



marvellous light. There's like an identity crisis going on. We don't know who we are. How do you see yourself? Who does the Bible say that you are?

Have you ever thought, what does God say you are? There's many things. I'm just touching on just a few points here really of many we could talk about. Have you ever thought, who does God say that you are? You. A chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

We come from a better country, certainly a better country than what was formerly known as Great Britain. Now it's lousy Britain. Certainly a better country than Australia, a better country than wherever you might hail from. A heavenly city, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. These are profound truths, aren't they? Strong statements. The Bible is filled with absolutes. It says who you are. You are a new creation.

You have received a transformation, a new heart transplant. You are eternally redeemed. Eternally redeemed. You have a new identity in Christ. You have significance.

[6:18] You have his righteousness. A new life. You are totally alive. Truly alive. 2 Corinthians 5.17. Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he's a new creature. Old things are passed away.

And behold, all things are become brand new. Made new. Have you ever gone down the car yard? You know, you look at that car, you know you can't afford, but you just want to go and sit behind the wheel. And it's a brand new car. And you can, and if you just, just, you breathe it in. That new car smell. That new car smell. The freshness of a brand new car. Everything is clean and shiny. Now, nowadays, I know the people at working car yards can tell you there's these air fresheners now. And on the, on the, on the can it says, new car smell. You can, you can make your car smell just as good, but just go down the car place and buy the new car smell freshener. And we can know a newness, a newness inside of us, inside of you. Who are you in Christ? You've got new life. New life. There's a newness of life you can know, that you can have an encounter with the living God and be made brand new, have a brand new heart, a brand new start, a brand new way of living. You can be made a new creature, a new creation. And God declares you such. Romans 6, 4, it says we can walk in newness of life.

Wow. That, you know, we could spray some of that amongst us here today. Wow. It's brand new, a new life, a new heart. Praise the Lord. Made new, made truly alive, made fresh and clean.

And right with God, a new beginning, a new start. Old things have passed away. All of those truckloads of sin, all of that deadness and unworthiness. He takes it, doesn't he? Glory, doesn't he? He takes it away. We can personally know that, that whole new beginning. And on Tuesday this week, our friend Arthur, he's gone to sleep now. Arthur, on Tuesday this week, I woke you up, Arthur. On Tuesday this week, our friend Arthur placed his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen? Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Stand up, Arthur. Stand up for us, Arthur, if you can. Everybody, this is Arthur. On Tuesday this week, at 85 years of age, his life has begun.

He's got a brand new birthday. Amen? Praise the Lord. Glory to God. Thanks, Arthur. Arthur confirmed his faith that the Lord Jesus had died on the cross for him and for his sin and he received Christ Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. Praise the Lord. New life. There's a freshness. Can't you smell it? Freshness. Life. Life. Life more abundant. Life fresh and new. New life. Wow.

[9:28] Made a new creature. Born anew. Just like in the backyard, we've got some bushes where there's lots of little bugs at the moment. These little creepy caterpillars munching away at the leaves.

But some of them are starting to emerge into a new creature, a new creation. They're going to become these beautiful butterflies. And it's like that for us that trust Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. We're made brand new. Born anew. Born again. Newness of life. We can know that, that we have a new identity in Christ because Christ is our life. Paul and his writings talk some 160 times, 160 times of phrases such as, in Christ, in him, in the Lord.

160 times. He really emphasised that. We're just going to cover a tiny fraction. It says we are no longer the slaves of sin. Who are you in Christ? A new creation. You have had also a new location. You've got to have a relocation. Now, there's some people amongst us that are talking about moving house. I like to think the house I'm in is the one that I'm just going to go into a box from. But no, we don't know how many houses we'll have, but certainly we can know our final destination, can't we? Our new position is a new relocation. Where are you sitting? You might think we're sitting in Elizabeth Park. The Bible tells you you're seated in heavenly places. It says you're seated in heavenly places in Christ. He's raised us up together. He's made us to sit together in heavenly

places in Christ. He's called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. There's been a relocation, a relocation. Amen? There's a new location for us. And there's a change of where we are sitting, where we are seeing things. He gives us a whole new perspective on life, doesn't he? We start to see things differently because we're seated in heavenly places. We're not getting caught up in all the hoo-ha and the humdrum of day by day so much as we know we're serving something higher, something greater. Now, there's been a big media story in the news just this last week. And to quote Mark Latham, and he's not a Christian himself. I'm not necessarily endorsing him or his party. Mark Latham said this in the New South Wales Parliament on last Wednesday, Wednesday this last week on the 8th of May, talking in the context of Israel Folau. And again, I don't know where he stands theologically too, but at least he's proclaiming Bible verses, which is good on him. And Mark Latham says this, no Australian should be fearful of proclaiming four of the most glorious words of our civilisation.

