



# Centered In Christ: NOW

Ephesians 1:10

A mighty fortress is our God A bulwark never failing Our helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe His craft and power are great And armed with cruel hate On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide Our striving would be losing Were not the right Man on our side The Man of God's own choosing Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He Lord Sabaoth His name From age to age the same And He must win the battle

And though this world with devils filled Should threaten to undo us We will not fear for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us The prince of darkness grim We tremble not for him His rage we can endure For lo! His doom is sure God's Word will undo him

That word above all earthly powers No thanks to them abideth The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sideth Let goods and kindred go This mortal life also The body they may kill God's truth abideth still His kingdom is forever

- 1. The key to the Christian life and walk then is to do right now what God is going to do in the future with all creation as ones who already belong to the new IN-CHRIST creation wherein Christ's Life is our life (Gal. 2:20):
  - a. God is going to center the whole universe in Christ in the future.
  - b. But we can participate in this right now through hearts and minds focused solely on Him as revealed in Pauline Grace Mystery Truth (PGMT).

- 2. Our Apostle Paul illustrates this in Phil. 3:1-14:
  - a. vv. 4-9: Everything Paul counted before, centering his life on—his ethnicity, ancestry, Law observance, education, position, religious zeal—became nothing and worse than nothing—dung!—compared to the exceeding greatness of knowing Christ THAT SURPASSES EVERYTHING ELSE, sharing in His death and resurrection that made him the righteousness of God in Christ.

- b. Paul now thinks and discerns based on that invaluable priceless central knowledge of true living centered in Christ (he counted or considered or reckoned--3:7, 8,13).
- c. Paul is in the process of being conformed to Christ, who likewise didn't consider His own things but became a human, taking the form of a servant, even unto the death of the Cross.
  - --Now, what is most important to Paul is what is most important to God.

#### 3. Phil. 3:1-11:

- v. 1—Paul never tires of reminding them to rejoice in the Lord (don't boast/trust in the flesh) because it is only by doing that that you will remain safe and secure in your experience, unmoved from and anchored to Christ and His Love (Phil 2).
- v. 2--Therefore, watch out for those who want to move you out of the spiritual realm of love and joy in Christ as revealed in PGMT and into the fleshly realm of the Law in time past that always leads to self-centeredness and despair (Rom. 7:18).

- a. Beware of dogs that will shred apart your joy and get you to attack each other (Gal. 5:15).
- b. But he's not really talking about literal dogs: Beware of the workers who are trying to get you involved in things that do not belong to God's good will for today in accord with PGMT.
- c. Specifically, beware of those trying to get you to return to Israel's religious system according to the flesh where external physical circumcision took precedence of internal spiritual circumcision of hearts of faith.
  - --External circumcision without internal heart circumcision was really just mutilation, perhaps mattering before men but not before God (Gal. 5:3; 6:15; Deut. 10:16; 30:6).

## Up from the grave He arose

Low in the grave He Lay
Jesus my Savior!
Waiting the coming day
Jesus my Lord

Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

# Up from the grave He arose

Vainly they watched His bed
Jesus my Savior!
Vainly they sealed the dead
Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

## Up from the grave He arose

Death cannot keep its prey
Jesus my Savior!
He tore the bars away
Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!