

# Happy New Year

- This video showed us many things we should be resolved to do.
- Or in other words, these are the type of New Years resolutions that we should be making.
- Instead of focusing on weight loss, our focus should be on how are we following Jesus Christ. How to walk that out in our life.
- But instead of me making a list of all of the resolutions I think we should resolve to do, I am going to attempt to tell you the secret of how to keep them.
- It's all a matter of coming home.

# **At home with God “in Christ”**

**Return Church**

**I John --- Lesson #3**

Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> 2026

# Abide in Him

In I John chapter 2, we see this idea of abiding in Him, four different times.

He who says he **abides in Him** ought himself also to walk just as He walked. *I John 2:6 NKJV*

Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will **abide in the Son and in the Father**. *I John 2:24 NKJV*

And just as it has taught you, you will **abide in Him**. *I John 2:27 NKJV*

And now, little children, **abide in Him**, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. *I John 2:28 NKJV*

# Abide in Me

**Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide in Me**. I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who **abides in Me**, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ....If you **abide in Me**, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. *John 15:4-7 NKJV*

**These are the words of Jesus.**

**Abide means to dwell, remain, endure, continue.**

# Salvation --- Christ in us

When we think of salvation, we usually think of Jesus forgiving us of our sins and then we ask Him to come into our hearts and live inside of us.

It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; ***Galatians 2:20 NKJV***

Which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ***Colossians 1:27 NKJV***

And Christ lives within you, ***Romans 8:10 NLT***

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; ***Ephesians 3:17 NKJV***

# Our union with Christ

- It actually seems much easier to invite Christ into our heart than to receive an invitation to live in Him.
- But the scripture gives much more emphasis on us being in Christ rather than He being in us.
- Our salvation is not secure because we are holding on to Christ in our life, but because He is holding on to us in Him.
- This is sometimes hard to understand because our union with Christ is a spiritual union, but it is no less real than the chair you are sitting on right now.
- I am not physically united with Christ, but rather I am spiritually united with Christ. It's spiritual. It may be invisible, but it is very real.

# Fellowship with God

- Jesus didn't save us just to forgive us of our sins, but He saved us and forgave us, so we could have fellowship with God, so we could have a personal relationship with God.
- We are not just forgiven, but we are also accepted in Him as sons and daughters of God.
- It is through our union with Christ that we are welcomed into beloved fellowship with God. Into the family of God.
- The great joy, comfort and delight of our union with Christ is rooted in the belief that it is communion or fellowship with God that is the greatest delight and treasure a person can possess.
- This is the pearl of great price. And yet we too often pray for and desire God's blessings over His fellowship.
- When God places us in Christ, the moment we get saved, we are in essence going back home to God. This is my analogy today. Going home.
- Many of my thoughts today were inspired by *Kyle Worley; and his book, Home with God.*

# Homelessness

- We are all born into this world with a sense of homelessness. We have homeless hearts.
- No matter how nice of a home life we can create for ourselves and our families, we still feel like we really don't belong here. We are just not at home in this world.
- I spent the first 48 years in Mississippi and the last 16 years up here in Indiana. And I still don't even know where I want to be buried, because I really don't feel at home in either place.
- It was not supposed to be this way, because we were created to live at home with God, or in perfect fellowship with God in the Garden of Eden. We were made to be at home with God.
- God is inviting you today, to make your home with Him.
- It is possible to live with God, because God is inviting you to live in God.

# Home

- We work hard all of our lives to have a nice home.
- We want our home to be a place for family to love one another.
- Home is a place with a table for the family to come together and eat and fellowship.
- It is a place of security, comfort and rest.
- A place of shelter and protection from the evil world.
- Home is a place for peace of mind, and joyful hearts.
- It is the headquarters for our most loving and intimate relationships; spouses, children and grandchildren.
- Maybe you have not had a great homelife, maybe you came from a broken home, but we all still have this desire for a wonderful home.

# Broken homes, broken hearts

- Over 50% of us came from a broken home where there was a divorce.
- Even if your Mom and Dad did not divorce, we can still see the consequences of sin, creating broken lives. Life has not always been rosy for most of us.
- The devil rules this world, and he is doing everything in his power to break the home and to break your life and the lives of your family. He comes to steal, to kill and to destroy. He is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.
- Lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and the pride of life are all continually pushed at us from all directions. The world and its ideology is in our music, our books, our televisions, our computers, even our phones.
- For example: What might have begun as a seemingly innocent flirtation can lead to adultery, then to divorce, then a broken home, then your kids get angry, they rebel, backslide, and their lives become broken.
- Or maybe what began as a little unforgiveness, which can lead to hate, which can lead to anger and hostility, which can lead to divorce, then a broken home, angry kids, rebelling and turning their backs on God.
- Because of sin, this world is full of broken homes, broken lives, a feeling of exile, a feeling of homelessness, being separated or alienated from God.

