IN CHRIST.

2 Cor.5,17 Therefore if a man be in Christ,he is a new creature. Eph.the second chapter relates the condition the Ephesians were in before they were converted and after.Verse 1 You Hath He quickened,who were dead in trespasses and sin . 2 Wherein time past ye walked according to the course of this world,according to the prince of the power of the air,the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.3 Among whom we also had our conversation in time past in the lust of the flesh,fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.And were by nature the children of wrath even as others.Verse 5 Dead in sin.12 At that time ye were without Christ,being aliens from the common wealth of Israel,and strangers from the covenants of promise,having no hope,and without God in the world. NO HOPE*WITHOUT GOD-Verse 13But now IN CHRIST JESUS,YE who are were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ,14For He is our peace,who hath made both one,(both Jew and gentile) 6And hath raised us up together,and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.5 Even when we w were dead in sins,hath quickened us together with Christ.--Made us Spiritually alive--15 To make of the twain(Jew and Gentile) so making peace, Jew and Gentile both made alive in Christ,Who were at enmity before. one new man

NOW IN CHRIST.2 Cor.5,15 Therefore if a man be in Christ He is a new creature:Old things have passed away-(old life);Behold all things are become new.-Now we have become a new creature.--Eph.4,22 That ye put off the former conversation,the old man with His deeds,which is corrupt according to the former lusts,and be renewed in the spirit of yuur minds, ,and that ye put on the new man,which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

HOWDID THEY GET INTO CHRIST? Ro.6,3 Know ye not,that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ,were baptized into His death?4 therefore we we are buried with Him by baptism into death:that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father,even so we also should walk in newness of life.--Now let us read verse 17 But God be thanked,that ye were the servants of sin,but ye have obeyed fron the heart that form of doctrine(death,burial,and resurrection of Christ) which was delivered you,being then made free from sin,ye became servants of righteousness.-1 Pe.1,23 Being born again,not of corruptible seed,but of ine corruptible,by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever. Born of water and the Spirit according to Jn.3,5 Except a man be born of water and the Spirit,he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.The Spirit furnishes the word,we accept it,and obey it-Jn6,Jn.6,63 It is the Spirit that quickeneth,the words that I speak unto you,they are Spirit and they are Life; Baptized into Christ,arisen to walk a new life Jn.14 In Him is Life and His life is the light of men.2,Tim.2,10 Therefore I endure all things for the elects sake,that they may have the salvation which is in Christ Jesus.-- Col.1,14 In whom we have redemption through His blood eve even the forgiveness of sins.--Ac.4,12 Neither is there salvation in any other,for there is none other name under heaven given among men,whereby we must be saved.Eph.5,23 --Christ is the head of the church,and He is saviour of the body-the church.Verse 25 He gave Himself Fof it.--Ac.20 28 He purchased it with His owh blood.--Col.1,18 And He is the head of the body,the Church,that in all things He might have the preeminence. He is the Foundation 1 Cor,3,11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid,which is Christ Jesus. And Eph.2,20 tells us-And ye are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone.The apostles and prophets were the first members placed in the Church 1 Cor.12,28.--And Ac.2,47 tells us that the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.And we read in 1 Pe.2,5 Ye also as lively stones are built up a Spiritual house,an holy priesthood,to offer up spiritual sacrifices,acceptable to God by Jesus by=Jesus Christ.--He died for us,purchased us with His own blood,we obeyed that form of doctrine-His death burial and resurrection,made free from sin,saved,redeemed,Col.1,14 Delivered from the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of Gods dear Son.--Eph.1,3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ .

Now let us recall these facts,We are quickened,Made alive in Him,We are a new creature in Him,Salvation,redemption,forgiveness of sins,and all Spiritual blessings are in Him.

