

11-8-20
CHRIST FORMED IN YOU

Galatians 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Galatians 4:17 They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.

Galatians 4:18 But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Galatians 4:20 I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

Galatians 4:21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?

Galatians 4:22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.

Galatians 4:23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.

Galatians 4:24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

Galatians 4:25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

Galatians 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Galatians 4:27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

Galatians 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

Galatians 4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

Galatians 4:30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

Galatians 4:31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

It is hard to believe that we are entering the next to the last month of the year. Next Sunday we are going to have our church Thanksgiving dinner. Because of the covid nonsense the church is going to be providing all the food. This way we limit how many hands are involved in the process.. I hope we can soon get back to having everyone bring food in again. For now, I think this is the safest way of doing our dinners. So come and be prepared to share a Thanksgiving testimony after the dinner. There will be no evening service. Please make note of that.

This morning I want to share a message from this text:

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

There are a lot of people that claim to be Christians. However, most people when they say they are Christians are speaking about what they identify as. I like what Brother Dubish said in one of his messages, when he said many people are cultural Christians but not necessarily born again Christians.

I like what Paul says about being a true Christian, he says, that a true Christian is a person who is born again spiritually and Christ is formed in them.

Paul says of these people in Galatia, that he was concerned for them and used the illustration of going through labor pains and the travail of Child birth hoping to see Christ formed in them.

Being a Christian is not just identifying with a religious group, such as Baptist, Methodist, Catholic etc. Being a Christian is having Christ formed in you.

To be saved you have to have what Paul said every Christian has.
CHRIST HAS TO BE FORMED IN YOU.

This is what it means to be born again and a child of God.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

This is a matter of life and death.

Paul warned his readers.

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Galatians 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Jesus warned people.

Paul warned people.

But today from churches across America there are no warnings. WHY?

I tell you, the reason why is because preachers are afraid to offend people who think they are ok.

Because of this our Churches are filled with cultural Christians, unsaved people, who need Christ to be formed in them.

Paul insinuates that unless Christ is formed in you, you are not a true Christian.

Today we have such a watered down opinion about what it means to be a born again Christian. We even have people today thinking maybe Judas Iscariot went to Heaven.

What will be next? Maybe the devil himself can get saved according to contemporary Christian preaching.

How do you know if a person is a Christian?

CHRIST IS FORMED IN THEM. IF CHRIST IS NOT FORMED IN THEM, THEN THEY ARE NOT HIS.

It is amazing how people today can tell who your biological parents are through DNA testing. I was talking to a person recently who had a DNA test and found out that their father, who they thought was their father, was not their father. Through a DNA matching service they were able to discover who their real father was. Again, this did not happen because someone told them. Their mother never told them she had an affair with another man. A relative didn't tell them. It all happened because they got a DNA test and it just happened that their biological father also had the same test to find out more about his ancestors.

Now if you have our Lord's spiritual DNA you are His! If you do not have His spiritual DNA you are not His child!

II Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE CHRIST FORMED IN YOU?

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Galatians 4:20 I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

Just as a physical baby is formed in the womb and comes to full birth, so too Christ must be conceived in the heart of every believer and there will be a change in that person. The change will be that the individual will take on the virtues of Christ.

Even the world will take note that you are like Christ:

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Note: Those from outside the church gave these disciples the name CHRISTIANS because they could see they were followers of Christ.

Paul the Apostle's Conversion: There was a radical change in his life after he received Christ!

Peter Accardi, after he was saved, we all noticed the change.

I remember back October 27th 1974 when I went to a little church in Valley Forge, I didn't have to tell anyone I received Christ. They told me. I actually had people say to me, you're different, what happened? My unsaved friends noticed something.

There will be an attitude change towards Jesus Christ.
There will be an attitude change towards the Bible.
There will be an attitude change towards other believers.
There will be a new spiritual relationship between you and God.

When a Baby is formed in its mother's womb, that baby takes on the characteristics of the parents.

So too, when a Spiritual baby is born again, the parent is GOD! Christ is formed in that person.

Notice what Paul said.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Notice: Paul was not happy with someone just making a verbal commitment to Christ. He labored and travailed with people until Christ was formed in them.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Being born again of the Spirit of God is a supernatural process.