# Our heavenly home

- As Christians we often think of our eternal home. We think when we die and go to heaven that we will finally go home.
- We say we are not of this world, and we can never find a home in this world.
- God placed eternity in our hearts. Therefore, we can never be satisfied with the temporal things of this world.
- We long for heaven, the New Jerusalem, where we will find our eternal home with God.

*If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world. **C.S. Lewis***

# Our heavenly home

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, **Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be their God.*** And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. ***Revelation 21:1-4 NKJV***

# **You can come home now**

- We often think of going home to heaven one day, where we will be reunited with our loved ones and with Jesus.
- But what if God made a way for you to come home now, while you are still alive on this earth. Can you find your real home with God now, right here in time.
- This is my message today. That God has a home for you now, while you are alive on this earth.
- A home filled with His presence, His love, joy and peace. A home filled with security and protection. A place where loving relationships can thrive. A place where you have a seat at the table, with God, in Christ.
- This is all found in Christ Jesus.

# The garden home

- We were created to be at home with God.
- The garden of Eden was a beautiful place where man was at home with God and God was at home with man.
- God dwelt with man. God walked in the garden with man and spoke to man.
- God and man had perfect fellowship in the garden.
- Man was created to fellowship with God and with each other. Man was made for relationships.
- Even the animals were at peace with man in the garden as Adam gave names to each of them.
- God dwelt with man until man rebelled, sinned, until iniquity was found in man's heart. The serpent came into the garden, and lied to man, and Adam and Eve disobeyed and their home or fellowship with God was broken.

# The promise to bring us back home

- This was the first broken home. Man was kicked out of the garden of Eden, and man lost his fellowship or communion with God.
- In Adam, we all sinned. In Adam we were all born sinners, born with a sinful nature.
- In Adam we were all born exiled from the presence of God, separated from God. We were on the outside looking in.
- But God gave a promise that day, and prophesied that one day the seed of woman, Jesus Christ would bruise the head or the authority of the devil and make a way to bring us back home to God again.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. **Genesis 3:15 NKJV**

# The mobile home

- Man had been slaves for 430 years in Egypt. (A picture of a broken home and broken lives.) God raised up Moses to deliver them from bondage and to bring them out into a wilderness where God could once again have some kind of a relationship with man.
- God had Moses build a Tabernacle in the wilderness. Here God would dwell in the midst of the people. But there was a veil or curtain between God and man. Man was separated from God because of their sin. God was holy and man was not.
- The High Priest could only go in once a year on the day of Atonement into the Holy of Holies to commune with God.
- Many animals had to be sacrificed and burned on the brazen altar because of man's sin. To appease the wrath of God.
- Even though God was there in the Tabernacle, man was still on the outside looking in. Mankind simply could not get close to God.
- But God had the tabernacle move with the people of Israel for 40 years as they wandered in the wilderness. It was kind of like a mobile home.

# The glorious home

- After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, Joshua finally led the people into the promise land.
- This was a land of milk and honey, a prosperous land of many blessings.
- Years later Solomon would build a magnificent Temple for the Lord. Here God would dwell once again amongst His people.
- There were thousands of blood sacrifices to appease the wrath of God. And again, the High Priest could only enter the Holy of Holies one day per year, on the Day of Atonement.
- Here God dwelt amongst mankind, but their fellowship was still limited.
- The glory of God filled the Temple, but mankind was still on the outside looking in.
- God was trying to provide a home for man, but the lives of mankind were so sinful and so broken that even with the Temple worship, this was still a broken home.

# God wants us to come home to Him

- Then 2,000 years ago, God did the unthinkable. He came to this earth as a human being, as a little baby. Emmanuel; God with us.
- God came to make His home with us, so we could make our home with Him.
- Jesus Christ came to this earth and lived a perfect sinless life and then went to the cross to die in our place. He who knew no sin, became sin so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
- Jesus died on a cross, His soul went to hell for 3 days, His body went to the tomb, His spirit went into the hands of the Father. Then He was resurrected from the dead and later He ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father.
- He did all of this, so He could save us from our sins and make us righteous. So, we could identify with Him, in His life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension. So, he could come to live in our hearts, and we could go home to live in His heart.

# At home in Christ

The Tabernacle and the Temple were pictures, shadows, or types of our true home, Jesus Christ. The Tabernacle and the Temple could not remove our guilt, shame and sin, but in Christ Jesus we are covered, we are atoned for, we are accepted, we are righteous, we are at home with God, in Christ.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that **in Him** we might become the righteousness of God. ***II Corinthians 5:21 NIV***

# Home sweet home; in Christ

- Jesus Christ is our home with God. It is in Him that we are meant to dwell with God, receiving all of God's blessings in Him.
- When we get saved, yes, Jesus comes to live in our heart, but we also, go to live in Christ's heart.
- The moment we are born again, we supernaturally, spiritually, go home to reside in Christ Jesus.
- Now we can have all of the comforts of home. Love, acceptance, security, peace, joy, fellowship, communion. We also get righteousness (or a right relationship with God), forgiveness, justification and much more.
- God takes our broken hearts, our broken homes and gives us a new home, a home filled with love and righteousness, in Him.
- Let's look at this idea of us being home with God, in Christ.

