

Spiritual Warfare, Get Ready the Battle Is Here

Part 5—Life Before Christ (B.C.) Vs. Life in Christ (I.C.)

1. Your State _____ Christ (B.C.).

- Life prior to you placing your faith in Christ is characterized by _____, _____ from God, and _____ to sin, the flesh, and Satan

Ephesians 2:1-3—¹And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. (NASB1995)

Exodus 20:5b—⁵. . . I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. (NLT)

Ephesians 4:17-19—¹⁷So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. (NASB1995)

Galatians 3:23-25—²³Until Christ came we were guarded by the law, kept in protective custody, so to speak, until we could believe in the coming Savior. ²⁴Let me put it another way. The Jewish laws were our teacher and guide until Christ came to give us right standing with God through our faith. ²⁵But now that Christ has come, we don't need those laws any longer to guard us and lead us to him. (TLB)

- Life B.C. was governed by the _____ to keep humanity _____ and make people _____ of right and wrong until _____ was established
- Divine _____ is man's only _____ to _____ the cycle of sin which is experienced B.C.

2. The Pivotal Role of the _____.

Ephesians 1:4-5—⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will. (NIV)

John 15:16a—¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit . . . (NIV)

Ephesians 2:4-5—⁴But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) (NLT)

Ephesians 2:8-9—⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. (NIV)

Colossians 1:13—¹³He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love. (NKJV)

Hebrews 10:17—¹⁷Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” (NIV)

Jeremiah 50:20—²⁰In those days, at that time,” declares the Lord, “search will be made for Israel’s guilt, but there will be none, and for the sins of Judah, but none will be found, for I will forgive the remnant I spare.” (NIV)

Galatians 2:20—²⁰I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (NIV)

3. Your State _____ Christ (I.C.).

2 Corinthians 5:17—¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (NASB1995)

- The “new” things that have come?
 - Instead of spiritual _____, there is _____

Romans 6:23—²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NIV)

- Your ruler is no longer _____, but the _____

John 8:44a—⁴⁴You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires . . . (NIV)

- You are _____ with Him in the Heavenly places

Ephesians 2:6—⁶raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (NASB1995)

- Believers are _____ with every spiritual blessing

Ephesians 1:3—³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. (NASB1995)

- The key to spiritual warfare is knowing your _____ and keeping your _____!

Ephesians 1:18-19a—¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. . . (NASB1995)

- Paul wants us to know three things:
 - The _____ of His calling
 - The _____ of the glory of His inheritance in the saints
 - The _____ of His power toward us who believe

Action Steps . . .

- Move from B.C. to I.C.
- Understand your position
- Stay seated as the battle rages!