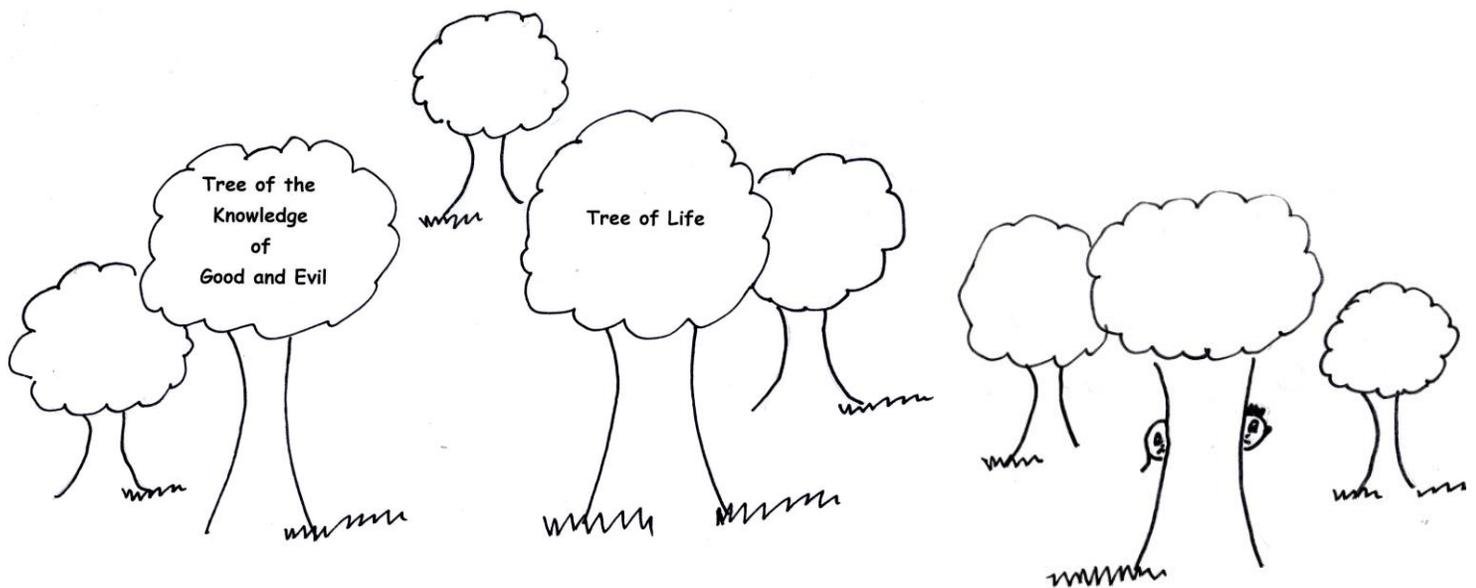


The Wonders  
of  
Being in Christ

November 15, 2013

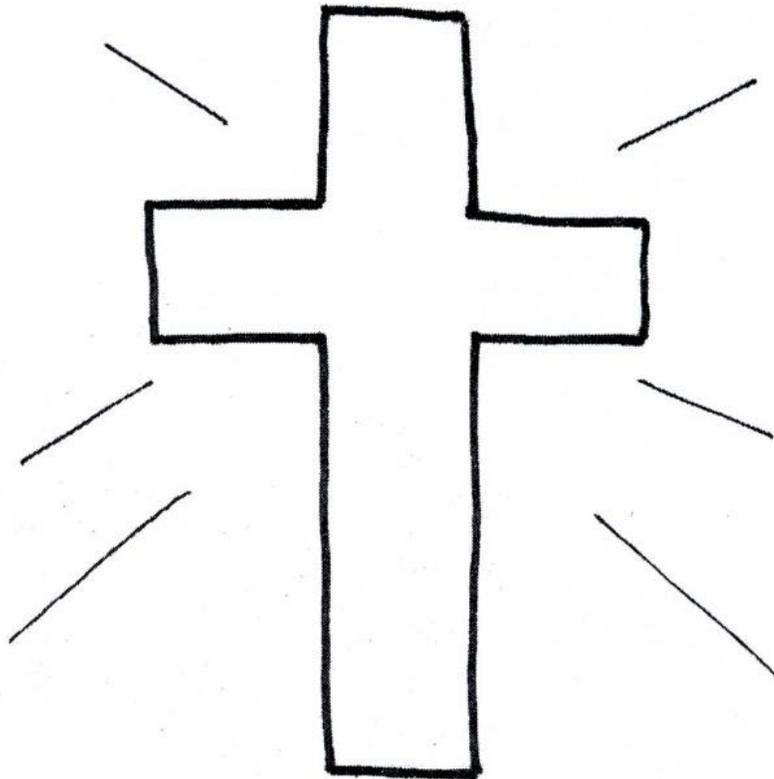
Revised 7-4-2020

When they were first created and living in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were very happy to be obedient to God. They didn't have any desire or thought to go against His will. They didn't know what good and evil was; they were innocent. God gave them all they needed in the Garden of Eden. There was no need for them to seek happiness anywhere else. The question was, were Adam and Eve going to continue to trust and believe God? Well, you know what happened; Satan came on the scene as a lying serpent and suggested that God had held something back from them! He put thoughts of distrust and unbelief in God in Eve's head. Then Adam went along with her. **They were disobedient to God!**

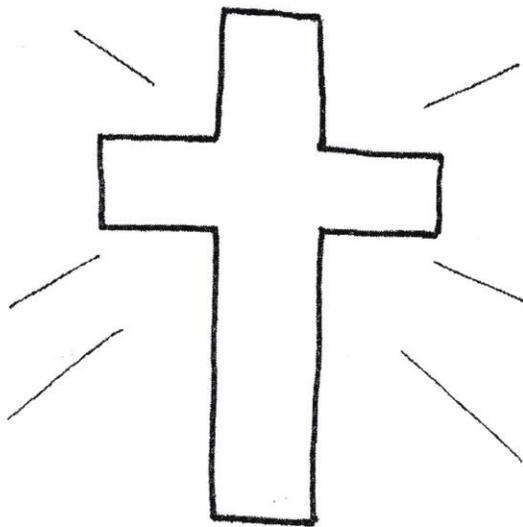


Read Genesis 2:1-25

Man went from innocence to having knowledge of good and evil. It was impossible to restore him back to what he was before the fall. Once man knew about good and evil it couldn't be erased from his mind. The fantasy of mankind is that we think we can erase sin. We can't! We are not the remedy! The remedy had to come through Jesus Christ. *Romans 5:19 For as through the one man's [Adam's] disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One [Jesus Christ] the many will be made righteous.* Jesus Christ is the answer to good and evil.



