

November 27th, 2022

# The Peculiar Presence of Christ With His People

Exodus 3:10-12

## **The vital questions**

The reason why we are going slow in these opening chapters of Exodus is because all the important questions are answered here. *What* is the main plot line? Egypt—the seed of the serpent—has enslaved and systematically murdered Israel—the seed of the woman. *Why* did God decide to rescue Israel? Because He remembered His covenant of grace. *Who* did He send to announce this rescue? The Angel of the LORD in the burning bush, who is the pre-incarnate Christ. *How* could an 80 year old man Moses possibly succeed in freeing 2.5 million slaves from the most powerful military power in the world? Because Christ told him “I will be with you.”

## **The peculiar presence of Christ**

Our passage today is absolutely foundational to the rest of the book. *Where* did Moses find his courage, his leadership, his boldness, his power, his perseverance, his success when he returned to Egypt? The peculiar presence of Christ was with Him! This is *why* the teenaged David defeated the 9.5 foot tall giant named Goliath. This is *why* Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego could defy Nebuchadnezzar in the face of the fiery furnace. This is *why* the Apostle Paul was able to endure beatings, imprisonments, and martyrdom. And this is *why* you as a Christian man, or woman, or child can face the world today with no fear. The peculiar presence of Christ is with you. Loved ones, we are in a battle that we cannot lose. Not because we are strong or wise or righteous. But because Christ’s peculiar presence is *with us*. This is *why* Moses had victory over Egypt. This is *why* we will ultimate victory over world.

## *The Big Idea...*

When Christ commissions His people, He grants His peculiar presence which guarantees our victory

- ★ Our Doctrine
- ★ Our Duty
- ★ Our Delight

### I. Our Doctrine

#### **Re-orientating ourselves**

Recall here that Moses is before the Burning Bush and the Son of God is speaking to Him. Christ had just told Moses that He had seen and heard the affliction of His people, and that now He had come down to deliver them and to bring them into the land of the Canaanites, the land flowing with milk and honey.

#### **The Great Commission of the Old Testament**

Now beginning in v.10, we see Christ give Moses his commission. Look at v.10 “Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” You could call this *The Great Commission of the Old Testament*. God is sending Moses into Egypt to stand before Pharaoh, to speak the words of the LORD, and to bring 2.5 million slaves out of Egypt into the promised land. You have to *feel* this here: Christ is commanding the impossible of Moses.

## God commands the impossible

Moses understood this. Look at v.11 “But Moses said to God, “*Who am I* that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”” ‘*Who am I God?*’ It’s rhetorical. Moses is saying ‘*I am of no account, I cannot possibly accomplish this task.*’ Consider the facts. Moses was 80 years old. A man without strength. Moses was an outlaw. He left Egypt 40 years earlier with a death sentence hanging over him. Moses had no earthly authority. He had forfeited his status as an Egyptian prince. Moses had a lowly occupation. He was a shepherd which was an abomination to the Egyptians (**Genesis 46:34**). How could Moses walk into Pharaoh’s court with this resume and achieve success? It would be a bit like God sending a 5 year old to Washington D.C. and convince Congress outlaw all abortions. The most brilliant Christian lawyers have been arguing against this for 50 years with no success. How could a five-year old succeed? Here’s the takeaway. God commands us to do impossible things.

“*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*” (**Matthew 5:43**).

‘*Disciple the nations*’ (**Matthew 28:19**).

“*Love one another: just as I have loved you*” (**John 13:34**)

“*Count others more significant than yourselves*” (*Philippians 2:3*).

“*Give thanks in all circumstances*” (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**).

