus to us and we were saved. Now what does that mean?

Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins and Paul tells us in Galatians 2:20 that we were crucified with Him — we were dead. But Christ rose from the dead that He might raise us in Him in newness of life.

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4.

The point to note is that Christ rose and defeated death for us, raising us to new life IN CHRIST. Christ becomes our identity (CHRISTian) and our LIFE.

The Bible says we have been changed, transformed, born again, made a new creation — in Him. The Bible does not speak of a new opportunity to be successful, live a better life, be prosperous or whatever fad is currently popular.

In Philippians 3:9 Paul uses a wonderful phrase 'and be found in Him'. When we are born again we are transformed and we find ourselves in Christ — old things have passed away, behold all things are made new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

This change is huge — we are no longer our own, we are His and our life is in Him. You see, we never were our own — we were lost and now we have found who we really are. We are His, and we are found in Him. We have come into the state for which we were originally designed — that is, in His image.

We now live God's life in Him — this is eternal life, and it is not in us, it is in Him!

Contrary to some modern opinion, Jesus does not come alongside us to help us be self-fulfilled or self-aware or self-conscious. He makes us one with Himself, that is, one with the Godhead — Father, Son and Spirit.

His will becomes our will. We are no longer independent entities. We are in Christ! We live as part of the Royal Family. There is no longer a need to do our own thing, for it is now His thing!

And this is what you were created for.

Peter Frogley

