

MANY SHALL BE DECEIVED

*And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For **many shall come in my name**, saying, *I am Christ*; and **shall deceive many**...And **many false prophets shall rise**, and **shall deceive many**...For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, **they shall deceive the very elect**. Behold, I have told you before.*

Matthew 24:4-5; 11; 24-25

Tonight I'm going to talk about deception again. It's important to understand and live in the reality that in the last days, *many* Christians will be walking in religious deception to some degree. Some Christians will be more deceived than others; but the horrible reality is that the *vast majority* of people in our day will be, and indeed are, walking in deception. The Lord wasn't kidding when said "many" would be deceived. He wasn't exaggerating when He said religious deception would become so epidemic and subtle, all but the *very elect* will be carried away in it. The term "very elect" means the cream of the crop. It means those who are closest to Jesus. Only a very *small* number of people will be kept from the deceptions that are flooding this planet right now.

That's a scary thought—unless you don't really believe Jesus *meant* what He said—and unfortunately, most of today's Christians *don't* believe He meant what He said. They can't possibly believe He meant what He said because their minds are filled with false doctrines which have put them into a state of false security. The fact is, the vast majority of today's Christians aren't the least bit concerned about the deceptions that are flooding the Church and the Earth right now because they don't really believe *they* are in any danger. Very few of them believe *they* could actually be deceived. Very few of them believe *they* could be the next one to be deceived and because of this, very few of will escape today's deceptions. We have to face the truth and live in that reality that the vast majority of today's Christians—both *inside* and *outside* the Church System—will be part of the "many" Jesus said would be deceived.

Everywhere you turn, you find people *inside* the Church System and *outside* the Church System propagating all different kinds of errors. It's really getting creepy. I'm having a hard time finding someone who hasn't gone off into some kind of major error. Just this week, I visited the web site that contains articles and letters from many different people who are supposed to be pressing into the "fullness" of Christ. Some of them are alive and some of them are now dead. Some were or are famous. But most of them are "nobody's"—just regular people who have rejected the traditional Evangelical view of redemption. Some of them still attend a local church or fellowship. Some of them have left the Church System.

As I read through the articles, I realized that the *idea* being propagated on this web site is a doctrine which, back in the 1960's, was known as the "*Reckon Yourself Dead*" doctrine. The thesis of it was pretty simple. If we truly "reckon" our old man as being dead, he will in fact be dead and gone. The idea is that if you convince yourself beyond a shadow of a doubt that the "old man" was actually crucified with Jesus 2000 years ago, then that conviction (or strong belief) will become reality. In other words, whatever you believe is true is true. If you believe you still have an old man to deal with and overcome, then *that* belief becomes the *reality* you live in and you will still have an old man to overcome. But if you take God's Word at face value and by faith believe that you no longer have an old man because he was put to death 2000 years ago, then *that* belief becomes the *reality* you live in and you no longer have an old man to overcome.

Eventually the “*Reckon Yourself Dead*” movement died out because too many people’s *experience* showed them the whole thing was just a religious fantasy. Regardless of how thoroughly they convinced themselves that they had no more “old man” to deal with or overcome, he kept cropping up and making trouble for them. Eventually they had to *explain* why an entity that supposedly no longer exists, is still being manifested in them and causing them to sin. Telling them that the problem was that they just hadn’t become thoroughly convinced yet that they had no more old man to deal with didn’t really cut it for a lot of them because they knew they *had* thoroughly convinced themselves that he no longer existed. It didn’t work. They realized that they couldn’t just make him go away by *believing* he had gone away.

This is the same kind of thing that’s being propagated on the web site I ran across this week. Only it’s being spun a different way, it’s using different terminology, and it seems to have a different focus. To give you an idea of how subtle this error can be, consider the introduction on the home page of this web site. It says:

“In our generation there is a rising voice, another rushing wind of the Spirit, **speaking one collective word**, which is Paul’s ‘mystery’ hid from ages and generations, **which is Christ in you**. In the past, this has been a hidden truth, **known only to a few in each generation**. But today, it is being shouted from the housetops, spoken from the mouths of many **who will bring their own light** as to who Jesus Christ is in their unique temple of His own body. That simple word is this: *‘I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me’*.