I am a Christian. No Australian should be fearful of proclaiming that. Can you say this? Say it together with me. I am a Christian. I'm not ashamed to own my Lord. I identify as a Christian because I am identified with Christ. It's about our position. When we are saved, we are become citizens of heaven. I identify as a Christian. I identify with the holy nation, God's people. My citizenship is in heaven. Our conversation, our way of living, our way of life is in heaven. From whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you have a new position as a saved man, a saved woman this morning? You have new eyes. You have a new outlook looking unto Jesus.

[13:33] You have a new outlook looking on life from that perspective with God's kind of spectacles on. You see things differently. Amen. He's given you new eyes to see what matters. You see things from an eternal perspective, a spiritual one. And you look for the Saviour, the Lord. You look at things unseen and you see things that others cannot see who are yet in blindness. Their minds blinded, it tells us.

You look at these things. You see, you truly see the purpose of your life. You see that as you've never seen it before. What really matters? What counts? You see God's purpose, God's plan. And you focus on things above, not on things on the earth. New life, new location. You have a new master.

A new master. Who are you in Christ? You have a new master. Now you can see at times when you go down the shops and there's a sign on the wall on the shop window and you go and have a look at it and it says under new management. They put a sign up there. It's proclaiming there's been a change. There's a new owner. There's a new menu. There's a new chef. There's a change. You notice the prices have gone up.

Someone else has taken over under new management. Someone else has taken charge. And it's the same for you, isn't it? You have a new master. When you trust him as Lord, you're under new management.

[15:11] And he declares the truth over your life that you are under new management. You belong to Jesus. Paul writes 1 Corinthians 6 verse 19. What?

God's property. Your life is under God's control. You are under new management.

You have a new master. Some would like to say that they are the master of their own destiny. Ha. So they think. But in reality, they are actually, they don't know where they're going.

And they have a master and it's not them. They are under the devil's domain. Better to place your life in God's hands. Give it unto him. Make it your intent to glorify your master, to show forth the praises of him. Isn't he worthy of your praises? Isn't he worthy that you should show forth his praises and declare them? Make it your aim to live life to the full, to his glory. You have been bought with a price. And what a price. What a price. You people are very precious. So precious.

Unto the Lord. It's living soul. Ever living soul. Did you ever stop and consider the value that God has placed on you? Now I'm not getting into some health, wealth and prosperity and you're so good. But God has made you everything you are. And that's wonderful, isn't it? You're just so good in God's sight. Because he's taken you out of darkness. He's put you into his marvellous light. He's put his love on you. He's made you his own precious people, his own peculiar people. And you are precious. Because God so loved the world, didn't he? How do you put that? That two letter word, so God so loved the world. What God has done? More than you can imagine, isn't it? The cross, what

it means. You are a valuable treasure unto him. A valuable person. Considered of such worth that the Lord Jesus would lay down his perfect, sinless body. Shed his precious blood to redeem you. To take your place, your guilt, your sin, mine.

[18:02] Christ identified with us. That's precious, isn't it? That Christ would identify with us. He was numbered among the transgressors. He bore the sins of the unjust, of the guilty.

mercy. And that he would take your sin, my sin, and take it to the cross where it was nailed. To the cross. That's where it is. It's gone. And there it was paid for. And you can declare, I bear it no more. He has paid the greatest possible price that he could pay. To purchase your liberty, your freedom. You're set free. Once we were slaves. When you look back in history and see pictures of slaves, I've seen terrible pictures of Aboriginal people of this country in chains. What a shame and a reproach on the British Empire.

Woe to them. Woe to those who did that. I'm part of it. In history, you think that I could have stood on that side of the fence. God forbid. But God has set us free. We're all in chains.

We're all ensnared. We're all prisoners of sin without his liberty. But he has given it freely. And you're valuable. Christ identified with you. And you can declare, I bear it no more. He has redeemed. He's set you free. And you are brought near. Amen?