THINK ABOUT THIS: WHEN YOU ARE BORN PHYSICALLY IT WAS NOT YOUR DECISION.

YOU DID NOT HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH YOUR PARENTS ABOUT IT.

Problem: Dilemma of the Day:

We like to think people are born again who really are not.
Every funeral you go to you hear the preacher say:
HE OR SHE IS IN A BETTER PLACE. ARE THEY?

WE REWRITE THE VERSE THAT SAYS:

MAT 7:13broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

MAT 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Even those who are in religious service often are not going to make it.

Eli's sons were an example of how people can be religious but lost.

I Samuel 2:12 Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.

Pharisees:

John 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 8:45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

PAUL COULD HAVE SAID, I HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT YOUR SALVATION. LET'S START OVER.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

II. WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE THAT NEVER HAVE CHRIST FORMED IN THEM?

Matthew 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Matthew 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; **and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Ephesians 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

NO ONE BY NATURE IS A CHILD OF GOD. WE HAVE A GOD WHO SUPERNATURALLY INTERVENES IN OUR LIVES.

Life does not just happen by accident like the evolutionist think.

God likens the miracle of salvation to the miracle of creation:

II Cor. 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

I believe that one of the reasons we are seeing less and less people with Christ formed in them is because more and more people think we are a product of random chance.

We spend millions of dollars to try and find life on other planets. WHERE IS IT? WHY IS IT ONLY OUR PLANET HAS LIFE ON IT?

If you get time watch the documentary called "Privileged Planet." In that documentary they prove that it is a scientifically impossible that all the things on this planet necessary for life just happened by chance. In fact it takes more faith to believe that life just happened on this planet by random chance than to believe in the miracle of creation.

For instance, consider how many things could easily cause life to go extinct on this planet or could have caused it to have never happened. For instance, in this film they showed:

Without the **moon** being where it is, this planet would be totally flooded.

Without the **rotation and orbit around the sun** as it is, seasons would be too extreme.

Crazy, how is it that people actually think they can control the elements of nature with going green and doing away with carbon emissions? As if they can control the tides and the waves by human efforts. How foolish, it is God that decrees these things. Listen to what He says about His control over the seas.

JOB 38:8 Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?

JOB 38:9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,

JOB 38:10 And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors,

JOB 38:11 And said, **Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?**

Here are some interesting facts that are mentioned in the film the pPrivileged Planet.

Surface gravity (governs escape velocity of the atmosphere) if gravity were stronger: our planet's atmosphere would retain too much ammonia and methane for life to be sustained: if gravity were weaker: our planet's atmosphere would lose too much water for life to be sustained.

Rotation period of earth: if longer: daytime and evening temperature differences would be too great for life. If shorter, atmospheric wind velocities would be too great for life. The 24 hour daily cycles are perfect variations for mild temperature differences.

Magnetic field: if stronger, electromagnetic storms would be too severe. if weaker, planetary surface and ozone layer would be inadequately protected from hard solar and stellar radiation.

Gravitational interaction with the moon: If greater, tidal effects on the oceans, atmosphere, and rotational period would be too severe for life. If lesser, orbital obliquity changes would cause climatic instabilities; movement of nutrients and life from the oceans to the continents and vice versa would be insufficient for life; magnetic field would be too weak to protect life from dangerous radiation.

By putting together probabilities for each of these design features occurring by chance, we can calculate the probability of the existence of a planet like Earth. This probability is 1 chance in 10 to the 99 power. Since there are estimated to be a maximum of 10 to the 23 power planets in the universe, by chance there shouldn't be any planets capable of supporting life in the universe.

Design or random chance? 10,000,000,000,000 10^{12} power is a number with 12 zeros which is a trillion, what would you call 10 with 99 zeros after it?

When we watch the news they have the lottery. I always try to guess the number, never got it right yet. According to statistics there is a one in 13,983,816 chance of correctly predicting the lottery numbers. 1 in 13,000,000. 6 zeros. Image 99 zeros. What is that

number? That is the odds of all the right conditions coming together, let alone explaining how they get together for there to be life as we know it on another planet. In other words, for this to happen is a scientific impossibility.

