

## AFTER COMING TO CHRIST

BY KEITH GREER

**Now in Christ.** *“Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”* {1 Corinthians 6:10,11} Notice the word WERE—it’s past tense. What happened? By obeying, those who were sinners leave one state and enter another.

**New Man in Christ.** *“That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”* {Ephesians 4:22-24} Putting on Christ makes one a NEW man. Leaving the paths of sin, escaping enslavement to sin, and openly rejecting Satan provides a new lease on life—thus creating a new man.

**Receives Forgiveness of Sins.** *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”* {Ephesians 1:7} Christ’s blood has removed and remitted the sins that formerly separated us from God.

**New Creatures in Christ.** *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* {2 Corinthians 5:17} All things become new because the convert’s state changes—from lost to saved.

**Redeemed by Christ’s Blood.** *“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* {1 Peter 1:18,19} The blood of God’s sinless Son has bought us out of sin’s bondage.

**In Possession of Spiritual Blessings.** *“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}* Those who are “in Christ” possess the blessings afforded those who are part of His family—the household of God.

**A Member of the Kingdom.** *“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” {Hebrews 12:28}* No longer in the clutches of the power of darkness, we have been translated into His kingdom {Colossians 2:14}.

**Saved in Christ.** *“Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.” {2 Timothy 2:10}* The obedient believer goes from being without hope to being saved in Christ.

**Child of God.** *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” {Galatians 3:26,27}* Now God is our father, and we can pray to Him, knowing He hears us. Why? We are children in His family.

Do you see the contrast between being OUT of Christ and IN Christ? Obeying Christ and contacting His blood in baptism removes all negative aspects for those outside of Christ. Why would anyone choose to remain there? May God help us appreciate how far we’ve come and the great changes we enjoy because we decided to come INTO Christ’s body! \*\*\*