# In Him

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* **in Christ**, just as He chose us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, .....by which He made us accepted **in the Beloved**. **In Him** we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, .....according to His good pleasure which He purposed **in Himself**, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—**in Him**. *Ephesians 1:3-10 NKJV*

# **In Christ Jesus**

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

You are so loved in Christ. You are home with God in Christ. It is the safe place, the place of unconditional love.

For **in Him** we live and move and have our being, ***Acts 17:28 NKJV***

# In Him we get a new identity

For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ** all shall be made alive.  
*I Corinthians 15:22 NKJV*

We were all born sinners in Adam. But in Christ, we can be born-again and given a new identity.

Jesus answered and said to him, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. *John 3:3 NKJV*

Therefore, if anyone *is* **in Christ**, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. *II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV*

# In Christ

*For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ** all shall be made alive.  
I Corinthians 15:22 NKJV*

## In Adam

Born with sinful nature  
Spiritually dead  
Unrighteous  
Condemned  
Unholy/wicked  
Sinner

## In Christ

Born again  
Spiritually alive  
Righteous  
No condemnation  
Holy/sanctified  
Saint

# **A new me**

- What I do is not who I am. I may be a businessman to some, a longhorn cattle rancher to others, a Bible teacher to you guys, but that is what I do, not who I am.
- We get a brand-new identity when we are placed in Christ. This is our true eternal identity.
- The Bible calls this our new man.
- We are now righteous, accepted, beloved, justified, and adopted into God family.
- We are no longer just a creature of this world with a temporal identity, but we are citizens of heaven with heavenly eternal identities.
- Who I am in Christ is my real or true identity.

# Exiles

- We have been homeless, our lives have been in exile.
- Our whole nature is soaked with a sense of exile. We are born into this world, all of us, with home-sick and homeless hearts. We are all born into a broken home; it's our natural inheritance. We are born as exiles.
- Maybe this is why the heart of Jesus wants us to minister to the homeless.
- Israel sinned and rebelled against God. So, God raised up the Babylonians to conquer them and send them into exile for 70 years. They were in a strange and distant land wanting to go home.
- Then after 70 years, God allowed His people to go back home. God raised up Zerubbabel, then Ezra, then Nehemiah to rebuild the Temple and the walls of the city, so Israel could go home once again.
- The Israelites who had been homeless for 70 years, now returned back to Jerusalem, they Returned home.

# **A home with God in Christ**

- God wanted Israel to come back home to Him. God wanted to dwell in their midst. So, they rebuilt the Temple, and they rebuilt the city walls.
- But the people's hearts were still far away from God. The nation of Israel would continue to sin and would continue to push God away.
- Then 2,000 years ago, God sent His Son Jesus Christ into this world to defeat the devil's plans, to fix this problem of sin once and for all. Jesus came to conquer the enemy, sin, death, hell and the grave.
- Once He was resurrected and ascended back to heaven, now God could offer mankind something he hasn't had since the Garden of Eden, a home with God.
- All who call upon the name of Jesus to save them, could now come home to God in Christ Jesus.
- The secret of what I am talking about today is for all Christians to believe and understand that you are united with Christ. You are at home with God, in Christ.

# Our spiritual union with Christ

- We were spiritually united with Him the moment we got saved.
- Let's examine this idea of our spiritual union with Christ.
- What exactly happens to us spiritually, when we come home to God in Christ Jesus?

For if we have been **united together** in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of *His* resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

***Romans 6:5-6 NKJV***

# **United with Christ, Spiritually**

When you get saved, you become united with Christ. You have a new spiritual union with Christ. When God places you in Christ, you identify with him in His:

- **Life**
- **Death**
- **Burial**
- **Resurrection**
- **Ascension**

# United with His righteous life

- It was our sins that separated us from God. We were too unrighteous to fellowship with God. So, God fixed that once and for all.
- Jesus came to the earth and lived a perfect, sinless, spotless, righteous life.
- When we put our faith in Jesus, God makes us righteous the moment He places us into Christ.
- Our righteousness is not about what we have done, but it is all about what Jesus has done for us.
- Religions is about what you do, Christianity is about what Jesus has done for you, on your behalf.
- We are declared righteous because we are now living, abiding in the Righteous One.
- This is how we identify with His life, the righteous life He lived, is imputed to us.