This word is bringing to the Body of Christ **the fulfillment of its purpose**, as **our attention has been diverted from ourselves and our perpetual weakness onto the Living God who, by His Spirit, is manifesting Himself as Christ in our individual human lives**. Those who discover this total consciousness-changing reality, know the time of ‘the singing of the birds has come’. Nature indeed joins in the chorus, for it is in the ‘rest’ of the people of God, where, paradoxically, we join Him in His travail to bring forth the Bride of Christ in purity and beauty, by taking ‘His yoke upon us’, and thereby find ‘rest unto our souls’ in the midst of Divine Labor.

The Church perhaps has come to its end and final hour, when a great time of testing may be coming on the earth. Though we feel the stress; the weakness of our own human frame, we still know Christ is in us and ‘The shout of a King is among us!’ For the King has come, who has all authority, all power, and **He has come taking the reins of the government of each of our lives upon His shoulders**, as we know Him as ourselves in union and oneness.

The purpose of our web site is to provide a forum for **many witnesses**, both old and new, to testify to this one great all-encompassing truth: *‘...that God is above all, through all, and in us all; working all things after the counsel of His own will, and that we as individual stones in the building of God, are Christ manifest in our mortal flesh’*.

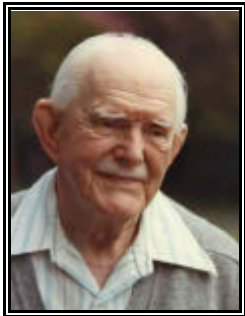
So please come to a feast of the multitude of witnesses we have assembled, and do not hesitate to write or comment with questions or **your own witness** of how God **has come to live fully and abundantly in you**”.

Fine sounding words, are they not? Coming to the fulfillment of our purpose; having Christ “take the reins of the government of each of our lives” these are things I could readily agree with. How about you? Of course, there are a few things in this introduction that should make warning bells go off in your mind. When it says: “...*our attention has been diverted from ourselves and our perpetual weakness onto the Living God...*”—that should raise a red flag because what that means is, these people have chosen to ignore their “perpetual weakness” (ie; the flesh; the old man) instead of facing it and overcoming it through the power of God.

AUTHORS

- Linda Bunting
- Jacob Bohme
- Nick Cabbiness
- John Collings
- Michael Daniel
- Norman Grubb
- Walter Lanyon
- Martin Luther
- Fred Pruitt
- Burt Rosenberg
- Dan Stone
- Iris Taylor
- Nancy Thompson
- DeeDee Winter

Another red flag is the name of the web site. Before I even clicked on the link to this site, I knew something about it wasn't right because of its name: "*Christ As Us*". Not Christ IN us but Christ AS us. That very name suggests a gross misunderstanding of what God is doing in His people. My suspicions were only confirmed when I saw some of the names of the people whose articles were featured—Jacob Bohme, Norman Grubb, Frank Pruitt, Dan Stone, and others whose view of redemption is totally whacked. Most of you probably don't recognize any of these names, except maybe for Norman Grubb. Mr. Grubb wrote a very famous book called "*Rees Howells, Intercessor*". Rees Howells was a Welsh Christian who surrendered his life to the Lord, was led into the life of intercession, married, went to South Africa and everywhere he went revival broke out.



At the time he wrote the biography of Rees Howells, Mr. Grubb was a respected Evangelical minister. He was also the son-in-law of C.T. Studd, the famous missionary to Africa. While working with Mr. Studd in Africa, Mr. Grubb was struck by the words of Paul in Galatians 2:20: "*I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth within me, and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.*" Not only did these words become central to his theology/philosophy, they became perverted in his mind so that he began to teach that Christ really replaces us.

The secret to living the Christian life, according to Mr. Grubb, is not having Christ formed in you; it was to have Christ replace you. He didn't say this as clearly as I am saying it and I'm sure he would deny that this is the outcome of his theology. In fact, he talked much about being "human" and our "humanity". But the fact is, his doctrine was Christ AS us, not Christ IN us.

What he said was, when we are born again, God *removes* the sin nature and puts His Divine nature in its place. Since the only thing in us is "Christ", we don't have to worry about "dying to self". God already took care of the "self" problem. All we have to do is "be ourselves" because our self is now just a *manifestation of Christ*. The old "self" was crucified with Christ 2000 years ago, so we don't have to worry about manifesting that old self ever again. It's gone. But if the old self is gone, exactly *who* is it that sins when the Christian sins? Exactly *who* is it that disobeys God when the Christian disobeys.



