

August Theme – “Be Transformed in the Person of Jesus Christ”
Daily Scripture Calendar

✓	Day	Date	Verses	Summary
	Th	Aug 1	1Cor 2:11-16	The natural man receiveth not the things of God
	F	Aug 2	Phil 2:5-8	Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus
	Sa	Aug 3	Col 2:6-15	Ye are complete in him
	Su	Aug 4	Col 3:1-3	Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
	M	Aug 5	Heb 1:1-4	God hath spoken by his Son, express image of his person
	Tu	Aug 6	Alm 3:11-29	Have ye received his image in your countenance?
	W	Aug 7	Col 3:9-14	Put on new man, image. Put on charity.
	Th	Aug 8	1Cor 15:17-22	In Christ shall all be made alive
	F	Aug 9	1Cor 15:45-49	We shall bear the image of the heavenly
	Sa	Aug 10	2Cor 5:14-21	Live in Christ, new creature; all things have become new
	Su	Aug 11	Eph 2:13-22	He made in himself one new man, so making peace
	M	Aug 12	1Cor 12:20-27	Ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular
	Tu	Aug 13	Heb 2:10-18	He is not ashamed to call us brethren
	W	Aug 14	Gal 3:22-29	Put on Christ, one in Christ, Abraham’s seed
	Th	Aug 15	Gal 5:16-25	If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit; a new creature
	F	Aug 16	Rom 5:6-11	We shall be saved by his life
	Sa	Aug 17	John 1:11-18	Life and truth came through Jesus Christ
	Su	Aug 18	Rom 6:1-12	If we be dead with Christ, we shall also live with him
	M	Aug 19	Rom 8:1-17	As many as are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God
	Tu	Aug 20	Mos 3:3,8-21	Ye have become his sons and daughters
	W	Aug 21	3Ne 5:32-42	Become as little child; be one in Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
	Th	Aug 22	Heb 4:14-16	Come boldly to the throne of grace through the high priest
	F	Aug 23	Heb 7:22-27	He is able to save them to the uttermost
	Sa	Aug 24	Heb 10:12-22	Let us draw near in full assurance of faith
	Su	Aug 25	Heb 12:1-6	Looking unto the Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith
	M	Aug 26	John 8:28-36	If the Son shall make you free, you are free indeed
	Tu	Aug 27	John 15:1-9	Abide in me, and I in you
	W	Aug 28	D&C 50:8d-g	Inasmuch as ye have received me, ye are in me, and I in you
	Th	Aug 29	3Ne 12:25-35	Be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost
	F	Aug 30	D&C 85:16-18	Eye single to my glory, bodies shall be filled with light
	Sa	Aug 31	D&C 90:3b-4e	Receive of his fullness and be glorified in me

We often hear the saying expressed by Christians and in scripture that “we are in Christ.” What do we mean by that statement? Typically, I think we mean something like, “*I have accepted Christ. I believe in him and in his gospel. I am trying to live according to his laws.*” But in saying these things, what we are really expressing is: “*Christ is in me*” – that is, I have accepted Christ into myself, intellectually, spiritually, and covenantally.

What, then, about the other side of the equation? What does it mean for us to be “in Christ”? If we reflect a little further in considering how the two statements might be equivalent, I suggest that we consider it this way: if we are (literally) ***in Christ***, that means Christ has accepted us ***into himself***. Christ voluntarily took all of humanity into his inner being and carried humanity to the cross. But as profound as this statement is, we need to take it even further.

Jesus didn’t ***just*** take all of humanity into himself. He took all of ***my life***, with all of its ugliness, all of its selfish motivations, every dark corner that I wish no one would see, every awful thought that I have ever uttered against man or God himself. Jesus gladly accepted all of me, even those parts of which I am ashamed or despise in myself. Further, if Jesus ***had not*** taken every last bit of me into himself, thus making an end of my fleshly self, then there would have remained a part of me not covered by his blood. He took all my darkness and fleshliness into himself, killed it on the cross, and carried it with him to hell where it belonged.

But as he carried all of me with him into the depths of hell, he also carried me beyond the grave and into new life. The apostle Paul wrote, “Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” This is why, before we can “put on the new man,” we have to first “mortify [kill] your members which are upon the earth” (Col 3:3-10). Not...feel bad about your behaviors, not regret what you’ve done, certainly not justify yourself in your sin, but to fully agree with Jesus and participate with him in letting him kill the old man with its earthly nature, and yield to him by letting his “new man” not only reside in us, but act out according to his divine nature.

We can’t *do what Jesus did* without *being who Jesus was*. The harder we try, the more we will discover that we fail, because we are striving against our own nature. But if we instead choose to die, by implication, we are choosing to be helpless. You can’t be more powerless, you can’t retain less control over your own body, than those who are dead. Yielding to death means yielding to the recognition of ultimate helplessness, and thus of ultimate dependency on someone else. Once we are dead, and Christ lives in us, our goal is not so much to “try” to work our way into the kingdom, but to allow Jesus to live the spiritual life that he has already achieved in the kingdom through his resurrection – to participate with him in his resurrection, right now in our daily lives. This is, at the very bottom of it, what it means to be a Christian and a saint.

This month’s theme is “Be Transformed in the Person of Jesus Christ.” What difference would it make in your life if you considered this theme statement in every situation that you face, in every decision, in every word spoken or written on Facebook. Consider making this prayer before making a decision, responding to a difficult person, or just starting the day: “Lord, please speak to this individual, through me, in the person of Jesus Christ.” “Lord, please help me to be Jesus to this person today.” “Jesus, what would you do in this situation, and grant me the grace to let ***you*** live the life that ***you*** would choose in my circumstance.”

I am challenging the congregation this month, ***every person***, to use the daily scripture calendar for August. Read and ponder every scripture listed. Consider the above questions and try to apply them to your life this month. If we don’t get this one issue right, all the doctrines in the world can’t make us the church of Christ. If we do get it right, Jesus will do great things.