But of Him you are **in Christ Jesus**, who became for us wisdom from God---and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—*1 Corinthians 1:30 NKJV*

# **God counts us a righteous**

And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous. And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God. **Romans 4:22-25 NLT**

But also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ***Romans 4:24 NKJV***

**We are united with His righteous life, when we are placed in Christ.**

# United with Jesus in His death & burial

For as many of you as were baptized **into Christ** have put on Christ.

***Galatians 3:27 NKJV***

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized **into Christ Jesus** were baptized into **His death**? 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. For if we have been **united together** in the likeness of **His death**, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of **His resurrection**, ***Romans 6:3-5 NKJV***

# Water baptism

- Water baptism doesn't save us, but God is trying to teach us something through this bold public profession of our faith.
- The first thing we are to learn is that we can't save ourselves. Under the Old Testament law, the Jews were continually washing themselves. They washed their hands before they ate, the priest washed in the brazen laver before and after the sacrifices.
- In water baptism you are making a statement that you cannot save yourself, but rather you need Jesus to save you.
- Secondly, water baptism is a picture of what just happened to you when you put your faith in Jesus Christ.
- You are not physically united with Him. You are spiritually united with Him in His life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension.
- The baptism pool is like a grave, you go down with Him, crucified, buried, planted, and baptized with Him. Then you come up with Him in His resurrected life.

# United with Him, our old man is dead

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;  
***Galatians 2:20 NKJV***

For you died, and your life is hidden **with Christ in God**. ***Colossians 3:3 NKJV***

- God killed our old man at the cross of Jesus.
- We were crucified with Christ. (past tense)
- We are identified with His death, because of our spiritual union with Him.
- The old you is dead. The Bible calls this your old man.
- You are to put off your old man the moment you get saved. That guy is dead. You are to walk away from your old life, and walk in your new identity, in Christ.

# United with Him in His Resurrected

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. For if we have been **united together** in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His* resurrection, ***Romans 6:4-5 NKJV***

Now if we died **with Christ**, we believe that we shall also live **with Him**, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, **but alive to God in Christ Jesus** our Lord. ***Romans 6:8-11 NKJV***

**Spiritually we have been raised from the dead, with Him, in Christ.**

# United with Him in His Ascension

We were raised with Him, and seated in the heavenly places with Him, in Him.

Buried **with Him** in baptism, in which you also were **raised with Him** through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ***Colossians 2:12 NKJV***

And raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* **in Christ Jesus**, ***Ephesians 2:6 NKJV***

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* **in Christ**. ***Ephesians 1:3 NKJV***

# Paul was persecuting Jesus

As he journeyed, he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? And he said, Who are You, Lord? Then the Lord said, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **Acts 9:3-5 NKJV**

Jesus was already ascended into heaven, but all of the new believers on the earth, were in Christ spiritually. So, when Paul was persecuting the new believers, he was actually persecuting Jesus Himself, because they were in Him.

# A new we

- Our union with Christ also makes us a part of a large family. The church.
- Maybe your home is a broken home, or maybe you were raised in a broken home. When you come home to God, you are coming home to a large, wonderful family.
- We are not only united with Christ, in Christ, but we are united with each other.
- These relationships can be much stronger than our natural family relationships.
- We are not born into this world at home with God; we come into this world as homeless exiles, strangers, alienated from God's family.
- None of us by nature, belonged to the family of God, but the moment we got saved, we were adopted, we were welcomed by God into His family.
- We are now sons and daughters of God, welcomed, accepted, into God's family. We now have a place at God's table.
- We are home, and it's a home full of love, joy and peace. A place of security and comfort. A home where our relationships can thrive. At home, in Christ.

# God is inviting you to come home today

- Maybe your home is a broken home. Maybe your life is a broken mess. This world has broken most of us.
- Maybe you have felt distant from God, like God is far away. Maybe you have been running from God.
- Maybe you are like the prodigal son, who went far away, to the pig pen. Maybe like him, you. Are wanting to come back home.
- Maybe you have been angry at God, you have thought that God has not been fair to you, that you deserved better. After all, you served God, why would he allow these terrible things to happen to you.
- Whatever your issue is today, God is calling you to come home.
- His arms are opened wide to receive you. It doesn't matter what you have done, if you repent, God will forgive you and take you back. He welcomes you.
- And the good news of the gospel is that as soon as you come home to God, then Jesus will come to live in your heart, and you will go to live in His heart.
- You will be placed in Christ, in Him, in the beloved. And if you learn to live in your new identity, in Christ, your life will change dramatically for the better.

# Come home

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling—  
Calling for you and for me;  
Patiently Jesus is waiting and watching—  
Watching for you and for me!

Come home! come home!  
Ye who are weary, come home!  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
Calling, O sinner, come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading—  
Pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies—  
Mercies for you and for me?

Oh, for the wonderful love He has promised—  
Promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon—  
Pardon for you and for me!