[19:37] Amen? That's another blessing here is you're brought near. Some people think God is far, far away. I just can't seem to get close to him. God is remote. But the Bible tells you, no, that's not true. It says Ephesians 2.13, but now in Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off, are made nigh, made nigh, made close by the blood of Christ. Once we were far, far away, are far off, far, far away from God. But that's not true for you today. You that know him, Jesus our Lord is close. He's near. It tells you you are brought near to him, near to the loving heart of God. You are in union with Christ. This great and loving master cares for you so deeply, to such an extent. He's paid so greatly, so loved, so much. Such a great price for you. This wonderful saviour. He's not far, far away. It says you are brought in, brought close, made near, close, close to the very heart of God. He holds you close and he'll never let you go. Not that you'd ever want him to let go. Wow. Hold me, Lord. I don't want you to let me go. And he won't. God is close to you. Maybe it feels like God is distant.

The question then is, who moved? Let him draw you back. In Christ you are made near to him, brought nigh, made nigh by the blood of Christ. And in Christ you are very precious, very near. Know that truth today. What is your identity? Who are you in Christ? You've got a new relationship as well. A new relationship. Have you proclaimed those, as an unsaved politician would say, have you proclaimed those four of the most glorious words of our civilisation? I am a Christian.

Can you declare that? I am a son of God. John 1.12, but as many as received him, to them gave you the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Have you received him, his gift? Do you believe on his holy name? The name of Jesus. No other name will do. Are you his? I am his and he is mine. You can say that by faith. You are called sons of God, daughters of God, children of God. You are loved. You are safe. You are secure in his tender keeping. And we need to appropriate that truth of his word. God's design is our identity. And he wants us to show forth his praises so we can tell others, so we can be big mouths. Sort of a wave, like my dad. You can be a big mouth for Jesus. You can proclaim it loudly and clearly and resoundingly and as far and as wide and to the hedges and the highways and the streets and the hedges and the byways. All of the, what everything that is in us should want to proclaim to show forth the praises of him, our worthy saviour. Worthy is the lamb and he declares us his own. And what's more part of a family, there's a new relationship, part of a family of God. In multiple places across the city the family of God are meeting. And what's more we're part of a family right here, right now, together at this time, in this moment, as brothers and sisters where there's a new relationship. And one of the joys of being saved is that, that we have a family around us to support us, to encourage us. That's why assembling is important. You know, when the family gets together, we want to be around the table with God's people to be amongst others who belong to Jesus. And he's given you his spirit. Praise God. Glory.

I won't tell you I'm getting mixed up here because if I don't tell you, you won't know. But he's called us to be holy and faithful brethren, hasn't he? Holy and faithful brethren. I've got the pages numbered. So to the saints and the faithful brethren in Christ, which are at Colossians 1, verse 2, grace be unto you and peace from God, our father and the Lord Jesus Christ. You're called saints, holy ones, faithful. God tells you you are that. A saint? Yes. Some Christians say, I'm not a saint. No, you are. God says you are. You may not feel like a saint, but God tells you you're a saint. And he says that you're a brethren. You're faithful and you're brethren. These words are for us. They're about us. It's about the family of God. There's many more scriptures we could confess of such truths. Exceeding great and precious promises. Saints, holy ones, faithful. I'm glad to be in your company this morning. It's a great privilege for me to be with you, to be together with you as God's people. Saints, holy ones, faithful. God says you are. And he says to you, grace. Wow. Grace be unto you. I need some more. More grace. Peace. I need some peace. We all can do with more of that, can't we? His many rich blessings. He gives them so freely, so bountifully, so fully.

[25:11] He set you free. Free from condemnation. Free from the law of sin and death. Free to walk in the spirit. Free to walk after the spirit of God. And it tells us, blessed be. Oh, I missed one there. But there is therefore now no condemnation in Christ Jesus. I'll go back here. Many spiritual blessings.

Look at that. He's blessed you with many spiritual blessings. So many we could count on. And we're just touching on it here. But one of them is that we've got no condemnation in Christ Jesus. There's therefore now no condemnation. You are free from condemnation. You are in Christ. You who walk after the spirit. He has empowered you. Think of this. You've got superpowers. I know sometimes the children in Sunday school, there's different songs about Jesus being a superhero. Actually, he's much, much more than that. That's kind of denigrating Christ really, isn't it? He's no superhero. He's God Almighty. God manifest in the flesh. But he gives us superpowers, as it were. Because we've got the very power of God. How super can you get? More super than the power of God.