God loves His creation, mankind, and has **always** wanted to have a close relationship with us. To restore fallen man to a relationship with Him, God the Father sent His Son to be our Savior; for salvation, man is to believe in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. At salvation, God the Holy Spirit puts us in union with Jesus Christ - Jesus Christ lives inside of us. The Spirit also lives inside of us; He gives us the divine power to be obedient to God and to live the spiritual life. As long as Adam had pure belief and confidence in God, obedience continued to be easy. This is where God wants us to be - having complete faith and confidence in Him and His word. He wants us to freely obey Him and live in our new life in Christ!



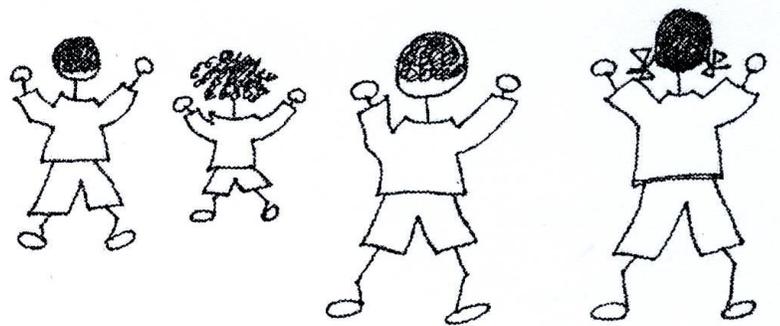
*2Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (KJV)*



The Church Age is the age when all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are placed **in Christ**. God loves us so much and wants us to be obedient sons and daughters. So, at salvation He gives us abundant life - life in Jesus Christ. What does it mean to be in Jesus Christ? It means that because the Holy Spirit put us in union with Jesus Christ at salvation, we have what He has spiritually in His humanity. In Christ, we find our new life, the same perfect, indestructible life that He has.