Dear congregation, you need to recognize that God commands the impossible of you. If you are faced with circumstances that seem impossible, that’s a good sign. When unbelievers see God’s people accomplishing impossible things, God gets the glory because the only explanation for our success is His peculiar presence.<sup>1</sup>

## The strange proof

And that’s *precisely* how we see Christ answering Moses. Look at v.12 “He said, “But I will be with you, *and* this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent

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<sup>1</sup> cf. 1 Corinthians 14:25; Isaiah 45:14; Zechariah 8:23

you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”” Why will Moses have success over Pharaoh? Not because of Moses but because Christ will be with him. And then He offers this somewhat ‘strange proof’ that Christ is really sending him. ‘This will be the sign,’ He says, ‘I will bring you back to this very mountain to worship Me.’ It’s strange only because the sign will come after the deed is done. We’ll see the glory of this sign in **ch.19** when 2.5 million Israelites arrive at this very spot after their Exodus. For now, consider the promise in the meantime. Christ tells Moses “But *I will be with you.*”

### The different ‘presences’ of Christ

Theologians have different categories for speaking about the presence of Christ,<sup>2</sup> but all agree that Christ is present in different ways. Consider a few different ways that Christ is present.

#### 1. Christ is Omnipresent

Meaning, as the Second Person of the Trinity, God the Son just like the Father and the Holy Spirit is present in all places, in all realms, visible or invisible. He fills Heaven and Earth (**Jeremiah 23:24**). There is no where to go from His Spirit, no where to flee from His presence (**Psalm 139:7**). There is *no where* where God the Son is not.

#### 2. Christ is Incarnationally Present

This is what we celebrate at Christmas. Father sent His Son into the world and He put on flesh. “They shall call his name Immanuel (which means, *God with us*)” (**Matthew 1:23**). The Incarnational Presence of Christ—is tied to a specific location—because He has human nature. Right now the Incarnated Christ is not here, but at the right hand of God the Father (**Hebrews 1:3**).

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<sup>2</sup> Thomas Brooks, *The Works of Thomas Brooks Vol. 5*, (Carlisle, PA.,: The Banner of Truth Trust, Reprint 2001), pg. 457

### 3. Christ is Covenantally Present

For those who believe the gospel of Jesus Christ—that Christ lived, was crucified, buried and resurrected for you—then He is covenantally present. Meaning, He will *never* leave you nor forsake you (**Hebrews 13:5**). God is your God and you are His people and Christ will lose no one that the Father has given Him, but will raise them up on the last day.

### 4. Christ is Present in the Church

Christ by *His Spirit* is present *especially* in the Church, specifically in the worship services of the Church. This is the promise in both Testaments. **Exodus 20:24** “In every place where I cause my name to be remembered *I will come to you and bless you.*” **Matthew 18:20** “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” There is vast difference between this special presence and Christ’s general omnipresence.<sup>3</sup> Regarding His general omnipresence **Jeremiah 23:24** says “Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him?” In this sense, Christ is *equally present* with the wicked and the righteous. But in the worship services of the Church, Christ is *especially* present.<sup>4</sup> **Hebrews 6:4-5** tells us that as we gather together in worship, we are enlightened, we taste the heavenly gift, we share in the Holy Spirit and taste the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come. We experience these things because *Christ is present* in our worship services. Oh that we had

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<sup>3</sup> It is like the difference between common and special grace. God gives grace to all men—it’s common to all—He causes the sun to shine and rain to fall on both the wicked and righteous alike. But His special grace, His redeeming, justifying, sanctifying, glorifying grace—He reserves for His elect alone. Both types are grace, both the elect get a special portion. They get the portion of the first born, the inheritance.

<sup>4</sup> **1 Corinthians 14:23-25** "If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?"<sup>24</sup> But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all,<sup>25</sup> the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you."

faith to believe this, we would never purposely miss worship. We would make every effort, even to our great inconvenience, to come into His presence.<sup>5</sup>

### **More ‘presences’**

Now we could speak *more* of the different ‘presences’ of Christ. We could speak of His *blessed presence* in glory, **Psalm 16:11** “...in *your presence* there is fullness of joy;’ or of His *wrathful presence* in hell, **Isaiah 33:14** “...trembling has seized the godless: “Who among us can dwell with *the consuming fire?*” Suffice it to say, we must acknowledge that *Christ is present in different ways* according to the Scripture. That brings us to Christ’s peculiar presence—that empowering, enlightening, emboldening, presence of Christ that He gives those He sends on mission.