He's given you the power to become the sons of God. He's given you overcoming power. Power over all the power of the enemy. He's given you power over the greatest enemy, self, ego. Power over your flesh.

[26:35] Power to have victory. Power over condemnation. Power over sin. What a terrible thing to wake up in a hospital bed, not having a clue where you are, who you are. Dear Christian brother, sister, who are you in Christ. So many things we could reckon of who you are. Who you are. You're so blessed to be his, to know him. And the Bible tells you you're his workmanship. He's just crafted you in that individual, unique way to be you. To be who he's wanting you to be. His power works in you.

And he's still working on me. I don't know about you, but I'm still a work in progress. Very much so. But you can know the truth of the crucified life. And you can say those four most glorious words and own them as your own. I am a Christian. I am a Christian.

And it might cost you your job. It might cost you some reputation. It might cost you some votes. You are a Christian. You are crucified with Christ. I am therefore, sorry, it tells us here, I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless, I live. Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.

You are not the person who you once were. I used to know my dad as an unsaved man. You wouldn't want to have known him. He was pretty rotten. I mean, he's still got some rough edges. But, you know, amen. Yeah. No, we know you're not the person you once were. You have been given the promises of God. You are powerful. With power far beyond your own.

[28:36] Super powers, as it were. Now, you can't see through walls or anything, but you have got a God's power. That's super, isn't it? That's glorious. The very power of God's spirit.

And you, believe it or not, you are a threat to Satan. He trembles. There's a saying, he trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon their knees. Doesn't he? You are a threat to Satan.

And you can say, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. You are the enemy of Satan. You stand opposed to his kingdom. So don't be surprised when you face some test. God's not left you.

You are under attack. We all are. Keep shining that little light. Let it shine.

And show forth the praises of him. The praises of him. He's called you out of darkness. Shine. As someone said, our identity is for the sake of making known his identity.

[29:43] Show forth the praises of him. It's all about Jesus, isn't it? It's all about our Lord. To the praises of his name. And he's giving you everything necessary to make that happen.

Now, the enemy of your soul would have you believe you are defeated. The devil would say to you, you are not able.

Give up. But guess what? The Bible says the devil is a liar. He's a liar. Don't believe him. Believe God.

Believe him. In Christ you have a great victory. You are more than a conqueror. You have great strength and power. In his strength. You can do all things.

Glory to God. And it tells you that greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. That includes the devil, doesn't it? You have new power and ability. Superpower. Don't hold back.

[30:44] And you have God's spirit leading you forward. And we're all frail and weak and mostly of myself I can say I am inadequate.

But God is able. And Christ is my sufficiency. Our sufficiency is of God. He makes us able to do more than we can humanly do.

And we have the very peace of God. And it passes our understanding. It keeps our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. So who are you? Identify with the Lord.

You are a Christian. I trust you are a Christian. If you say, preacher, I'm not sure that I am a Christian, please talk to me straight after this. Or another trusted Christian.

We're not assuming everybody is a Christian here this morning. You know, just because you park in the garage doesn't make you a car. But, you know, just because you're in church doesn't mean you're a Christian. And look, please don't get fooled.

[31:44] Arthur took him a long time. Didn't it, Arthur? Took you a long time, didn't it? 85 years. He prayed. He believed of sorts. But he never made that definite profession of faith.

But he trusted Christ. He was born again. He did what God's word tells you to be born again. He called on the name of the Lord. He received Christ as his Lord and Saviour. And now he has the peace of God.

And who are you? Do you identify with him? Are you to the praise of his glory? We're nearly there. But we should trust to the praise of his glory. We should trust to the praise of his glory.

We first trusted in Christ. It's all to the praise of his glory. We are nothing. And he is everything. And identify with Christ this morning.

How can I be more like him? Identify with Christ? And I like that little quote I said earlier. Our identity is for the sake of making known his identity. Identify with Jesus.

[32:44] Identify with his compassion. When you look at others. And there's some people that try me.

And sometimes I say things I shouldn't say about them. People who attack me. And lambast me. And curse me. And the Bible says what should I do for them?

