

# New Creation Realities

April 2013

## Together

The background of the top half of the page is a dark red gradient. In the center, there are three black silhouettes of crucifixes standing on a dark, uneven horizon line. Behind the central crucifix is a large, bright orange-red circular shape, resembling a full moon or a low sun, which creates a strong backlight effect. The word 'Together' is written in a large, yellow, serif font on the left side, partially overlapping the central crucifix.

We have treated the Resurrection as if it only pertained to the Lord Jesus. But the Bible insists that the Resurrection is as much about Him as it is about us. Ephesians 2 is critical to understanding the climax of the Father's Plan of Redemption.

Chuck Colson tells a truly remarkable story in *Setting the Captives Free*. Here are excerpts:

Humaita Prison in Brazil is a remarkable place. Years ago, it was a rotting building where prisoners were tortured. Then three Christian men went to the government and asked permission to take over the prison. They got permission & started to run Humaita as a Christian prison. When an inmate arrives with handcuffs on, they take off the handcuffs and say, "In this prison you will no longer be chained by steel; you will be chained by the love of Christ."

If anyone ever asks whether Christ makes a difference, send them to Humaita. For all those years, while the government of Brazil had a 74% recidivism rate, Humaita has released more than three hundred inmates, and they have had only twelve come back. That's 4% recidivism.

One inmate showed me Humaita's secret. This inmate was convicted of murder, but he was my guide through the prison, walking around with all the prison keys hanging from his belt. He asked whether I'd like to see the maximum security cell. So we walked down a long hall of steel doors toward the cell in question. He said it used to be the punishment cell where they tortured people.

"We still use it for punishment," he said. "We have one inmate in there." He took me to the door and looked through the little peek hole. "Are you sure you want to go in there?" he asked. "I have been in maximum security holes all over the world," I told him. He said, "Okay," and unlocked the door. I looked and saw a couple of chairs, a dim light and flowers on a table. I walked through the door.

To the right I saw a crucifix—Christ hanging on the cross.

My guide said, "This is the prisoner who is taking the punishment for us." A sign above the crucifix said, "We are together" in Portuguese. They understand that they are joined with Christ, who suffered.

Quite a story.

When I came across that story in Max Lucado's "*In the Grip of Grace*", I thought, "If I had a chance to talk to the authorities at Humaita, I would respectfully ask them to put up a painting, a sculpture or mural of the Resurrection, along with the crucifix."

The story did not end at the Cross, folks. It ended at the Resurrection and beyond. He went through the cross to get through the Resurrection, His Ascension and Enthronement at the Father's Right Hand.

The Resurrection is where the victory is: victory over sin, over death, over Satan.

Many times, we have treated the Resurrection as if it only pertained to the Lord Jesus. But the Bible insists that the Resurrection is as much about Him as it is about us. It was also our Resurrection.

**Ephesians 2 is a well of life.**

1 And you **hath** he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

5 Even when we were dead in sins, **hath quickened us together** with Christ, (by grace ye are saved ;)

6 And **hath raised us up together**, and made us sit **together** in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

"*Together*". Did you notice the vitality of this word in these verses?

Made alive *together*.

Raised *together*.

Made us sit *together*.

With Christ.

It was not just His resurrection; it was also *our* resurrection. We were there with Him.

It was as much about Him as it was about us. It was His resurrection. It was mine. It was yours, child of God.

The implications of these facts are mighty indeed.

Paul calls us joint heirs with Christ. Joint heirs. That leaves me almost breathless.

We **WERE** children of the devil, children of disobedience, children of wrath.

We **WERE** dead, but He gave us life.

*You, has He made alive.*

He has quickened us, given life to us. We are **ALIVE**. We are alive and because He lives, we live. That means we have eternal life now, not tomorrow. Not when we get to heaven. Eternal life - the life of God - is here and now in our spirits.

Not only did God make us alive together with Christ, He declared us righteous together with Christ, He justified us with Christ, when the Lord destroyed and crushed the devil, that was our victory too!

We became new creatures in Christ Jesus. We came out of the grave just like He did.

We are seated **TOGETHER** with Him, our Lord, at the Father's Right Hand.

If you are in Christ, you can lay claim to everything that is Christ's. It means that we stand in the Father's presence with as much confidence as our Lord Himself - in Him.

It means that we have the boldness of Sons in God's presence. We enjoy the freedom of children in the presence of a doting Father.

We can make bold. Why?

Because while His death meant that the punishment for our sins was duly served and paid, His Resurrection means that we now live in newness of life.

His death means that our old sinful nature was destroyed on the Cross, His Resurrection means that we are new creations and sin has no dominion over us.

Imagine that He died for our sins, but never rose up from the dead. It would mean that the penalty for sin was paid, but sin still ruling over us. Can you see that?

His Resurrection implies that we are new creations, old things having passed away.

The Resurrection means we are born again.

Think about the key word folks. **TOGETHER. TOGETHER. TOGETHER.**

## **Believed and Received**

Thank God for His Son, Jesus, who gave us authority to cast out devils and heal the sick.

Last December I discovered a lump in my breast. It was as hard as a rock. I did not have fear at all. I was in peace knowing who I am in Christ.

I praised God and thanked Him for the authority He gave me to speak to the mountain.



I spoke harshly to the lump and commanded it to die in the Name of Jesus. I cursed the roots of that lump just like Jesus cursed that fig tree.

From there, I praised the Lord every time I would think about it. Guess what, it disappeared in less than a week. I am free!

My husband could not believe it since he wanted it to be taken care of through doctors.

It's according to your faith and revelation!

Hallelujah!

M.S.: London

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*And whatsoever ye shall ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14:13.*

## **New Creation Realities**

*A teaching ministry to the Body of Christ  
Itinerant. Print. Radio. Web.*



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the Lord cometh!