And yet we have Biden telling us we need to believe their science. Much of their science is science fiction.

I had a friend who owned a computer store. I was sharing the gospel with him one day. I asked him about what he believed about creation. The fellow told me he believed in the big bang. I asked him what the possibility was that you could just take all the parts to a computer and put them in a box and shake them up and dump them out and they would fix themselves? He said, if you did it enough times it could happen. Not surprisingly, the fellow's store went out of business.

Things don't just happen. You have to make it happen.

So too, life is a creation of God. It just does not happen by chance.

III. HOW CAN YOU HAVE CHRIST FORMED IN YOU?

II Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

II Corinthians 13:6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.

1. SELF EXAMINATION:

Get a spiritual DNA test and see if Christ is in you!

Before anyone can get help they need to know they have a problem.

The biggest hindrance to people getting saved today is wishy washy churches.

People are not challenged to examine themselves. That is why Jesus was hardest on the religious leaders. It was their job to teach the truth and they kept more people blinded.

Matthew 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Matthew 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Biggest problem we have in this nation is that most people think they are ok. And that is because the churches teach them that.

Our humanistic educational system teaches them that.

You are not saved by works.
You are saved unto works:

If the works are not there, you can call into question a persons salvation.
Works that should be present are what shines light on what you are and how you are made.

A. Examine yourself: that has Christ is formed in you means you will be an imitator of Christ. Fruit of the spirit should be present.

Romans 8:9 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.

Baby looks like his parents.
Spiritually we need to look like Christ.

We used to have a little story book about the **cowbird** that we would read to our kids. A cowbird lays its eggs in another bird's nest and lets the other bird raise it's young. Just being in the nest doesn't make you a robin, or a sparrow. Just being in Church or being raised in a Christian family doesn't make you a Christian. We have a lot of cowbirds in the church today. Jesus gave a parable about this: In Luke 13:19 where He said, the Kingdom of God is like a tree where the fowls of the air lodge and find refuge. Just because the fowls are in the tree does not mean they are part of the tree.

Many a minister, has preached Christ but never had Christ in his own heart.

I remember when I was first saved, and my friend and I were renovating a house for a church. There was a lady in the Philadelphia area whose house burnt down, and a big church in the area was on news for helping a lady whose house burnt down. They hired my friend to renovate the house and I was helping him. The Pastor came in one day, and was all riled up and had a bad spirit about him. I asked him point blank if he was saved. He snapped back of course I'm saved I'm a Pastor, I looked at him and said wasn't sure just wanted to ask. You see I don't think Jesus would be acting like him.

I love that saying **“WHAT WOULD JESUS DO..?”** Problem is most people that use it are not like Jesus at all.

When Christ is formed in you, you will start acting like Christ.

B. Examine Yourself: A person who has Christ formed in him will have a love for the Bible.

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Just as a newborn baby desires milk from its mother so a new born Christian will desire the word of God, spiritual milk!

C. *Examine Yourself: A person who has Christ formed in him will have a love for the brethren.*

I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

D. *Examine Yourself: A person will have a desire to see other people saved:*

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

John 4:36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

When you have a good thing you want other people to have it.

WHAT ELSE IS NECESSARY TO HAVE CHRIST FORMED IN YOU?

2. *YOU NEED NOT ONLY TO EXAMINE YOURSELF TO SEE IF THESE VIRTUES ARE IN YOU: BUT ALSO YOU NEED TO HAVE THE RIGHT PARENTS:*

Second thing necessary to have Christ formed in you is the proper parents:

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

My children are a by product of my wife and I.

To have a biological child need three things:

1. Mother.
2. Father.
3. Biological ingredients all working, right circumstances.

Paul says he is acting somewhat like the mother.

God is our Father.

The circumstances are what you have allowed in your heart.

1. Paul was the preacher and without a preacher no one can be saved:

Without a mother no person can be born the first time.

Paul said he was acting like a mother giving birth to spiritual children.

The preacher is the vehicle that God uses to do the labor and travail part of the birthing process.

It is work to preach and teach people the word of God. Yet it is a rewarding work. Paul said he laboured and travailed that these people would be saved. A preacher is a dispenser of the word and is a laborer for God.