I'm going to give some samples of the error the people on this web site teach. *Linda Bunting* is the first name on the list because she is the web site owner. Apparently she does not write many articles herself. She just puts the articles of others on her site. However, she does write letters to people, encouraging them and explaining to them the errors she is propagating. First, we'll look at two letters Ms. Bunting wrote. The first one was written last year. The second one was written in 2008.

"9/20/09

Dear _____

It's so good to hear from you.

Take your ease. I would say to you right off the bat; quit struggling to get there! You have taken a Person and He has taken you. The caterpillar operates in ease. The only difference in him and us is that **he cannot reason what is happening to himself**. That is why what appears to be a struggle really is not. Free yourself. Nothing, I say **nothing of this process**, as you call it, **is up to you**. The **entire onus of responsibility to enter into His rest must be upon His shoulders**.

Have you read the story of the man who watched the Sucopia Moth as he was emerging from moth stage into a butterfly? At the end, because he could not bare the moths suffering, he took scissors and cut the last membrane to free him. The moth fell out an abortion and died a cripple because the very juices that were required to force life into his wings were destroyed.

Please put away all your self-help books telling you 'about' how the process is done. I know the writers mean well; but as long as your attention is drawn to 'one more thing I should or could do' . . . you will be prevented from taking your final leap into your savior. Only one man could save you. That was Jesus. Only one Man can bring you into union with himself and that is the same man who has come in His 3rd personhood to live again in **and as His perfect Laura form**.

Go to the mirror. Stand there and hear the same words Jesus heard in the Jordan."Thou are my beloved son in whom I am well pleased'. **You are the Laura form of Christ**. He has come...there is nothing left to do **except accept yourself**...and to walk in the truth of who you are. He is training you now, not to look at how to do it, but to look at Him, for He is the author and finisher of your faith...Rest. Rest. Cease from your labors to make this happen. **It already has happened**. And it is **up to Him to cause you to know** [it has happened].

All my love, Linda"

If you can read statements like:

- ~ *nothing of this process is up to you*
- ~ *The entire onus of responsibility to enter into His rest must be upon His shoulders*
- ~ *Jesus has come in His 3rd personhood to live in His perfect Laura form*
- ~ *You are the Laura form of Christ*
- ~ *there is nothing left for you do except accept yourself*
- ~ *It already has happened and it is up to Him to cause you to know it has happened*

and you don't have red flags and warning bells going off all over the place, then you have absolutely no spiritual discernment, my friend. This is a very dangerous counterfeit of what God is doing in this hour. In the second example, someone writes to Ms. Bunting and asks her a question regarding a statement Norman Grubb made in one of his books, called "*This One Thing*".

Mr. Grubb says that once we are born again, we are "*immediately led and governed by the Holy Spirit*". This brother is obviously having a hard time reconciling such a statement with the facts and realities of life. He asks Ms. Bunting how he's supposed to deal with the fact that he occasionally slips back into the wrong behavior or habits (ie; the flesh; the old man), since the old man is supposed to be gone. He says:

"How does this work—as he is immediately led and governed by the Holy Spirit'? As I attend men's group, bible studies, different churches, read bible emails, surround myself with Christian men, and talk about Christ, what joy and peace I have at times. But other times I disappoint and

sadden myself when I revert back to some old behavior (although not as many). How can this be? It seems to me, I should be more Christ like by now and not making old bad behavior mistakes. I know that there is not perfection until I die and go to heaven. But I desire to be more Christ like and pray to make Him proud of me too do the work He has willed for me. But I continue to grieve myself in this journey. And I know as long as I grieve, His plan for me is at a distance.

I look forward some day to meeting y'all.

Have a Blessed and very Merry Christmas.

Ms. Bunting's reply is as follows:

You've got the cart before the horse. Slow down. You don't really want to be like Jesus. You don't really want to start going into churches and tearing them apart; accusing the preachers of being Pharisees. You really don't want to hang out with prostitutes; eating and drinking with sinners, do you??

You must have some mistaken idea of just how Jesus acted and I suspect its really the same as most of us when we're taught a lot of 'do goods' and 'shoulds and aughts' from our youth. We apply that to how we think Jesus acted. If you read closely you will see that **Jesus was just himself**, living in the moment, watching and doing exactly what He saw the Father do. That's how He lived—'As I see the Father do, I do'...

