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**In Christ  
And  
What it Means**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Bible  
at Home**

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## **In Christ, and what it Means.**

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This study focuses on looking at what the expression, 'in Christ,' means, it occurs in the following forms:

- In Christ.
- In the Lord.
- In him.

These three expressions all mean the same thing, and combined occur around 164 times in Paul's letters, in contrast to this the word 'Christian' occurs only three times in the Bible, and the New Testament does not record Jesus or Paul ever using the word, Christian. To have a full understanding of the New Testament and salvation, it is essential to have a clear understanding of the expression 'in Christ,' especially since the primary evidence that manifests a believer is a true follower of Jesus is not their church creed, nor their code of ethics, nor their ceremonies, nor their culture, but whether they are 'in Christ,' this is because the life of Christianity is, not religion, or a system of rules, regulation, ceremonial rites, religious traditions etc., but a person, being God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **To be in Christ means:**

- To believe Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God, and Saviour of the world.
- To be in spiritual union with Jesus, and have faith in Christ, and trust in him for our salvation.
- To have Christ's life, love, and Spirit dwelling within, and guiding our life.
- To be united to Christ, and know his love, his truth, his grace, and his saving power.
- To know Christ in an unconscious way, and as a living reality, and not just intellectually and theologically.
- To know Christ is the source of our spiritual life, our salvation and path to eternal life.
- To be so profoundly transformed from the very core of our being, that our focus switches from loving the things of the world to loving God.
- To have a quiet inner joy, peace, and indwelling vitality, in our inner most being, even when dying and facing death.
- To be living a new lifestyle, with new values, and new morals.

Though these are all true, the expression, 'to be in Christ,' is not limited to having an individual personal relationship with Christ, but also carries the idea of being related to the community God is building in the Lord Jesus Christ. In this context it carries the idea of:

- Brotherly unity, and embraces those who are bound together by personal loyalty, faith, and love for Jesus.
- Belonging to the new creation and nation that God is building in Christ.

In this new community there are no barriers of fellowship, for there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, for all are one in Christ Jesus.

All enjoy unity with each other that transcends nation and denomination, race and rank, class, and culture. Some feel they can be a Christian without any fellowship, but it is not possible to belong to Christ, without belonging to his brothers and sisters.

**NOTE:** this does not mean a Christian must attend a church every Sunday, but it does mean they should have Christian friends they enjoy being with. It matters little where Christians meet, it could be in a home, at a river side, in a coffee bar etc., for the church is not a building or a location, but a community of people who believe in Christ.

**SNAPSHOT:** to be 'in Christ' is to:

1. Experience personal fulfillment in Christ.
2. Enjoy brotherly unity.
3. Experience a profound transformation.

It is when these three become realities, we become the true salt and light of God when sharing the Good News of the Gospel with others.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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