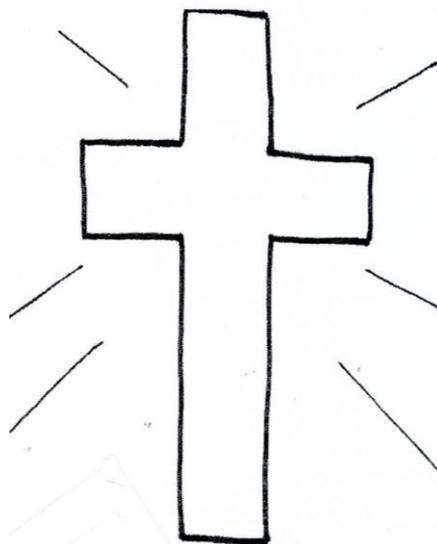
John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.



Are you afraid of dying? When I was growing up I was raised thinking I had to work my way to heaven. Trying to save myself made me more anxious and exhausted! I was afraid to die! It wasn't until I became an adult that someone told me that **Jesus Christ did all of the work - he paid the price for our salvation on the cross.** He died, was buried, was resurrected and ascended into Heaven and is now seated victoriously at the right hand of God the Father! The Holy Spirit convicted me of sin and my need for a savior! I couldn't save myself but Jesus could! All I had to do was to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Through the power of God the Holy Spirit, I became a believer in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I am now not afraid to die because I have eternal life in Christ Jesus. I know where I'm going to be - in Heaven with Jesus! That's a wondrous fact!

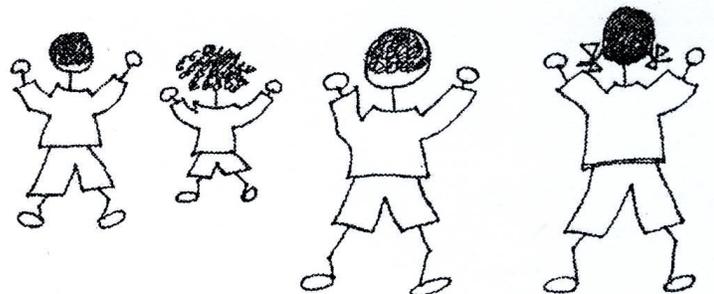
*Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*



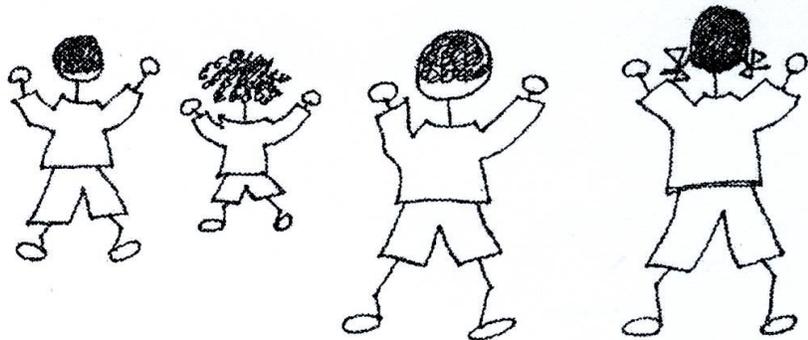
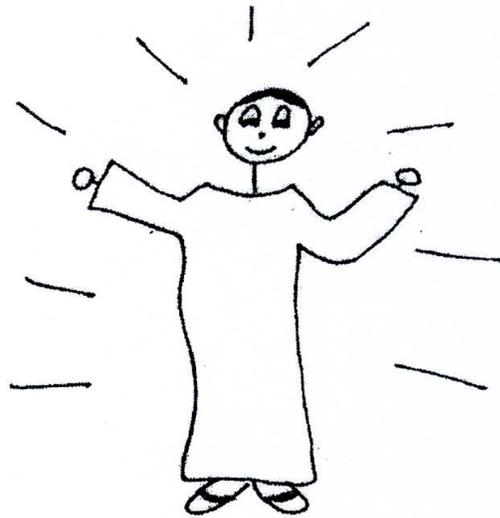
Are you a prisoner of your past - of your mistakes and failures? Do you condemn yourself or put yourself down? When we don't focus on who we are in Christ Jesus we can feel guilty because of our mistakes and failures. It's like putting ourselves in a prison! HELP! We fail, condemn ourselves and then put ourselves in prison! God doesn't want us to be in prison so He gave us the way to not feel guilty and to not condemn ourselves: *Romans 3:24* "**being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus [God declares us righteous because of Jesus' work on the cross].**"