Perfection is now. Perfection is a Person in your humanity. But only the Holy Spirit can bring you into that total realization. **Your part is to take Him by faith; His part is to do it.** Quit trying to make yourself look better so you can feel better about yourself. Your ego needs a bit of an adjustment, as do each of ours when we think we should or aught to **do anything other than trust** the living God inside us to, **not only keep us from sinning, but also to cause us to walk in his ways.**

Jesus would never have called us to be perfect had he not known that He would be inside us to accomplish it. But the One thing we must do is to take Him, lock, stock and barrel to be all He needs to be in us. He will wait on getting our actions cleaned up until we are securely fixed in Him inside. Just keep your eyes on Him, **not on yourself and your behavior.** You are His precious creation and He loves living as you, with all your funny warts, which we each have as identification with the rest of the world. Just think; **you are Christ in your form.** Plain and simple. End of story. Live your life, **enjoy being He and He will enjoy getting to live again as you.**

Love, Linda

Again, anyone who can read statements like

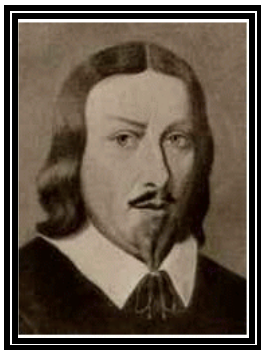
- ~ *Jesus was just himself, living in the moment*
- ~ *Your part is to take Him by faith; His part is to do it*
- ~ *we shouldn't do anything but trust God to keep us from sin and cause us to walk in his ways*
- ~ *Just keep your eyes on Him, not on yourself and your behavior*
- ~ *you are Christ in your form*
- ~ *enjoy being He and He will enjoy getting to live again as you*

and you don't have red flags and warning bells going off all over the place, you have absolutely no spiritual discernment. This is a gross perversion of what the Scripture actually teaches. This woman doesn't seem to know

the difference between the Creator and the creature. There is no other way to define phrases like—“Christ *as* you”; “you *are* Christ in *your* form”; “enjoy *being* Christ and He will enjoy *being* you”; “Jesus has come in His 3rd personhood to live in His perfect *Laura form*”; and “You are the *Laura form of Christ*”—as anything other than a complete blurring the difference between God and man.

We are not Christ and we will never *be* Christ. We will never *be* Him and He will never *be* us. That’s not what Paul was talking about when he said “Christ in you”. That’s not what he was talking about when he urged us to go on to the full measure of *the stature* of Christ. What this woman (and everyone on that site) is preaching, is called “*Panentheism*”. This should not be confused with the “*Pantheism*”. The two errors are similar but not identical. *Pantheism* says God is all. *Panentheism* says God is in all.

In *Pantheism*, everything *is* God. There is absolutely no distinction between a blade of grass, a tree, a bug, a goat, men and women, and God. In *Panentheism*, everything is a manifestation of God. There is a distinction, but only in the sense that everything in the creation is an expression of God. In *Panentheism*, a tree is not identical to God; it’s only an expression (or manifestation) of God. However, neither Pantheism or Panentheism separates the creation from the essential nature of the Creator—and that’s not only heresy, it’s blasphemy.



The next person on the list of authors is the Protestant Mystic, Jacob Bohme (1575-1624). Jacob Bohme was a Lutheran shoe maker from Gorlitz, Germany, who became a Theosophist philosopher. He began his mystical journey one day while looking at a beam of light being reflected off a pewter dish. He had some kind of spiritual experience and got a “revelation” of God by looking at that light. Supposedly the Lord showed him some of the greatest mysteries about Himself that anyone had ever known—and of course, none of those mysteries were Scriptural. Trying to explain his doctrine is nearly impossible unless you are already familiar with the views of various Eastern Religions, theosophy, and the New Age Movement.

His writings were mostly Gnostic and Kabbalistic in nature. His concept of God reflected the Eastern concepts of God much more than it did the Protestant (or Catholic for that matter) understanding of God. For instance, he taught that prior to the creation of man, God was an undifferentiated, single entity, defined by the absence of everything else. He called this state of being “the Abyss” (or “Ungrund”). Creation was the result of the Ungrund dividing from its state of original unity.