Jesus called witnessing for the Lord labor. He rebuked his disciples for being lazy in this process of winning other to Himself.

John 4:37 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

John 4:38 I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

Why do people not have lots of children physically? Because of sacrifices that are necessary to raise children. This is the real reason for abortion.

Why are we not seeing a lot of people being saved.. No one wants to work with people any more than people today want to sacrifice to have a lot of kids.

2. For the New Birth the Father must be present, also, God the Father and the Holy Spirit must convict men and work in the heart of a person for Christ to be formed in them.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Romans 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

We as Christians need to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

So others can sense His presence and also so others can be saved.

Too often the Spirit of God is quenched because of carnality and sin and so there will not be the souls being saved as there could be. We need to pray for revival.

The Church is the Bride of Christ, and too often the Bride has locked Christ out because of worldliness.

Hebrews 3:15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

3. *Right circumstances of the heart are necessary to salvation:*

People need to be receptive in their hearts.

The Bible talks about different types of ground as we sow the word of God:

ROCKY GROUND Unwilling to stand up against hard times and persecution.

SUN SCORCHED Lack character and understanding.

THORNY GROUND Cares riches of the world.

GOOD GROUND: Sincere broken and tilled a person with a soft tender heart.

Some people have allowed certain sins and passions to creep up in their lives, and it would take a bulldozer to till the ground to bring the fruit of salvation.

My daughter Melody bought two blueberry bushes for my wife as a gift. So I tried to plant them near the house. The ground is so rocky and tough, they did not fare so well. The rocky ground of our area is tough to plant in. As we enter the end times, the hearts and lives of people are becoming like the rocky ground of this area. It takes extra labor and travail to see anything grow in this area.

Recently I got a notice that my business were eligible for small business loans at 3.5% with 1 year deferred payments. So I took out a loan and bought a mini excavator. Currently I am building a storage building and I needed to run electric and heat to the building. I am using that excavator to dig a trench for the new building. It took me a whole day to dig two little holes for those blueberry bushes, if I had that machine I could have dug the holes in one scoop. I couldn't imagine how long it would take me to hand dig the trenches I'm digging.

Now because of the sexual perversion and permissiveness, the media, and the wickedness of the day, we need God to send a bulldozer for revival for some people. The hearts of people have become so rock hardened.

As I sit there on my little excavator I am amazed at the work that can be done with a little machine. I pulled rocks out of the ground as heavy as a piano. Then I think, imagine the power of our God who made all those rocks. God is more powerful than any bulldozer or excavator, we need to pray to Him to break up the follow and rock ground of men's wicked hearts. GOD CAN DO IT!

Sometimes it takes a depression.

Sometimes it takes a war.

Sometimes it takes some other heartache.

As I been digging my trenches, and working with the rocky ground I have a pile of huge boulders for my stone wall, and my front yard looks like it has been through a war. But a little here and little there and a few more days of work and hopefully I will be able to straighten it all out. it just takes perseverance, and labor and work. Now, that is what Paul said about the Rocky Hearts of men. He said,

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

At times, some people's hearts need some extra labour and travail. Paul said, I travail, I am laboring, I am plowing, and trying hard to see Christ formed in your hearts.

With men it is impossible. With God all things are possible. Some work takes many hands, this is the church. We can be God's bulldozer to break up the stony ground of this area.

CONCLUSION:

Is Christ formed in you? Are you His child? Are you indeed born again?

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Are you laboring in God's harvest field? This is why we have the church, so we can work together. Many hands make light work! We each will receive the rewards of our labors. Let's work together for God's harvest!

Invitation:

Look at all the great lengths people are going through this past year to avoid getting covid for fear of shorting their physical life on this planet. The wearing of masks, social distancing, staying home, contact tracing and quarantines. Yet one thing is sure in this life and that is that we are all going to someday die of something if not Covid. I read that your chances of getting Covid and dying are about the same as if you made a long trip driving your car. Yet without Christ you have a 100% chance of dying and going to hell.

Do some self examination. This may be the last month of your life. Maybe by time this time next year you will not be here. A closing month reminds me that we may be at the close of our lives.

Open your heart to Christ before it is too late.