*Romans 8:1* "**Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**" This is saying that before condemnation can ever touch us it has to first reach Christ where He is in heaven in glory. This is impossible! Therefore, we are safe in Christ Jesus.



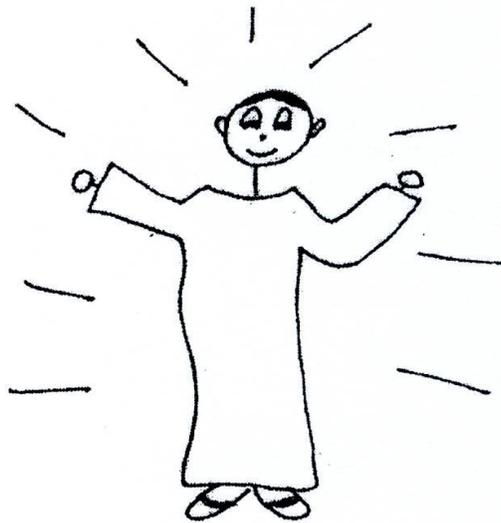
Are you tired of all the hatred that's in the world? Look to the love of God.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



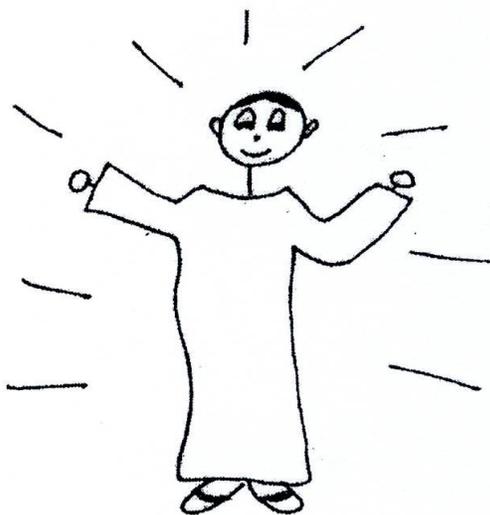
Are you being put down? You will be built up in Jesus Christ!

Colossians 2:6-7 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord [with faith] so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.



Are you being treated roughly?

Ephesians 2:4-9 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him in the heavenly places **in Christ**, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us **in Christ Jesus**. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.



We believers are **in Christ**; we have what He has spiritually in His humanity. We are in a wondrous place! While we have such fantastic blessings from God, Satan wants us to question the goodness of God! That doesn't make sense! Satan wants us to use our wills to be independent of God and walk in sight not in faith; he wants us to have our eyes on the world, on our sins, on other people, and on our situations. Ugly! That would make us miserable! We would not be focusing on Jesus Christ! We have to keep believing the wonders of being **in Christ** and depend on God! That will make us content! We are to enjoy who we are **in Christ**, we **have been adopted as sons and daughters of God!** Standing in the grace of God now, we have hope for the future. Rejoice and live in this - the wonders of being **in Christ!**

1 John 4:9-10 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