This is an idea that is familiar to the Taoist, but utterly foreign to Protestants. In Bohme’s view, God created man in His own image *so that* He could learn about Himself. To initiate this learning process, God rendered Himself into positive and negative aspects, much like the “yin and yang”. Prior to this initial split, God was only a potential mind with an unformed longing to know itself. After the split, God became an increasing complex entity, as He collected more and more information about Himself. In other words, Bohme’s God *evolved* with the passage of time. Again, this idea is in sharp contrast to the traditional Judeo-Christian view of a perfect, complete and unchanging God who exists outside the normal flow of time.

He also presented the universe as the product of the dueling forces of Father and Son. One was bent on disordering and returning to unity, while the other was bent on ordering and harmonizing in the process of organization. Bohme expanded on these thoughts to develop theoretical frameworks and ideas encompassing virtually every aspect of the Christian experience, practical and mystical. His work reflected so many diverse

spiritual concepts, he is considered to be the Father of Theosophy, which was the precursor to the New Age Movement, which as you all know, teaches that all religions are basically talking about the same thing but in different words. Freemasonry and all kinds of occult groups hail him as a great “spiritualist”.

That so many of today's Christians are beginning to read his occult and theosophic writings is a sign that the Church has indeed become “the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird” (*Rev. 18:2*). That Ms. Bunting has his writings on her site is, in itself, a clear indication of what “spirit” she is following.



As you read through the articles on this site, you will notice the lack of Scripture. These people don't use the Scripture, except as a jumping-off point. They'll make a passing reference to a verse; but their articles are mostly filled with comparisons, stories that make a point, logic, and so forth. When they do use the Scripture, many times they are quoting it out of context, or they are quoting a version that is different from the King James. Such is the case with John Collings. In an article entitled: “*Everything That Becomes Visible Is Light*” he changes the meaning of a verse in Ephesians to mean something it doesn't. He begins by telling how he almost got into an affair with a woman when he was a young, married believer. He says:

“Shirley and I fought the attraction as long as we could. We often talked in the course of work, and I looked for excuses to be with her. I imagined being with her alone, talking and holding. It wasn't long before I got up the courage to ask her to go out with me. Shirley loved the Lord, but wasn't even surprised when I asked her. However, she answered that we were friends in Christ. I didn't hear what her heart was telling me, and my imaginings continued looking for ways to be with her. I remember being in my bedroom reading Ephesians when these words leaped at me. *But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.* I knew the light being described was Christ and I knew that the lust that was in me was a darkness that needed to be exposed to His light. The shocking word from that verse to me was that **this darkness within me had the potential to not just be exposed, but to become the light. Everything that becomes visible is light. Everything that becomes visible is Christ.**”

This is spiritual confusion and it comes from a religious spirit. Paul didn't say everything that becomes visible *is* light, or that it *becomes* Christ. This guy is so out of it, he see's nothing wrong with calling sexual lust, light. Paul did say all things become “visible” when they are exposed *by* the light. He did not say all things that are exposed become light (or Christ):

*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for **whatsoever doth make manifest is light***

Ephesians 5:11-13

Paul said “whatsoever doth make manifest” is light. All Paul was saying was that the thing that *reveals* the darkness, or makes the darkness manifest, is light. He’s not saying darkness becomes light after it’s manifested. But unfortunately, Mr. Collings was reading the New American Standard version the night he got his “revelation”. The New American Standard says: “*But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light*”. So Mr. Collings does have a Bible version to support his doctrine. But the fact is, that rendering is absurd. When the Holy Spirit reveals Satan’s activities to you, does that make Satan light? Does that turn his activities into light? Anyone with half a brain knows what Paul was trying to say in Ephesians 5:13—even if some versions mess up the translation.



Michael Daniel is the next author I would like to quote. In an article entitled “*Who Are You*”, he says God (not the Devil) is the one who brings evil into our lives in order to get us to realize who we really are. It’s interesting that the same people who think we should *ignore* what “seems” to be our flesh, also tell us to *ignore* what “seems” to be the power of the enemy. It’s just the back side of the same religious fantasy. If you can believe thoroughly enough that the Devil can’t hurt you, then that belief becomes reality and the Devil really won’t be able to hurt you. If you believe Satan has power, then he does have power. If you believe he has no power, then he has no power. He say:

“I’m not saying that Satan isn’t evil. But could it be that **we worry so much about what Satan is doing, or might do, we completely ignore what Jesus has already done?** Satan has been defeated, past tense! **The only way he can have any power over us at all, is if we believe that he can...**We were crucified on that cross with Him. We were buried in that tomb with Him...We are the Righteousness of God in Christ! Holy, blameless and made perfect in His Glorious Son. When we stop believing the lie that we are separate from God and know the truth that we are one with God in Christ, we can rest. Christ was made One with The Father through the most torturous agony imaginable. **Father is bringing about in us the awareness of our Oneness with Him** through, just a touch, of the suffering our dear Lord Jesus went through.”

