

By J. B. McBride, Pasadena, Calif.

There is a hidden life with Christ which the average Christian knows nothing of, because they are not willing to pay the price to obtain it. If ye then risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and our life is hid with Christ in God, and when Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Col. 3:1-4. It takes the crucifixion of the "old man" with the lusts of the flesh, to be able to enter into the hidden life with Christ, and the "old man' does not want to die, he will fight to the last ditch for his existence, but when he dies, there is a glorious resurrection from the death to sin to "walk with Him in newness of life." Knowing this that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. Rom. 6:6. After we die to sin, or the "old man" is dead, then the "new man" will enter and take possession of our hearts, and will live our life for us, thus making us to be victors over every thing that opposes us in our worship, and service to Almighty God. The death route to sin, and the incoming of the blessed Holy Spirit is not stressed in these days of shallow thinking, and shallow living. Most people who belong to churches, and who profess to be followers of the lowly Nazarene, do not want to enter into the hidden life with Christ; they seem to prefer the world, and worldliness to the richer and better things of God. Carnality is a living principal, or an entity in the human breast, and he fears the crucifixion process that puts an end to his existence in the soul, and so he will try every plan to keep the Christian who has not been sanctified from taking his cross, and bearing it to Calvary and there submitting to his crucifixion as

Jesus was crucified; but there is no other plan by which we can get rid of him. The death to sin is not pleasant, but hard, but thank God the resurrection is glorious. "W hen Christ, who is our life." This is the secret of a happy victorious life, it is what I call the hidden life, for we are "Hid with Christ in God," says the Apostle. The writer is learning to take Christ for everything, for his Saviour, his guide, his sanctifier, his healer, for his victory in the ministry of the Word, for his financial needs, for his all, and in all, and my fellowship is sweeter, and by communion is more delightful, and life more satisfactory, and my fruitage in His service has increased surprisingly, and my rest in Jesus has been beyond all words to express, and as I go from victory to victory how my soul is encouraged. I am taking Jesus as my life in the minutest details of life. St. Paul expresses it so beautifully that I quote him, I am crucifie Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me, and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, yho loved me, and gave himself for me. Gal. 2.20. Oh, how sweet to let Him live our lives for us! Since I am learning the sweet walk in the hidden life more fully as the days come and go I am better fitted for service in His kingdom, and souls are more easily moved upon for Christ. Humanity is very frail, and very weak, and has much in it after all sin is removed that was made consequent by the fall, that there is an enlargement, and an advancement to be enjoyed as the years go by. If one employs the means of grace provided and walks in the light, and keeps saying yes to all the will of God the life will improve, and one will become more and more like Jesus every day. One will watch their conversation as they converse with their fellows, and after a wrong term has been used, or a wrong word has slipped in, they will after having realized it, correct that next time by using a word, or a term that is more like Jesus expressions. One will even try to improve the tone of voice so that their words will not be harsh, and

thus speak more like Jesus. It is the song of every soul who wants to please Jesus, and live the hidden life with Christ.

O for a closer walk with God,

- A calm and heavenly frame,
- A light to shine upon the road,
- That leads me to the Lamb.

If the soul will yield its all to Jesus fully in every sense of the term, and die to self, and the desires to the world, and let Christ fully possess the soul, and be careful to walk in His ways, and to listen to the faintest whisper of his voice, and keep close companionship with the Holy Spirit, it will soon find a sweetness, a life of victory, and a hidden life in devotion, in practice of the presence of Christ, that they never dreamed of. The Christ who becomes "our life" will not admit of any conversation that smacks of the world, nor any act that smacks of sin, one's life will exemplify the life of Christ, and all men shall know that he has been with Christ and learned of him. Glory to God! There are undiscovered continents of grace, and lands in Cannan, where one can find new things in the kingdom, and get a broader vision of God, and where the soul will be more fully satisfied with the leadings of the Holy Spirit, and the land of perfect love. There is a freedom from sin, and worldly care that is perfectly delightful, and a place where no world's crowd attracts you, and where the world has no allurement to you. Though you may be tried more, and the unexpected may happen more frequently, and the devil may tempt you in a thousand ways, yet you will cast your care upon Christ, and rest under the shadow of his wing, and leave it all with him, knowing that he is made unto us all we need. Hallelujah! He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty, "There no evil shall befall him, and no plague shall come nigh his dwelling." Amen. Beloved reader, "launch out into the deep," get away from the light and trashy things of life. Let Christ become your life, and then the fountain of joys will not know droughts, but will flow on forever. Then "when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye appear with him in glory."