

## Christ All in All

Colossians 3:11 "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all."

CHRIST is all in all to every one who has truly found Him.  
He is our Saviour, Redeemer, Deliverer, Shepherd, Teacher, and also fulfils toward us many more offices, to which I desire to call your attention.

1. If we turn to Luke 2:10, 11, we find Christ is there announced as our SAVIOUR: "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

We learn to know Christ as our Saviour, to meet Him on Mount Calvary, to look on Him as the bleeding Lamb of God, before we know Him as our Redeemer, Deliverer, and Shepherd.

Now I, who do not know the hearts of the people, cannot know whether you can say that Christ is your Saviour.

There are many, I trust, who can say this, and who rejoice in His salvation; while, without being unkind, I am afraid there are many who know nothing personally of Jesus as their Savior.

He is offered to every one of you today as a Saviour; "God gave Him up freely for us all," that we all through Him might be saved.

Every person in this world has a Saviour offered him.

**SALVATION IS FREE TO ALL**

I have no time for those men who try to limit God's salvation to a certain few.

I believe that Christ died for all who will come.

I have received many letters finding fault with me, and saying I surely don't believe the doctrine of election.

I do believe in election; but I have no business to preach that doctrine to the world at large.

The world has nothing to do with election; it has only to do with the invitation, "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

That is the message for the sinner.

I am sent to preach the gospel to all.

After you have received salvation, we can talk about election.

It's a doctrine for Christians, for the Church, not for the unconverted world.

Our message is "good tidings, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

All people, this Saviour is offered to you!

Accept Him, and God will accept you;

reject Him, and God will reject you.

Your eternal welfare depends on your refusal or otherwise to accept the offered Saviour.

The case is simply one of giving and taking.

God gives; I receive.

We must, then, first of all know Christ as our Saviour.

2. But He is still more: He is our REDEEMER.

Suppose I saw a man fall into a river, and I were to jump in and rescue him, I would be a saviour to him - I would have saved him.

But when I brought the man ashore, I would probably leave him, and do nothing more.

But the Lord does more.

He not only saves us, but He redeems us - that means, buys us back.

He ransoms us from the power of sin, as if I would promise to watch over that rescued man for ever, and make sure that he never again fell into the water.

The Lord not only saves us from spiritual death, but He redeems us for ever so that eternal death can never touch us.

Christ has come to redeem us from the slavery of sin.

Will you accept that redemption?

There was one black woman, a servant at an inn in the Southern States, who could not believe she was no longer a slave.

"Be I free, or be I not?" she asked of a visitor.

Her master told her she was not free, but her friends told her she was.

For two years she had been free without knowing it.

She represents a great many in the Church of God today.

They can have liberty, and yet they don't know it.

### 3. Again, Christ is our DELIVERER.

The children of Israel were not only saved and redeemed from the slavery of the Egyptians, but they were also delivered, that they should not be led back again into slavery.

Many are afraid; they think they are not able to hold on, and therefore hold back from making a profession.

But Christ is able to keep you from falling;

He is able to deliver you in the dark hour of trial and temptation, from every evil device of Satan, and from the snare of the fowler.

In Isaiah 49:24, we read: "Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered?"

But thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children."

I will save him; I will deliver him.

The children of Israel were saved from the cruel bondage of Egypt, they were led out of the land of Goshen; but still they were not fully delivered.

The great host of the Egyptians was thundering behind them.

It was not till they had passed safely through the Red Sea, which closing behind, them, swallowed up the host of the enemy - it was not till then that they were free, that they were delivered.

And similarly in our times of danger we shall find it to be true of Christ, "He delivered my soul"; and again in Job 33:24, "Then He is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom. His flesh shall be fresher than a child's: he shall return to the days of his youth: he shall pray unto God, and He will be favourable unto him: and he shall see His face with joy: for He will render unto man His righteousness. He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light."

Here we have the saving, the redeeming, the deliverance from the pit.

Man is fallen into the deep pit of sin, he is kept there a lawful captive by one who is mighty.

If he is to be brought back from the darkness of the pit to see the light, then he must have a ransom.

Here God comes forward, and says, "I have found a ransom."

Christ is the ransom, and He will deliver us.