The statement: “...*the only way Satan can have any power over us is if we believe he can*” is a denial of the clear teaching of the New Testament. The only way a person can even think such a thing—let alone teach it publicly—is if they have been deceived by the very power they are claiming has no power!

Mr. Daniel is certainly free to “believe” Satan can’t have any power over him. But choosing to believe a lie doesn’t change the truth. I can assure you, Satan *already has* a considerable amount of power over this guy because he has blinded him to the truth that is clearly laid out in the SCRIPTURE.

Also, notice that he’s caught up in the same kind of *fantasy* regarding his own experience in Christ. He believes he is holy, not based on how he is living, but on who he is identifying himself with. He believes he is the righteousness of Christ in his actual walk and experience. He doesn’t say God is *making* us holy, or that God is *making* us the righteousness of Christ through suffering. He says we *already are* these things. God just needs to bring us to the awareness of what we are.

These kinds of people have been deceived into thinking that if they believe and confess that they have no “self” to die to or overcome, that makes it so. They think that if they believe and confess they are holy and righteous, that makes it so. They really don’t think you have to do anything to possess your position in Christ but believe and

confess who you are in Christ. They don't think they have to resist Satan or put the flesh to death on a daily basis. They think all they must do is believe and confess who they are in Christ until they are so utterly convinced of it, they can see nothing else. They think this is what it means to walk by faith. They don't realize that they have lied to themselves so long, they now believe that lie so thoroughly, they can never see the truth again.



It's an unreal fantasy world that they create. But it's very real to *them*. They simply block out any reality they don't like, or which makes them uncomfortable, and they believe exactly what they want to believe. It doesn't matter if it's true or not. It doesn't matter if it contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture or not. This is the case with the last writer on the list, Dee Dee Winter. Ms. Winter wrote a letter to someone and she describes her view of evil. Even though it is totally unscriptural (and bizarre), that's the reality she lives in. She says:

"To me, **evil is my seeing two powers rather than only God**. If your eye be single (God only) it is full of light. If your eye be double (God and...) [the Devil]... Is this to say that there are not 'bad' things that happen? Of course, there are. But I either "see" them as from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (two powers...separation) or the Tree of Life (ALL in God).

I know you know these scriptures. Each one points to God as being the All and in all. These are only a few of the many that ultimately **point to God as the only power existing**. It is a hard thing to face for us coming out of the fall with a severely divided consciousness.

For me it came when God turned my world upside down with three scriptures. God had perfectly educated me in an inner healing and deliverance ministry for six years when He 'came' in a totally new way. In Romans six I suddenly 'saw' that **I was dead and a dead man did not need healing**.

In Ephesians two I 'saw' that **I sat at the right hand of God in Christ and that the devil was not there**. I went from **constantly fearing and fighting Satan to knowing God only** from that day on. Finally, in the Psalms, I saw that He gave me the desires of my heart. For the first time I 'saw' that **I could trust myself because my desires were His desires**. My only question now regarding hard, bad, or evil, is: 'What are you up to, Father?'

I don't know if it's possible to be deceived any worse than this poor woman is. Her definition of "evil" is acknowledging that there are "two powers" in this universe. So her definition of evil is acknowledging what the Scripture plainly teaches about the "power" of Satan. Religious demons have her mind turned so completely upside down, she is calling the truth the Scripture teaches about Satan, evil. Isn't that what the Bible says will be happening in the last days? People—that is, CHRISTIAN people—will call evil good, and good evil, in the last days (*Isa. 5:20*).

Ms. Winter also thinks that because her legal and spiritual position in Christ is that she is seated with Him in heavenly places, that means she is *actually* there and Satan can't touch her because he can't enter that realm. Who said he can't? Oh, I'm sorry; I forgot. Whatever you believe is true is true—right? If you believe Satan can't reach you, then he really can't reach you because that's what you believe!