### **Our Doctrine: the peculiar presence of Christ**

*And so we arrive at our doctrine: When Christ commissions His people, He grants His peculiar presence which guarantees our victory.*<sup>6</sup> Boys and girls, in the book *the Lord of the Rings* the hobbits got lost in the Old Forest. They got sleepy and Merry and Pippin fell asleep against an old willow tree. But the tree wasn’t an ordinary tree—the tree wrapped itself around them and began squeezing them to death inside the tree. Who rescued them? The mysterious Tom Bombadil. Tom sang his magic to the tree and Merry and Pippin were released. When ever Tom accompanied on their journey, they were rescued from every danger. That’s the kind of presence that Christ promised Moses. Moses was not defeated by Pharaoh precisely because Christ was with Him peculiarly in a special uncommon wonderful way. And this is not an isolated phenomenon. Consider

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<sup>5</sup> We would lay aside our Martha-like distractions and sit like Mary at His feet and receive the good portion.

<sup>6</sup> So much help from Puritan Thomas Brooks from his sermon “The Signal Presence of God With His People In Their Greatest Troubles, Deepest Distresses, and Most Deadly Dangers.” cf. *Brooks*, pg. 456-597. He defined this peculiar presence saying: “There is a gracious, a favorable, a signal, or eminent presence of the Lord with his faithful people in their greatest troubles, deepest distresses, and most deadly dangers.” *Ibid*, pg. 460

these 5 additional proofs that when Christ commissions His people, He grants His peculiar presence and guarantees them victory.

### **Proof #1: Jacob's commission**

Please turn to **Genesis 46:2-4**. This was immediately after Jacob learned Joseph was alive, and he and all his family began their journey to Egypt. “And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.”<sup>3</sup> Then he said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, [There’s Jacob’s commission: ‘go to Egypt’] for there I will make you into a great nation. [There’s the promise of victory] v.4 **I myself will go down with you to Egypt** [There’s the LORD’S promise of His peculiar presence]. Jacob obeyed, the LORD went with him, and granted him success.

### **Proof #2: Joshua’s commission**

Please turn to **Deuteronomy 31:23**. Here we begin with the LORD commissioning Joshua to take over the leadership of Israel as Moses is about to die. “And the Lord commissioned Joshua the son of Nun and said, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the people of Israel into the land that I swore to give them. [There’s the promise of victory] **I will be with you** [There’s the LORD’S promise of His peculiar presence].”” Joshua obeyed, the LORD went with him, and in the book of Joshua we see that Israel was given the promised land.

### **Proof #3: Gideon’s commission**

Please turn to **Judges 6:14-16**. Here Gideon’s dialog with the LORD mirroring Moses’ dialog in Exodus 3. “And the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” [There’s Gideon’s commission: ‘go fight Midian’]<sup>15</sup> And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.”<sup>16</sup> And the Lord said to him, “But **I will be with you** [There’s the LORD’S promise of His peculiar presence], and you shall strike the

Midianites as one man [*There's the promise of victory*].”” Gideon obeyed, the LORD went with him, and he defeated Midian and saved Israel.

#### **Proof #4: Jeremiah’s commission**

Please turn to **Jeremiah 15:20**. Now God had already commissioned Jeremiah to go and preach His Word to apostate Judah in ch.1. But here we see the promised victory and the LORD’S peculiar presence. “And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you [*There's the promise of victory*], **for I am with you** to save you and deliver you, declares the Lord [*There's the LORD'S promise of His peculiar presence*].” Jeremiah obeyed, and though He faced great hardships the LORD was with him. He was not crushed like his disobedient countrymen.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Proof #5: Paul’s commission**

Please turn to **Acts 18:9-10**. Here the apostle is preaching in Corinth, and he just came under incredible opposition. “And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent [*There's Paul's commission: 'keep preaching'*], v.10 **for I am with you** [*There's Christ's promise of His peculiar presence*], and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people [*There's the promise of victory*].” Paul obeyed, and Christ was with Him and he brought the gospel to the entire empire.