Sound out the cry, "Christ is our deliverer."

He is mighty to save, He is able to deliver.

#### 4. A LEADER

But now we need something more. Look back again to the children of Israel; when they had marched gloriously through the Red Sea, they had been saved, redeemed, and delivered; but was that all they required?

No; now they were in the wilderness.

What now do they need?

They must have a way to go in the pathless desert.

They required a leader.

Christ is the way and the leader.

Are we in difficulties, in doubt, or in perplexity?

Christ is our way.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 10).

Look only to Him who says, "I AM THE WAY."

He is the only true way, and if you want to reach the kingdom you must follow Him.

We may be in darkness, but He is able to lead us in the right path.

He is the Shepherd of His flock.

He will go before us and lead us.

He is calling on us to arise and follow Him, and He will lead us; He will guide us to the green pastures if we only look to Him.

All that the children of Israel had to do was to follow the pillar of cloud.

If the cloud rested, they rested; if the cloud moved forward, then they moved.

I can imagine that the first thing Moses did, when the grey dawn of morning broke, was to look up and see if the cloud was still over the camp.

At night it was a pillar of fire, lighting up the camp, and filling them with a sense of God's protecting care; by day it was a cloud shielding them from the fierce heat of the sun's rays, and sheltering them from the sight of their enemies.

Israel's Shepherd could lead them through the pathless desert.

Why? Because He made it. He knew every grain of sand in it.

They could not have a better leader through the wilderness than its Creator.

And, sinner, can you, in all your difficulties or doubts and fears, have a better leader than Jehovah?

Oh, I do like that good old hymn: "Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty, Hold me with Thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more."

Yes, that is the true prayer of the bewildered sinner.

God is *able*, and still more, He is *willing*, to lead us, and to feed us.

"Thou gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst" (Nehemiah 9:15).

He is still as able to lead any of us as He was four thousand years ago to lead the children of Israel,

"For I am the Lord; I change not."

To every one of us He says, "Fear not, I will lead thee; I will help thee."

Wonderful thing, is it not, to have God to help us on our way?

In our Western countries, when men go out hunting into the dense backwoods, where there are no roads or paths of any kind, they take their hatchet and cut a little chip out of the bark of the trees as they go along, and then they easily find their way by these "blazes."

They call it "blazing the way."

And so, if you will allow me the expression, Christ has "blazed the way."

He has travelled the road Himself, and knowing the way, He tells us to follow Him, and He will lead us safe on high.

#### 5. Now we have seen Christ is our Savior, Redeemer, Deliverer, and our Leader.

But He is more than all that; HE IS OUR LIGHT.

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

He shall have the very "light of life."

Yes, it is the privilege of every Christian to walk in an unclouded sky.

But do we walk thus in an unclouded sky?

No, many Christians are often in darkness.

If I were to ask this congregation if they were walking in the light, I believe many, if they spoke the true feelings of their heart, would reply, "No, I am often in darkness."

Why is that?

It is because we are not following Christ, and keeping close to Him.

We are much in darkness when we might be in the light.

Suppose the windows of this building were all closed, and we were complaining of the darkness, what would any one say to us?

Why, they would say, "Admit the light; open the windows all round, and you'll soon have plenty of light."

Similarly we must let in Christ, who is the light, and open our minds to receive Him, and we shall soon walk in light.

There is a great deal of darkness at the present time, even in the hearts of God's own people.

But follow Him, and then you will have plenty of light.

Then Christ will show to each of us that He is "The Light";

and He will do more, He will set us on fire with His light, that we also may shine as lights in this dark world.

May God help His own people to SHINE BRIGHTLY, to flash out of darkness, that people may see that we have been with Jesus.

But remember, the world hates the light.

Christ was the light of the world, and the world sought to extinguish it at Calvary.

Now He has left His people to shine. "Ye are the light of the world."

He means for us to be "living epistles, known and read of all men."

The world is certain to watch, and to read you and me.

If we are inconsistent, then you may be sure the world will take occasion to stumble at us.

The world finds plenty of difficulties on the way; let us see that we Christians do not add more stumbling-blocks by our un-Christlike walk.

God help us to keep our lights burning clear and brilliant!

