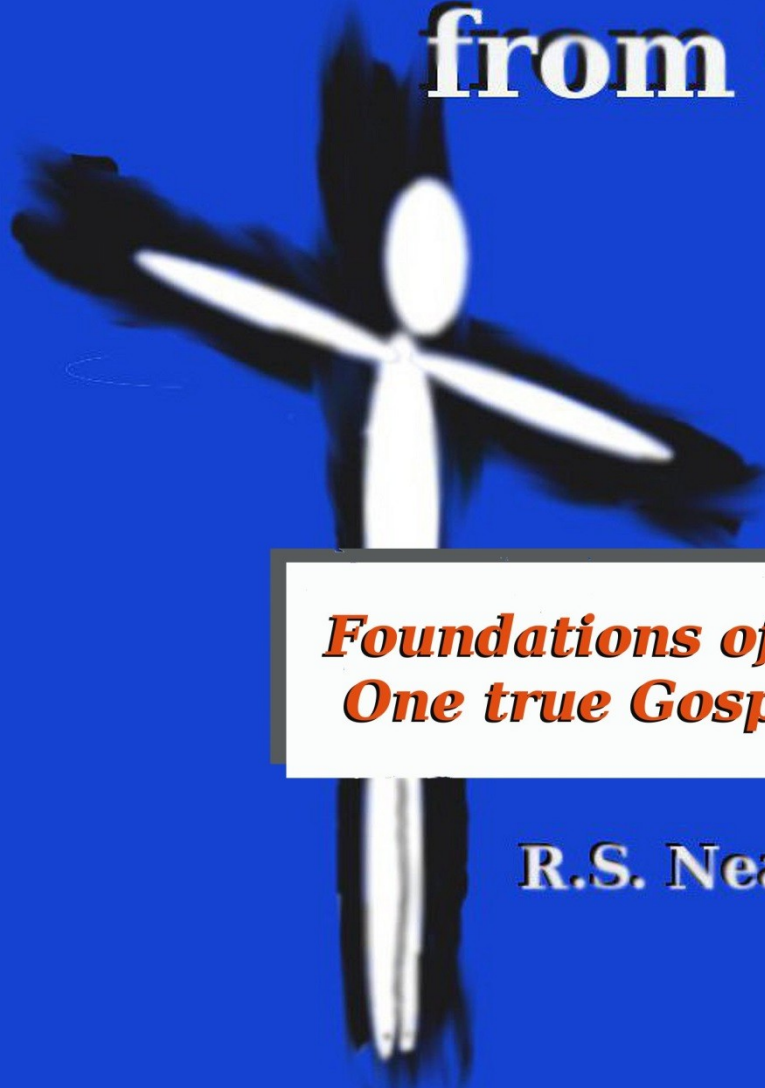


A Message from God



***Foundations of the
One true Gospel***

R.S. Neaville

**A Message from God
Foundations of the One true Gospel
By R.S. Neaville**

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Forward by the Author

The intent behind this book is help both Christians and those considering Christianity to find the truth free from any denominational spin or the traditions of men that Our Lord Jesus warned us about. The clear scriptural unvarnished truth about Christianity and its purpose and goals is what the world needs to day. This is the message from God, our creator and it is on the basis of this message that all mankind will stand in judgement before God's throne. I submit this humbly yet without apology. This book will stand or fall by scriptural facts alone. No one's opinion on the validity of this matters to me except what God himself would say. I pray the reader actually looks up all the Bible verses quoted here and reads them prayerfully in the Bible's own context. This book is not a supplement to scripture but rather an encouragement for all of us to return to scripture and read it prayerfully. The truth will set you Free as our Lord promised. Sincerely,
R.S. Neaville

Chapter One

What is Christianity?

Defining Christianity

Many think that Christianity is a religion. Nothing could be further from the truth. Christianity cannot be compared to other religions or even organizations or philosophies,. it is a different from these as as water is from sand. They may meet on the beach but never does one thing become the other. Religions are what men practice based upon what other men have instituted in the name of God or whatever tradition they follow. They are made up traditions and rituals based upon men's interpretations and ideas. Religion often masquerades as truth but never is. Men have always told others how to worship God but it was never what God desired.

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

The above scriptures show us that true worship is not instituted by men and what they observe and think, but rather from hearing from God himself and what he desires. Christianity is based upon this principle. All of men's theories, philosophies, religions etc. fall into the category of man's invention.

If you can see the difference between these two basic ideas (Man's way and God's way) then Christianity defines itself by three obvious points.