#### **Summa Theologica**

In summary, Moses overcame his fear, was bold before Pharaoh, and overthrew Egypt because Christ was with Him. That’s **our doctrine**: *When Christ commissions His people, He grants His peculiar presence which guarantees our victory.*

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<sup>7</sup> cf. Jeremiah 24; 39:11-18

## II. Our Duty

### Elenctic Use

Our first duty is to answer an objection that may arise in our mind. Someone may say “Just because Christ’s peculiar presence guaranteed success with Moses and all these other Biblical characters, that doesn’t mean we have the same guaranteed success today. There have been many Christians who have been tortured and persecuted and saw no success, saw no victory.” How do we answer that? Well we have to rightly define what we mean by success and victory. Were Jacob, Joshua, Gideon, Jeremiah, Paul and Moses promised victory for the sake of themselves as *individuals*? No. **Ultimately**, they were promised victory *for the sake of the LORD*. The LORD told Moses in **Exodus 9:16** He had orchestrated this whole affair “...to show [His] power, so that [His] Name may be proclaimed in all the earth.”<sup>8</sup> **Penultimately**, they were promised victory for *the sake of God’s people*. In other words, the victory promised was primarily corporate not individual<sup>9</sup> Moses was promised victory *for the whole people of Israel, not himself, and he received that victory*. And Christ’s peculiar presence with His people has always guaranteed that same victory.<sup>10</sup>

### The 10th persecution

The were 10 great persecutions of the Roman Empire against the Christian Church. The 10th persecution was so full of horror that it caused the

<sup>8</sup> Paul understood that same truth. As he was in chains in Rome, he wrote to the Church in Philippians 1:20 “...I will not be at all ashamed, but...Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.” ‘It doesn’t matter what Rome does to me, Christ will be glorified whether I live or die. Christ is with me, He has guaranteed it.’ (Also see John 21:18-19) When Peter and the apostles were beaten for preaching Christ Acts 5:41 says “Then they left the presence of the council, *rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name.*” Persecution glorifies Jesus Christ because it demonstrates to the world that those who willingly suffer for the faith count Christ of greater worth than their comfort, the earthly treasure, yes even more than their own lives.

<sup>9</sup> The individual finds his greater joy in the corporate victory.

<sup>10</sup> cf. Brooks, pg. 495

other 9 to appear obscure.<sup>11</sup> This fell under the reign of Emperor Diocletian who reigned from 284 - 305 A.D. Church Historian Philip Schaff records that Diocletian issued edicts that called for “Christian churches...to be destroyed; all copies of the Bible...to be burned; all Christians...to be deprived of public office and civil rights; and...all, without exception, were to sacrifice to the gods upon the pain of death.”<sup>12</sup> Eusebius living at the time saw “...houses of prayer razed to the ground, the Holy Scriptures committed to the flames on the market places, the pastors hunted, tortured, and torn to pieces in the amphitheater.”<sup>13</sup> He recorded that that beasts were so full of Christian flesh that they refused to eat, that “the bloody swords became dull, the executioners grew weary and had to relieve each other; but the Christians sang hymns of praise and thanksgiving in honor of Almighty God, even to their [last] breath.” The Puritan Thomas Brooks writes “In Diocletian’s time...was the last and worst of the ten persecutions, *yet such was the presence of [Christ] with his people* in those times, that religion prospered and prevailed more than ever; so that Diocletian himself, observing that the more he sought to blot out the name of Christ it became the more legible; [the more he sought] to block up the way of Christ it became the more passable; and [the more] of Christ he [sought] to root out, it rooted the deeper and rose the higher.”<sup>14</sup> Diocletian retired utterly defeated. And Christianity became the official religion of the empire under Constantine in 324. Did those persecuted saints suffer defeat? No. Quite the contrary. The more of their blood that was shed, the more the gospel spread, the more the Church grew. The persecuted church has never had victory stolen from them. Christ *who*

<sup>11</sup> cf. Arthur James Mason’s comments in Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church Vol. 2: Ante-Nicene Christianity A.D. 100-325* (Peabody, MA.: Hendrickson Publishing, 4th Printing May 2011), pg. 64-65

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, pg.66

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 68

<sup>14</sup> Brooks, pg. 549

*was with them* guarantees that no one drop of blood is shed in vain.<sup>15</sup> That answers our objection, when Christ is peculiarly with His people, persecution always backfires into victory.<sup>16</sup>