A friend of mine was walking along one of the streets one dark night, and saw a man approaching him with a lantern.

As he came up close to him he noticed by the bright light that the man had no eyes.

He went past, but the thought struck him, "Surely that man is blind."

He turned round, and said, "My friend, are you not blind?"

"Yes."

"Then what have you got the lantern for?"

"I carry the lantern that people may not stumble over me, of course," said the blind man.

Let us take a lesson from that blind man, and hold up our light, burning with the clear radiance of heaven, that men may not stumble over us.

When we are living in the light of our Saviour we shine with His light: somewhat like the face of Moses, which shone after he had been in the mount with God.

Let us live in an atmosphere of heaven, and we cannot help shining.

But whenever we get downcast and weak in faith, then we are sure to lose our light.

I remember during the Civil War I was in a prayer meeting.

We were all very dark and gloomy.

Things had been going against us for some time.

At last an old man got up, and said, "What is the matter with us, that we are downhearted and sad?  
It is simply our lack of faith.

Moses, Joshua, and David were men strong in faith.

They believed, and therefore God honoured them.

Where does our lack of faith come from?

God is not dead.

He is as powerful, as willing, to help today as ever He was.

Why, then, are we not full of faith in Him?

It is God-dishonouring to forget that He still has power, although our armies are defeated, and all seems dark and gloomy."

I will tell you what happened to me some time ago when I was out West.

I wanted to reach the summit of one of the Western mountains.

I had been told that sunrise was very beautiful when seen from the summit.

We got up to the half-way house one afternoon, where we were to rest till midnight, and then set out for the top.

Soon a little party of us started with a good guide.

Before long it began to rain, and then it became a regular storm of thunder and lightning.

I thought there was little use in going on, and said to the guide, "Guess we'd better turn back; we won't see anything this morning, with all these clouds."

"Oh," said the guide, "I expect we'll soon get through these clouds, and get above them, and then we'll have a glorious view."

So we went on, while the thunder was rumbling right about our ears.

But soon we began to get above the thunder-cloud; the air was quite clear, and when the sun rose we had a splendid view of its rays as they tinged the hilltops; and then, as the glorious sunshine began to break on where we stood, we could see the dark cloud far beneath our mountain height.

That's what God's people need - to get into the clear air above the stormy clouds, and to **CLIMB HIGHER** away up to the mountain peak.

There you'll catch the first rays from the Sun of Righteousness far above the clouds and mists.

Some of you may be in great darkness and gloom; but fear not, climb higher, get nearer to the Master, and soon you'll catch His bright rays on your own soul, and they will sprinkle back upon others.

We must live as children of the light, not as children of the darkness.

If we are dark and sorrowful, how is the world to know that we are children of peace, and joy, and gladness?

Our determination must be to keep our lights burning.

At the mouth of the Cleveland harbour there are two lights, one on each side of the bay, called the upper and lower lights; and, to enter the harbour safely at night, boats must see both of these lights.

These Western lakes are more dangerous sometimes than the great ocean.

One wild, stormy night a steamer was trying to make her way into the harbour.

The captain and the pilot were anxiously looking for the lights.

After a while the pilot was heard to say, "Do you see the lower lights?"

"No," was the reply; "but I am afraid we have passed them."

"Ah, there are some lights," said the pilot; "But I can tell from the bluff that stand on that they are the upper lights. We have passed the lower lights, and have lost our chance of getting into the harbour."

What was to be done?

They looked back, and saw the dim outline of the lower lighthouse against the sky.

The lights had gone out.

"Can't you turn around?"

"No; the night is too wild for that."

The storm was so severe that they could do nothing.

They tried again to make for the harbour, but they crashed against the rocks, and sank to the bottom. Very few survived.

Why? Simply because the lower lights had gone out.

Christ Himself is like the upper light, and we are the lower lights, and the cry to us is, keep the lower lights burning, that is what we have to do.

In the place God has put us He expects us to shine, to be living witnesses, to be a bright and shining light.

While we are here our work is to shine for Him, and He will lead us safe to the sunlit shore of Canaan, where there is no more night.

7. But Christ is more than our Light on the way; for He is OUR TEACHER.

What a wonderful thing to have a teacher sent from heaven.

