

## SAINTS LINKED TOGETHER WITH CHRIST (2)

BY KEITH GREER

**One must be quickened...together with Christ.** *“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins...even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).” {Ephesians 2:1,5}* One who is spiritually dead in sin must be quickened (made alive) to a new, spiritual life. *“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us...and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” {Ephesians 2:4,6}* We are quickened in a similar manner as Christ was. *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.” {1 Peter 3:18}* This same Spirit can bring us from spiritual death to spiritual life, *“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.” {Colossians 2:13}* Dying to sin, we have been brought back to new life. *“For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.” {John 5:21}* Paul touched on this theme when he discussed the necessity of the resurrection. *“For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.” {1 Corinthians 15:21,22}*

**One must be raised...together with Christ.** *“And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” {Ephesians 2:6}* Following our quickening, God’s saints will be raised up together with Christ. Since we have been planted in the likeness of His death, we shall also be raised in the likeness of His resurrection. *“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}* We should be very confident of the change that has taken place; *“Knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.” {2 Corinthians 4:14}* What must one do when he has been raised together with Christ? *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” {Colossians 3:1,2}*

**One is to suffer...together with Christ.** *“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His*

*death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” {Philippians 3:10,11} Trials, difficulties, and tribulations accompany being in Christ {2 Timothy 3:12}. The early disciples experienced many trials; “So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.” {Acts 5:41} Paul had given all he had to be together with Christ {Philippians 3:8-10}. Jesus learned obedience by the things He suffered {Hebrews 5:8,9}; so do we!*

**One is made an heir...together with Christ.** *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” {Galatians 3:28,29} Also read Romans 8:16,17. We are heirs of the promise God made to Abraham {Ephesians 3:6}. No longer do we have servant status; we are treated as sons and daughters {Galatians 4:7}. We become partakers of an inheritance {Colossians 1:12}. It is reserved in heaven for the faithful {1 Peter 1:4,5}.*

God is reaching down, and we are reaching up! What wonderful opportunities are afforded those who answer the call to become His saints! \*\*\*