

Chapter 21. Who are you?

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. – Colossians 3:2-3

Entering into God's presence in the morning hour depends upon the Christian realising not only who God is, but *who you yourself are*, and what is your relationship to God. When the question: "Who are you?" is asked, not in words but in spirit, of each one who claims right of access and an audience from the Most High, there must be a ready answer in his inmost consciousness; that consciousness must be nothing else but a living sense of the place he has in Christ before God. The mode of expressing it may differ at times, but in substance it will always be the same.

Who am I? Let me think and say who I am who now come to ask that God shall meet me here and spend this whole day with me: I am one who knows, by the Word and Spirit of God, that I am in Christ, and that my life is hidden with Christ in God. In Christ I died to sin and the world. I am now taken out of them, separated from them, and delivered from their power. I have been raised together with Christ and in Him I live unto God. My life is hidden with Christ in God and I come to God to claim as my own and obtain all Divine life that is hidden away in Him, for today's need and supply.

Yes, this is who I am. I say it to God in humble, holy reverence, as my plea. I say it to myself to encourage others, as well as to encourage myself to seek and expect nothing less – grace to live the hidden life of heaven here on earth. I am one who longs to say, who does say, Christ is my life. The longing of my soul is for Christ, revealed within my heart by the Father Himself. Nothing less can satisfy me. My life is hidden with Christ. There is no other way that He can be my life unless He is in my heart. Yes! I am not content with anything else than Christ in my heart. Christ as a Saviour from sin. Christ as the gift and bringer of God's love. Christ as an indwelling Friend and Lord.

O, my God, if You ask: "Who are you?", listen to my stammering answer: "I live in Christ and Christ in me. You alone can make me know, and be, all that it means."

I have more to say. It is my plea for the grace of God's presence and power all day. I come as one who desires, who seeks, to be prepared to live the life of Christ on earth today, to translate His hidden heavenly glory into the language of everyday life, with its moods and its duties. As Christ lived on earth to only do the will of God, it is my great desire to be perfect and complete in His will for today. My ignorance of His will, in all its spiritual application and interaction with the world and people, is very great. My impotence to do it is greater still. And yet, I come to God as one who dare not offer less or seek any compromise, as one who, in all honesty, accepts the high calling of living according to the will of God in all things.

This brings me to the inner chamber of prayer in the secret place. I think of all my failures to live according to God's will, I anticipate all the temptations and dangers that await me, I feel how inadequate I am, and yet I say to God – I come to claim the life that is hidden in Christ, so that I may live my life for Christ. I feel urged and drawn to not be content without the quiet assurance that God will go with me and bless me.

Who am I that I should ask these great and wonderful things of God? May I indeed expect to live the life hidden with Christ in God, so that it will be revealed in my mortal body? I may, for it is God Himself who will work it in me by the Holy Spirit dwelling in me. The same God who raised Christ from the dead, and then set Him at His right hand, has raised me with Him and given me the Spirit of the glory of His Son in my heart. A life in Christ, surrendered to knowing and doing all God's will, is the life God Himself will work and maintain increasingly in me by the Holy Spirit. And when I come in the morning and present myself before Him, I receive afresh the life He has hidden in Himself for me, where His Son is hidden, and live it out in the flesh. I can wait confidently and quietly, as one in whom the Spirit dwells, for the Father to give the fresh anointing that teaches all things, and for Him to take charge of the new day He has given me.

My brothers and sisters, I am sure you realise how infinitely important it is to secure God's presence for the day in the morning hour, standing on the firm foundation of a complete redemption. Believe what God says to you. Accept what God has bestowed on you in Christ. Be consciously and openly what God has made you to be. Take time before God to know it and say it. The spiritual battle depends upon an impenetrable position before God, ***where God has placed you.***

The very attempt to do this may at times interfere with your ordinary Bible study or prayer. Do not worry. It will be no loss. It will be fully compensated for later. Your life depends on knowing who your God is, ***and who you are as His redeemed one in Christ***. Your everyday life depends on it. When once you have learned the secret, it will, even when you do not think of it, be the strength of your heart, both in going into God's presence, and going with Him into the world.

Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, I live in You and You live in me! I confidently say it because it is the truth. Help me to live this hidden life of Christ in me. May it be my daily experience."