

THE BIBLE IS CENTRAL BECAUSE CHRIST IS ITS CENTRAL REALITY Rev. 22:13.

God needs no other *reality* than His Word which is Christ. He is the only *reality* before God and the universe, and what is more, He is the only *reality* God requires to justify Him in all His decrees. In Christ, God and His law are justified in justifying us." Christ is the substance of all things; in Him "all things consist--cohere, are held together" (Col. 1:17). In Christ by the gift of His righteousness God has "justified our right to live," and has given us "all things" (Rom. 5:17-18; 1 Cor. 3:21). We have no reality in or of ourselves (Jam. 4:14). All were in Christ by covenant promise, but only believers are in Him by faith-union. All that was accomplished by God for us in Christ was not accomplished in a way that makes it unnecessary for them to be experienced in us by the Spirit for personal salvation. Of God Christ is made unto us:-

The *reality* of all "spiritual blessings" "riches" and "things" for us before God (Eph 1:3; 3:8; Rom. 8:32).

The *reality* of "gospel righteousness." (Rom. 1:16-17). Faith confesses *reality*, sin denies it (Rev. 15:4. 13)

The *reality* of "life" (Col. 3:3-4). In ourselves we only have a physical existence, when that goes, we go.

The *reality* of "wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption," and "knowledge" (1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 2:3).

The *reality* of "freedom." In Him human nature is free from depravity, and from all debt to law (John 8:36).

The *reality* of "faith," "strength," and "victory" (Rev. 14:12; Gal. 2:16, 20; Rev. 5:12; 12:10; 1 Cor. 15:57)

The *reality* of the "righteousness of God," and the "law" (Phil. 3:9; Rom. 10:4).

The *reality* of "sinless" humanity by birth, & fulfilling, & satisfying law (1 John 3:5; Rom. 10:4; 1 Pet. 2:22).

The *reality* of "forgiveness" and "blotting out of sin" (Eph. 1:7; Heb. 1:3; 9:26; Isa. 44:22-23).

The *reality* of "justification," "acceptance," and the "new creation" (Rom. 4:25; Eph. 1:6; 2 Cor. 5:17).

The *reality* of "reconciliation" between God and man (Rom. 5:10; Col. 2:20-21).

The *reality* of the One given for the eternal covenant fulfillment (Heb. 13:20; Isa. 42:6; 49:8).

The *reality* of "the way, the truth, and the life" (Heb. 10:20; John 14:6).

The *reality* of the "revelation" of God, His purpose for man and the universe (Eph. 1:17; Col. 2:20-21).

The *reality* of "the end of world," "second death," and "resurrection," (Heb. 9:26; Matt. 27:46; Jh. 11:25).

The *reality* of "glorification," and the eternal spiritual "rest" (Acts 3:13; Matt. 11:28).

The *reality* of eternal "oneness" with God on the throne (John 17:22-23; Rev. 3:21).

The *reality* of these blessings in the Christ event, was not in a way, --except for "the second death,"-- that makes them unnecessary to be applied to, and experienced by and in believers for salvation. Justification by faith confesses the *reality* of Christ, the opposite stream of thought by denial or neglect denies that *reality*. If we lay hold of *reality* in Christ, we have everything. If we lose *reality* in Christ we lose everything.