Since Christ is the only nature in you, and since Satan can't touch you because he really has no power, you can relax and "trust" yourself like Ms. Winter does. Ah! Isn't it wonderful to realize that all *your* desires are now

God's desires? Isn't it liberating to find out that all *your* thoughts are now *God's* thoughts? Aren't you glad someone has finally enlightened you, and you now realize that Satan *can't* give you any of his desires, or plant any of his thoughts in your mind? Now you can finally relax! Now you can begin to trust yourself! Now you can just be yourself, just like Jesus was just being Himself. No more worrying about having to "take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (*II. Cor. 10:5*). That's for those poor Christians who don't yet realize who they are in Christ! Your thoughts are already in obedience to Christ because they all come from Him!

I don't have any idea how most of these people ended up in such a deluded state. But I have an pretty good idea *how* Ms. Winter got there. According to her own testimony, she was involved in "Spiritual Warfare" for six years—and *the kind* of warfare she was involved in was a counterfeit. Being involved in a counterfeit for that long is long enough to get completely possessed by demons. She said God had "perfectly educated" her in "inner healing and deliverance". Sorry, but the whole notion of "inner healing" came from Satan and a demon-possessed psychologist named Carl Jung. Anyone who has been involved in that, has been involved in *the occult*.



I was interested to know why the owner of the "Christ As Us" web site included Martin Luther as one of the writers. It didn't take me long to realize that Luther taught some of the same errors these people are propagating. His view of "belief" is much more in line with the views of these religious nut-cases than it is with Scripture. I've told you before that Luther and the Reformers over-reacted to the "works-salvation" gospel of Roman Catholicism. They went too far in the opposite direction so that "belief" (what they refer to as "faith") became the only thing that was necessary for redemption from start to finish. In an article written about Luther's life and teachings, Luther is quoted as to his view of faith. He said:

"Every Christian is **by faith** so exalted above all things that **in spiritual power he is completely lord of all. Nothing whatever can do him any hurt, but all things are subject to him and are compelled to be subservient to his salvation...**This is a spiritual power ruling in the midst of enemies and mighty in the midst of distresses. And it is nothing else than that strength is made perfect in weakness, and in all things I am able to gain salvation, so that even the cross and death are compelled to serve me and work together for salvation. For this is a high and illustrious dignity, a true and almighty power, a spiritual empire, in which there is nothing so good, nothing so bad as not to work together for my good **if only I believe...**A Christian man needs no work, no law for salvation, for by faith he is free from all law and in perfect freedom does gratuitously all he does, seeking neither profit nor salvation, but only what is well-pleasing to God, since by the grace of God he is already satisfied and saved through his faith.'

Martin Luther: The Man and His Work
Arthur McGiffert; p. 174

Looks like what Luther taught fits the false doctrine of these people rather nicely, doesn't it? If the Christian will only "believe", said Luther, then "nothing whatsoever can do him any hurt". Of course, I don't think brother Martin was saying *exactly* the same thing the writers on the "Christ As Us" web site are saying. Luther was saying that if we will just believe in the faithfulness of God, and the power of God, we can be sure that He will honor that faith and *protect us* from the very real power of Satan. He wasn't saying what these religious fruit-cakes are saying. He wasn't saying that if we will just believe Satan has no power, or that Satan can't possibly have any power over us, that belief will make it so.



Fred Pruitt is the next writer I would like to quote. In an article entitled “*All Things New*”, he says that the most important thing is that Christ comes “in” us. When Christ comes in us, He makes all things new. Of course, when Mr. Pruitt says Christ makes all things new, he *means* that there is no longer any “old” to deal with—no more “old man”; no more “old” self, etc. Also, you will notice that he says Christ will live “in you, AS you”. The result of this will be that we will then be free to “be ourselves”. We won’t have to worry about being the “old” self any more because the old self has been *replaced* with the new self (which is really Christ). Since our “self” is no longer the old sinful self, but the new holy and righteous self (*ie; Christ*), we can just relax and be ourselves. He says:

“Whatever may happen to a ‘physical’ earth and heaven, **the real coming of Christ is within you!** If Christ does not come ‘within you’, then whatever He does to this ‘outer’ earth is of no concern of yours. If He comes with 10,000,000 angels and flashing lights and mighty signs and wonders, you won’t recognize Him. He must die and rise **within you**. When He does, then **you are you, but it is He living in your ‘you’ as ‘you’**—which makes you totally in your eternal freedom **to be completely yourself**. And that means, getting back to what we said previously, that **all has been irradiated with His own Person**. He is ‘before all things’, and ‘by Him all things consist’, and therefore in this kingdom into which we have been translated—darkness to light—everything is holy, everything is pure, everything is righteous because he is all those things and ‘in him we live and move and have every particle of our being.