1 God Created us

2 God informs us

3. God determines our fate and therefore what worship is...

This process is not a religion or even a group of men with a common thought or goal. It is a process dependent upon God himself. Christianity in its true form is the only social apparatus that acknowledges these three points. According to the scriptures God gave us God will continue on in this manner and with his own program no matter what men do, think, or decide. Man has only two choices, get with God's program or perish. In order to do this men must first hear from God. In order to hear him you must seek him his way. Examine the following verses and how they show the clarity of the above three points.

Isaiah 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Jeremiah 26:13 Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you.

Psalms 2:4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Job 33:14 For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not.

Deuteronomy 4:29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Proverbs 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

Acts 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Are you ready now for the definition of Christianity? Christianity is the practice of seeking God. His thoughts, his way, through what he has provided. We will see as the writing progresses that Jesus the Anointed one is what God has provided for us to be reconciled to him: To hear from him and so to truly find him. If you think about it this also defines the Church. If there is truly only one way (Gods way) to worship God than there can be only one Church. It is not the mess of divided schisms and organizations founded by men but rather all of those who have submitted themselves to seek God his way. Simple huh? This makes the Church a living spiritual entity, not just a religion or organisation.

What is a Christian?

Christianity defined goes along way to defining a Christian as well. Christians are those who practice Christianity that is to say those who seek God his way , according to what he has provided. This practice is a discipline hence those who practice Christianity are called Jesus' disciples (Jesus' disciplined ones).. This practice began with repentance and receiving Jesus as their savior. This practice continues to the hope of the Gospel , the resurrection from the dead. Disciples are those who forsake the world to follow Christ. Disciples are known for their love one for another as they emulate their master (practise Christianity.) Disciples bear fruit by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in them. A disciple has the Holy Spirit dwelling in him or her through faith in Jesus and his sacrifice. The Holy Spirit is the seal of a disciple and his submission to God. Those who practice Christianity must needs be disciples.

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it

seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

What is the goal of Christianity?

The goal of Christianity is the same for both the body of believers as it is for the individual, even for the world. It is the resurrection of the dead. Christians believe that Jesus will return and raise all those who hoped in him. This is the goal of our faith

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

The end of our faith is its goal. Salvation is the resurrection from the dead.

John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me

.John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live

Romans 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.¹¹ If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

What is Christianity centered on ?

The center or basis of Christianity is the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. By identifying with his life as a man we see that God has a plan for mankind the remains unchanged. In Jesus' death we see the sacrifice that saves us. We then identify with him in his death and reckon ourselves dead with him to sin and corruption and all the things of this world . In His resurrection we see the hope God sent us in his son Jesus. This hope is the promise of eternity for all those who have escaped the corruption of this world through Jesus' sacrifice. This hope is the resurrection; Eternal life. Through his life, death and resurrection Jesus demonstrated the true path, the transformation, the change from this temporary form of Adam to the eternal form of God's true children. It is the path we all follow as his disciples if we are to overcome. Creation is not truly finished until this goal is accomplished. The Children of God are the fulfillment of Creation.

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? :4 Therefore 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.

Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

Romans 9:8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

What is a Christian's sources of information?

There are only three. The word of God (the bible) written by men sent from God as inspired by the Holy Spirit, The holy Spirit that confirms the word and indwells believers to lead and guide and teach us, and the nature of creation as it testifies in myriad ways to its creator. This includes God's distribution system, men sent from God (apostle, prophets, teachers,etc.) For these only speak by the power of the Holy Spirit and they adhere to the written word of God , the 66 books of inspired scripture. When they speak it is not their voice we hear but God's.

1. Scripture

2 Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2. Holy Spirit

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide.

3 Nature/Creation

Proverbs 8:1 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? 2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. 3 She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.4 Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of

man.5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. 6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

1 Corinthians 11:14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?:15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

Nature or Creation is a witness. She is the womb God is forming us in. We are meant to be the finished product of creation as the Children of God revealed from her womb through the resurrection of the dead.

On men sent from God.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

1 Peter 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Matthew 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

How do Christians practice Christianity.?

Only through submission to God the father through the sacrifice of Christ.It is a daily act and continuing process of faith and actions working together. The goal of this practice is salvation.

Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield

yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God..

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

What do Christians do?

We study the scriptures,(the Bible) and submit to its authority. We submit ourselves daily to God in prayer and supplication. We meet together regularly and share all in common where the Gospel is concerned. We emulate Jesus' life in every way, Helping, healing , preaching, encouraging, and witnessing the truth of the eternal Gospel to a lost world. The Gospel is the message we share.