Now how we get into Him?--He says I am the door-Iam the way-Iam the the truth,and the Life.--He that entereth not by the door,the same is a thief and arobber.First we must receive Him Jn.1,11 He came to His own, and His own received Him not,but as many as received Him,gave He them pow power to becom the Sons of God.-We receive Him by believeing on Him. Jn.20,30-31 John wrote His Gospel to cause us to believe .-Ac.8,36 Philip preached Jesus unto the Eunuch,He wanted to know what hindered him to be baptized.Philip answered,If thou believest thou mayest turn to

thou maest.And they both went down into the water and he baptized him. Ac 2,37Peter convinced the Jews that they had crucified the had crucified the Son of.God,and when they heard this they were p pricked in their hearts,and cried,Men and brethren what shall we do? Peter said unto them,Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, And ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost,for the promise is unto you and your children,and to all who are afar off--.They were told to repent and be baptizwd.Why be baptized?-Mk.16,15 Just before Chrst ascended,He commanded the disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every,he that believeth,and is baptized s shall be saved,but he that believeth not shall be damned.Mt.28,19 Teach them and baptize them.--Baptism was the partial explanation of Jn.3,5 Except a man be born of Water and the Spirit,he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.Obedience to the words of the Spirit "The words that I speal unto they are Spirit and they are life"- they heard the word,and obeyed the Gospel andobeyed,as per Ro.6 17 Obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine,(the death,burial and resurrection of Christ)Being then made free from sin,they became the servants of righteousness.

Now turn with me to Ro.6,3Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized intodeath?Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism intodeath,that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father,even so we also should walk in newnwss of life.Baptised into Christ,baptized into His death,1 Cor.12,13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body(The Church)"The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.Risen with Him to walk a new life.This is the first thing we do,or have done to us in Christ.Gal.3,27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ,have put on Christ. Ac.22,16 Baptized to wash away sin.Ac,2,38 Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.1 Pe.3,21The like figure whereunto,baptism doth also now save us.

IN CHRIST, Gal.3,27 Baptized into Christ. 29 Put on Christ,If ye then be Christ's then are ye Abrahams seed and he heirs according to the Promise .Gal.4,7Wherefore thou art no more a servant,but a son;and if a son,then an heir of God through Christ.Ro.8,16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit our spirit that we are the children of God:if children then Heirs; heirs of God,joint heirs with Christ.

OUR HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE IS.Tit.1,2 In hope of eternal life which God that cannot lie,prOmised before the world began,He.6, 19 Which hope we have as an anchor to the soul,both sure and steadfast,And which entereth into that within the veil.1 Cor.15,19- For if in this life only we have hope in Christ,we are of all men most miserable.Col.1.27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the gentiles;which is C Christ in you the hope of xxx glory.

THE HOPE OF A RESURRECTION.1 Cor.15,20 But now is Christ risen from the dead,and becom the first fruits of them that slept 1 Ths.4,14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,even so also them that sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.16 For the Lord Himself shall desend from heaven with a shout,with the v voice of the Archangel,and with the trump of God,and the dead in christ shall rise first.--17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds,to meet the Lord in the air; and there shall we ever be with the Lord.

IN CHRIST,CHRIST IN YOU--BEAR FRUIT. Jn.15,1 to 7 Christ gives an impressive lesson on abiding in Him in order to bear fruit.Verse 4 Abide in me,and I in you.AS the branch cant bear fr fruit of itself,except it abide in the vine;no more can ye ,except ye abide in me.5 I am the vine,ye are the branches.He that a abideth inme,and I in him,the same bringeth forth much fruit,for without me ye can do nothing--. 8 Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit.Ro.6,17--Ye were the servants of sin,but but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you being then made free from sin ,ye became servants of righteousness.22--Ye have your fruit unto holiness,and the end everlasting life.--2 Pe.1,8 For if these things be in you and abound(fith,virtue,knowledge,temperance,patienceGodliness,charity, For if these things be in you and abound,,they make yyou that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.Gal 5,22 The fruit of the Spirit is love,joy peace, long suffering,,gentleness,goodness goodness,Godliness,If these th things be in you and abound,Let us strive to enter in at the strait gate.

J.H. LAckey.