If Christ has set you free; who is it who seeks to bind you? ‘If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed’ (Jn. 8:36). If you are of the new kingdom, then **you have no restraints on you** and there is **no one who can lay any sin to your charge**, nor accuse you of anything before the highest court in the universe because it is God Who justifieth. Period. ‘Behold, I make all things new’. You can’t make this happen. **You must believe God can and has** made it happen in you, so that ‘all things new’ **is now your reality**—your very reality.

Just say ‘Yes’.
Amen.

This guy makes it pretty clear, does he not? When Jesus comes in, all the *old* that is within you is “irradiated with His own Person”. That means, the old is *replaced* with the new. Christ is now living “in your you, as you”. Whenever these people say Christ is living IN you AS you, they are really saying Christ has *replaced* you. They can deny that this is what they are saying all they like. That denial does not and cannot change the truth.

The word “as” has a very specific meaning. When it is applied in certain ways in a sentence, there is no getting around the meaning it portrays. For instance, if I say my neighbor, Mr. Jones, is living “*as*” a dog, nobody would think I was saying he actually became a dog. They would know I am saying he has begun to live like an animal instead of a rational human being. However, if I say Mr. Jones has “come in” my dog, and he is now living in my dog “*as*” my dog—that’s a whole different story! Even though nobody would believe what I was saying, they would still know what I was trying to say. They would know that I was saying that Mr. Jones not only lives inside my dog, he has actually become my dog because he is living “in my dog, as my dog”.

The only reason the writers on the “Christ As You” web site can’t understand the meaning of the words they are speaking is because they have been totally and utterly deceived. Words no longer have an objective, concrete meaning to these kinds of people. Words mean whatever they “*believe*” they mean.

Satan has convinced Mr. Pruitt that he has “no restraints” on his life because everything he thinks, desires and does, is coming from the *new* self (which is really Christ). All the *old* has been replaced. It has been driven out by the new. Once you enter this kingdom or dimension of spiritual life and illumination, everything is holy, everything is pure, everything is righteous, because Christ is all those things and “in him we live and move and have every particle of our being”.

And how does a Christian who still thinks he has *two* natures, experience this wonderful new reality? How do us morons who still think we have a sin nature, become enlightened and realize who we are in Christ? The answer is, we must “*believe God has made it happen in us, so that ‘all things new’ is now our reality*”. Just believe it, and your believing it will make it so. Your believing it will produce the reality of it for you (or at least it will produce *the illusion* of that reality for you).

This is the same basic error I was exposing the other week when we discussed Mr. Missionary’s perverted view of repentance and faith. I explained how in his mind, *believing* who you are in Christ will eventually *produce* that reality. Obedience to God (ie; works) is not a pre-requisite in Mr. Missionary’s mind. Faith alone produces the reality. As I said, this is the fundamental error that lies at the heart of every type of false faith message—believing something creates the reality of it in your life.

Any time you hear a preacher or Bible teacher say that belief *alone* is enough to create the reality of the thing you are believing—whether the subject is justification, sanctification, victory over sin, the image of Christ, going to perfection, physical healing, or meeting our financial needs—you need to realize that you are listening to a false faith message.

Also, any time you hear someone saying (or even hinting) that Christians no longer have a sin nature to deal with, you need to run as well because that individual has been completely deceived. They don’t give a rip what the Scripture says. The only thing they can see is the fantasy world they have created and now live in. This is what Paul said concerning born-again believers:

That ye [Christians] put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be [presently] renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye [Christians] put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore [presently] putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4:22-25

The people on the “Christ As Us” web site are twisting the Scripture to fit their error because they are ignoring all the *present tense* statements of Paul regarding the need for *Christians* to put off the old man and his deeds. If there was no more old man (ie; sin nature), if Christ replaced him when we were born again, then there would be no need for us to “put him off” and Paul would never had made such a statement. These people intentionally focus on the statements of the New Testament which speak of *our position* in Christ—which was accomplished for us, past tense—while ignoring the passages which tell us that we must now (present tense) *possess* that position *by* putting off the old man.