## Informatory Duty

That brings us to our **second duty**, we need to *consider* what Christ's peculiar presence with us looks like. How did Christ *manifest* His peculiar presence to Moses? How do we know if Christ is peculiarly *with me*? Well every Christian has a great deal in common with Moses. Just as Christ commissioned Moses and *promised to be with him*, so Christ has done for us. Jesus said **Matthew 28:19** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”—that’s our commission, and then Christ adds the promise of His peculiar presence in the very next verse: “And behold, *I am with you always*, to the end of the age” (**Matthew 28:18-20**). So how did Christ manifest His presence with Moses that we can expect He will do with us? Consider these 5 things.

### 1. Christ's peculiar presence increases your faith<sup>17</sup>

In **Exodus 14**, Pharaoh was bearing down on Israel and had them backed up against the Red Sea. It looked like it was certain death for the Jews. They cried out to Moses, rebuking him for taking them out of Egypt. Yet Moses, because Christ's peculiar presence was with him was full of faith. He said in **v.13-14** “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup>The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.” Loved ones, your faith increasing over time is the result of that same presence of Christ.

<sup>15</sup> Even Wikipedia has yet to fact check this out of existence. “The Diocletianic Persecution (303–312), the empire's last, largest, and bloodiest official persecution of Christianity, failed to eliminate Christianity in the empire. After 324, Christianity became the empire's preferred religion under Constantine.” Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletian> Accessed November 26, 2022

<sup>16</sup> Romans 8:31 “If God is for us, who can be against us?” “The Church of Christ always flourisheth most, and increaseth most, when the tyrants of the earth oppose it most, and persecute it most.” Brooks, pg. 591

<sup>17</sup> And fearlessness, cf. Brooks, pg. 566

Why is your faith stronger now than when you first believed? Because Christ has been with you, feeding your faith with His very presence.

## **2. Christ's peculiar presence gathers allies to your side**

In Exodus 4, Moses asked God to send someone else to bring Israel out of Egypt. Though Moses was sinfully resisting Christ's call, God condescended to his weakness. v.27 says "The Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him." Christ gave Moses an ally in the fight. Dear congregation, *why* do you have brothers and sisters in the faith such that you know you could call them in the middle of the night and they would be there for you no questions asked? Because Christ's presence is with you and He is gathering Aarons and Miriams for your aid. Your relationships in Christ's body are not an accident. They are a manifest presence of Christ.

## **3. Christ's peculiar presence gives us boldness with our enemies**

When Moses left Egypt the first time, he was afraid of the king (**Exodus 2:14**). But when he returned, no matter how many times Pharaoh threatened him, he was bold and fearless. Boys and girls, Christ's peculiar presence increases your fearlessness. In Pilgrims's progress when Christian approached the Palace called Beautiful there were two lions that were right next to the path. At first he was afraid to continue, but the porter called from the lodge telling him that the lions were chained up and could not touch him as long as he stayed on the path. What a glorious picture! Because Christ peculiar presence is with you, the lions cannot harm you. Even when you pass through the valley of the shadow of death, not a hair on your head will perish. Loved ones, this will give you a greater boldness with the enemies of God. The LORD is your helper, you do not need to be afraid. What can man do to you? The most cruel tyrant is at best a chained lion.

#### 4. Christ's peculiar presence cause harm to turn to good

Every evil that Pharaoh did against Israel worked out for her good. Pharaoh kept up his cruelty through the 10 plagues and even when they finally left Egypt, He pursued them at the Red Sea. But because Christ was with them, all this evil worked out for their good. The destruction at the Red Sea was heard around the world. Rahab told the spies in **Joshua 2:9-10** “I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. <sup>10</sup> For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt.” Dear congregation, all the evil that the current Pharaohs are pouring out against God’s people will end in the same way. Whatever evil has been done against you, however you have been made a victim, even if father or mother has turned against you—*because Christ is with you*—He will turn every affliction into a blessing. That’s what a skillful apothecary does. They take poisonous and harmful ingredients and skillfully mix them together to make a medicine for the good of the patient.<sup>18</sup> Christ is the Great Apothecary—the Great Physician—and He works all those things meant for our harm to work together for our good (**Romans 8:28**).