Bless them. Pray for them. It's hard, isn't it? It goes against the grain. But God helping me, I'm trying to do that more so. And we should identify with Christ, shouldn't we?

Identify with his compassion. With his heart. With his forgiveness. People have wronged you. Let it go. Who are you? Another little quote I picked up was, What you see and hear takes root in the soul.

What you see and hear takes root in the soul. What's in the soul of you this morning? I trust it's the word of God. That you'll take heart in these words of truth.

[33:51] God's words. That you'll see Jesus this morning. That you'll be Jesus this morning. Our Lord and Saviour. Our precious Lord Jesus. That you will identify with Christ. Not with the world.

You are peculiar. Peculiar people. In other words, very extra special. And realise who you are. You are not of this world. You are living outside of your comfort zone.

You are, you have a new address. There's a sense where we have a new location. And you have new power. New boldness. New faith. You are courageous. You are strong.

And I love the truth of this closing verse. Well, it's the second to closing verse. It says, Here you are. Colossians 1 verse 11. Strengthened with all might.

According to his glorious power. Unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness. It says you are strong. You might think, Oh, preacher, you don't know how weak I feel.

[34:50] How hopeless it is right now. How hard it is. How gut-wrenching it is. How heartbreaking it is. The Bible tells you, You are strengthened with all might.

Wow. You are powerful people this morning. According to his glorious power. His spirit fills you. The spirit of God. The spirit that hovered over creation. The spirit of God that made the stars and the planets.

And made us. The spirit of God almighty that raised Christ from the dead. You are strengthened with all might. According to his glorious power. So you can have patience.

You can have perseverance. You can have long-suffering. And you can have joyfulness. Because God tells you you have it. And so set your affection. Set your heart on things above. Who are you? You are a chosen generation. Wow. You are a royal priesthood. You are a holy nation. You are a peculiar people. But you should show forth the praises of him.

[35:49] He's called you out of darkness. Into his marvellous light.

You've got new life. Born again. There's a date that you can say, yes, I trusted him. Maybe it's hard to put an exact date.

But you know that you have called on him to save your soul. You've got new life. You've got a new position. As it were. A new. He's relocated you from the darkness to the light.

You've got a new master. You're under his new management. And what a glorious management.

You know, I've had some testing bosses in my life. Some bosses I'd rather have not had.

But this. The master of our soul. The master. The Lord Jesus. The master Jesus. Our Lord and master. He is the perfect boss. You know. I know. I've had some job changes here and there.

And in life. Many job changes. What makes the difference when you're choosing a job? What is who the boss is? And it makes all the difference, doesn't it? And when the Lord Jesus is your master.

[36:53] It makes all the difference, doesn't it? You leave the old taskmaster. The slave master of sin. Of the devil. And you put your trust in the new master. The Lord Jesus Christ. And it's chalk and cheese.

It's darkness and light. You've got a new master. You've got a new relationship. Not only is he your father. You've got brothers and sisters. You've got the people of God to be. He wants to rub shoulders with and get together with.

As God helps you to. And you've got a new relationship with God your father. Praise the Lord. And you've got new power. Strengthened with all might. You've got new power. Power beyond human power.

Super power. God's power. The power of God. The power of God unto salvation. His gospel. His good news. His glad news. And the power of his Holy Spirit to strengthen you. To equip you.

To empower you. To give you his leading. And encouragement. And comfort. And peace. And so be encouraged this morning. Bless God.

[37:49] Let's go to prayer. Heavenly Father we thank you for your grace and care. That you do love us so. So. So much.

And Lord for the joy that we can have to know who we truly are. As God's your people. Save people. Lord. That we can know you as Lord.

As saviour. And know a new way of walking. A new way of living. Lord we pray if there's any yet to hear. To trust in you. In that. Lord that they will call on you. They'll say Lord Jesus.

Thank you for dying on the cross for my sin. Rising from the dead. Taking my pain. My penalty. My sin. My guilt. And taking it away. By faith. I trust you now. Lord.

And for each one. Who does do so. Lord. Help us to be. A strong. People. Knowing your strength. That glorious might. That. All power.

[38:43] Is given unto us. And Lord. Especially. That message we have to declare. To show it forth. To shine it forth. As lights in this darkening. World. We pray in Jesus name.

Amen. Amen.