

## ***The Big Level***

*“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond or free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28).*

For many years, at the first of every year, I was privileged to preach at the Big Level Baptist Church, located in Polk County near Mill Spring, North Carolina. I not only loved going to this church, which was only twenty miles from my house, but the dear pastor, Rev. Robert Orr, is a very close friend, and his family and the church family have special places in my heart.

Like many churches, the Big Level Baptist Church gets its name from its surrounding and setting. The church is erected on a wide level plain located in the rolling foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. With the scenic mountains above and the wonderful view of the plains below, the area was no doubt a good place to rest when traveling in the horse and wagon days. Also it would have been an excellent meeting place. I can almost hear someone say, “Meet me over at ‘The Big Level.’”

Recently, while preaching at the church, I used the above text. The more I thought about the two concepts, Big Level Church and being one in Christ, the more I wanted to apply the name to the text. You’ve heard of “The Big Bang” theory. Let me confront you with “The Big Level” principle. In the text we see that the ground is level for all who are in Christ.

*No matter what our racial status may be, the ground is level in Christ!* “There is neither Jew nor Greek.” Like the racially centered barriers in our day, much division was fostered around these two classifications. But because of “The Big Level” in Christ, not only could Jews and Greeks both find acceptance with God, they could experience acceptance with one another. Thankfully, this wonderful acceptance is available to us today.

*No matter what our social status may be, the ground is level in Christ!* “There is neither bond nor free.” Another great gap existed between slaves and slave-owners, employees and employers, or the Nobody’s working for the Somebody’s. “The Big Level” in Christ, however, destroyed this great expanse. In Christ there are no lowly Nobody’s or exalted Somebody’s. No matter where we are on the social ladder, we “are all one in Christ Jesus.”

*No matter what our personal status may be, the ground is level in Christ!* “There is neither male nor female.” We sometimes forget that there was a day in human history when women were given no praise, esteem, or appreciation. But due to “The Big Level” in Christ believing women can enjoy a common acceptance with believing men. In spiritual oneness and unity, the two can worship, pray, and praise God together. Have you come to this place of acceptance in Christ, dear friend?