#### 5. Christ's peculiar presence leads us in the path we should go

Because Christ was with Moses, He constantly led him in the path He should go. This was especially evident in the pillar of fire. Christ did not lead them through Philistia, **Exodus 13:17**, “...lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” Christ led them a different way, a longer way for their own good. Because Christ is with you, He has led you in paths, longer paths, uncomfortable paths even for your own good. Think of how much the path through Covid and draconian governmental regulations has blessed the church. How many of you have been led even against your will in

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<sup>18</sup> “Several poisonous ingredients put together, being tempered by the skillful apothecary, make a sovereign medicine, and work together for the good of the patient.” Brooks, pg. 498 (also pg. 483 and 568) cf. <https://www.discovermagazine.com/health/5-medicines-derived-from-poisons>

the last three years and have found greener pastures? How many of you have been enlightened more deeply in the Christian worldview because Christ has been with you leading you and not you yourselves?<sup>19</sup>

### **Summa Theologica**

So those are **our duties.** 1) Put to rest any objection in your mind that would say Christ is with us differently than Moses, He doesn't guarantee us victory like He did Moses. That's false. Even in the worse case scenario of persecution, we will gain the victory. Persecution always backfires into the growth of the Church. 2) Consider specifically *how* Christ is present with you. Why does your faith increase? Why do you have spiritual brothers that you can count on? Why are you growing bolder? Why are evil things working out for your good? Why are you being led down good paths that you wouldn't choose? Because Christ peculiar presence is with you.<sup>20</sup>

## III. Our Delight

### **We get Christ better**

Here's our delight. We don't get a better Christ than Moses had, but we get Him better. That's what we remember during advent. That Christ Jesus became Immanuel, God with us.

Moses got Christ on a blazing mountain.

We get Christ in the manger.

Moses got Christ as the Angel of the LORD.

We get Christ as the God in the flesh.

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<sup>19</sup> cf. Brooks, pg. 472ff

<sup>20</sup> Admonitory duty would be to warn ourselves if we are living in idolatry and love for the world more than love for Christ. Christ can remove His peculiar presence (albeit not His covenantal presence) if we walk in idolatry. cf. Exodus 33:3; Judges 16:20

Moses got a Christ who slew Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

We get a Christ who was slain for us

Moses got a Christ who parted the Red Sea.

We get Christ who parted the grave.

Loved ones you get Christ better. You get a Christ who has already defeated the Pharaoh of this world. You have a Christ who is ruling and reigning from Heaven at the right hand of God. That is the Christ who is peculiarly present with you even now.

### Hortatory Use

Therefore here is my charge, *know* that as you go into the world, into your workplace, into your home, wherever you go, *know* that Christ has commissioned you just like Moses. The Great Commission is to be fulfilled in whatever sphere of influence God has put you in. Every Christian is in full-time Christian ministry. Whether you are a parent, a plumber, or a politician. And Christ has promised to be with you always, even to the end of the age. So *know, trust* and *believe* that since Christ is with you, as you fulfill His Word in every sphere, you cannot fail. Yes you may have great hardship, but He will turn those poisons into medicine. *Know, trust* and *believe* that the lions are on the chain, they cannot harm a hair on your head. *Know, trust* and *believe* that because Christ is with you, there's nothing but weakness against you. All who are against you are against God Himself.

### A call to unbelievers

If you are here this morning and you do not yet belong to Jesus Christ by faith, then understand that you are on the losing side. Pharaoh and all of Egypt could not stand against a weak 80 year old man, because Christ was with him. How will you stand against Christ? It's madness to oppose Him. You cannot

succeed. But you can experience the saving presence, the covenantal presence, the peculiar presence of Jesus Christ this morning if you call on His name by faith. If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, not only will your sins be forgiven, not only will Christ dwell in your heart by faith, but you gain eternal life. That's the promise of the gospel. "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Romans 10:9