"If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

There are moments in each of our lives that we have to say, "What should I do? I don't know what is the best way."

Oh, leave it with God, He will Himself be our teacher!

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me."

Here is a wonderful teacher.

He has had a school for many thousand years; but still there's room for another student there.

Any one, *every one* may join this school.

Jesus will welcome you there.

Anxious sinner, seek the good teacher, as Nicodemus did: "Master, we know thou art a teacher sent from God."

See how He taught the disciples.

So He will teach us if we will only listen to Him.

Go honestly to God, tell Him all your thoughts and questions, and He will teach you.

He won't leave you in darkness or doubt.

It is Satan's work to keep you in ignorance and doubt.

It is God's work to teach you.

The teacher is Christ; He is appointed by God for this work.

8. Now we have seen Christ as our Saviour, Redeemer, Deliverer, Leader, Light, and Teacher.

But He is still more; He is also OUR SHEPHERD.

A very sweet thought it is to me, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want."

A shepherd watches over his flock, protects them from danger, feeds them, leads them into the best pastures.

You are hungry; are you going to wander about seeking something to satisfy the cravings of your soul?

I tell you, you will never find anything to satisfy the longings of your heart.

The world cannot, and never could, satisfy a hungry soul.

But the Lord Jesus can - He is the true Shepherd.

He is seeking to restore your soul, to lead you back to the paths of righteousness.

If time allowed, I would like to take up the subject of Christ as our Justification, our Wisdom, our Righteousness, the Friend that sticketh closer than a brother; but it would take a whole eternity to tell what Christ is to His people, and what He does for them.

I remember when I was preaching on this subject in Scotland, after I was finished, I said to a man that "I was sorry I could not finish the subject for lack of time."

"Finish the subject," said the man, "why, that would require all eternity, and even then it would not be complete; it will be the occupation of heaven."

9. Once more, let us look at Christ as OUR BURDEN-BEARER.

Oh, I love to think of Him as the bearer of our burdens as well as our sin-bearer.

He carries our sins, although they are more numerous than the hairs of our heads.

Great and terrible as these burdens are, God has laid them all on Jesus.

That aspect of His burden-bearing we have already looked at in His work as Saviour and Redeemer.

I wish now to take up the sweet thought, which has been a great comfort to me. "Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows."

Glorious, is it not, to know we have such a Saviour?

Can you feel that He has lifted your burden off your shoulders on to His own shoulder?

Then you will feel light in heart.

On one occasion, after I had been talking this way, a woman came forward, and said, "It's all very well for you to talk like that, about a light heart.

But you are a young man, and if you had a heavy burden like me you would talk differently.

I could not talk in that way, my burden is too great."

I replied, "But it's not too great for Jesus."

"Oh," she said, "I cannot cast it on Him."

"Why not? surely it is not too great for Him.

He is not weak.

But it is because you *will* not leave it to Him.

You're like many others.

They *will* not leave it with Him.

They go about hugging their burden, and yet crying out against it.

What the Lord wants is for you to leave it with Him, to let Him carry it for you.

Then you will have a light heart, sorrow will flee away, and there will be no more sighing.

What is your burden, my friend, that you cannot leave with Christ?"

She replied, "I have a son who is a wanderer on the face of the earth. None but God knows where he is."

"Cannot Christ find him, and bring him back?"

"I suppose He can."

"Then go and tell Jesus, and ask Him to forgive you for doubting His power and willingness; you have no right to mistrust Him."

She went away much comforted.

What a wonderful thing it is to have Christ as our burden-bearer!

How easy, how light do our cares become when cast upon Him!

Do you say Christ is nothing to you?

If so, it is only because you won't have Him.

He is to all who will accept Him a Saviour from death,

a Redeemer from the power of sin,

a Deliverer from our enemies,

a Leader through the wilderness

He is the way Himself,

He is Light in the darkness,

He is a Teacher to His people,  
He is the Shepherd of His flock,  
our Justification,  
Wisdom,  
Righteousness,  
Elder Brother,  
Burden-bearer.  
He is in fact "Our all in all."  
Then come to Christ; oh, come today,  
He will cleanse your guilty stains,  
His love will soothe your weary pains,  
For Christ is All in All.