Conclusion

Now this is not meant to be a comprehensive or complete picture of all Christianity is, merely an introduction. I believe that both Christians and those considering Christianity alike will appreciate its clarity. It is simply a basic idea of what it is you gotten yourself into. It is also a good foundation for what comes next in this Christian life..

Chapter Two

The nature of man

A Living Soul

A large part of understanding our salvation in Christ Jesus starts with the understanding of who we are and our place in God's creation. Before we discuss our place though we must understand our nature. In the book of Genesis we have a starting place in that first understanding.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Here we see the basic truth of our being. God created our bodies from the dust of the earth. This is the physical part. Next he breathed in to us the breath of life. This is the spiritual part. Thus man became a living soul. The soul therefore is the union of body and spirit together as one. In Adam was united both realms of the physical and spiritual. If you do not understand this from the beginning of your Christian foundations you will never properly understand salvation and God's plan for mankind. It is a sad fact that most who call themselves Christian do not understand this basic truth. Like marriage illustrates the soul of man is a living union.

Flesh and spirit

This understanding of what a soul is central to every building block in scripture. This is applied in the spirit of “line upon line and precept upon precept”.

Isaiah 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line

upon line; here a little, and there a little:

This demonstrates this rudiment's place in the foundation of Christianity. You build a house starting with the foundation. If the foundation is laid out of square the whole edifice will be out of square. The union of the soul shows us the pattern that God has followed in his creation. This pattern was meant to be discerned and used to understand the whole of God's communication with us. The things that are seen come first to teach us about the things that are not seen. The body comes first to demonstrate truths about the spirit. This is true of all things in physical creation. The physical things come first to teach of spiritual things.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

1 Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.⁴⁵ And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. This is the pattern of God in creation. First the Physical man and then the Spiritual man. The soul is a microcosm of this principle. First the body and then the spirit. The very order in which the first soul was created tells us a lot about the overall scheme of Adam and Jesus.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Notice in this pattern the spirit is primal. Everything that is seen is created from that which is unseen. This means the things of the spirit existed first. The body was created as a vessel to hold God's breath so to speak. The Body comes first in physical creation as a vessel or helper to the spirit but truly the spirit is counted as first. Everything that is seen was created from that which is not seen.

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Adam and Eve

In the first man and woman we see this pattern clarified in both these two points.

1. The body is a helper to the Spirit

2. The Spirit has headship

Adam pictures the Spirit. He was God's focus in creation. Eve was created afterward to be a helper. She is a picture of the flesh. The order from scripture is plain:

Genesis 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

Just as man and woman come together to make a marriage in order to produce fruit (children) so the body must submit to spirit in proper union order to produce anything in creation. Just as the woman bears the children so all of the spirit's acts are done through the body. A soul is a living union of two like a marriage is a living union of two. This pattern is expressed all the way to and through the union of Heaven and Earth. Heaven is the spiritual and Earth is the physical. Earth is submitted to heaven's will. The two must become one. Everything done in Heaven is manifested in the Earth. It is true now of the church, the Body of Christ. All of Jesus' acts are done through his body. The weaker vessel serves the greater as a helper, just as your body parts serve your spirit.

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

The nature of a servant

Just as Eve was meant to serve her husband, so body is meant to serve spirit just as we are meant to serve Christ. Our nature is therefore that of a servant. Our body was created to be in submission to the spirit. We see however the natural order corrupted when we walk by our bodies desires instead of the Spirit. As we will see Adam found out with Eve. That however comes later in another class. We will see however that when Jesus came into this world as a man he came as a servant. This is the true intended nature of men. It is demonstrated in the order of body and spirit in the soul.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Three in One

The Soul then is the union of body and spirit together as one. It in itself is therefore a third thing. This union is a living covenant. The body and spirit walk together in this covenant. Whether it be in sin or in righteousness a soul is in an agreement, like a marriage. This fact will be detailed fully in the next class

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Chapter Three

The nature of sin

What is Sin?

Many Christians think of sin as an act; a transgression of the law of Moses. While this is true of individual acts we must understand that sin at its core is a nature. Sin is a nature of corruption.

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

We learn from scripture that the only man of a righteous nature is the one Adam could not produce. Jesus had God as his father. No one born of Adam could ever please God. The law with its commandments and ordinances identify us all as sinners. The only man to ever fulfill the Law was Jesus. The law was not meant for righteous people but sinners.

1 Timothy 1:9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

This law identifies us all who born of Adam as sinners by our acts or transgressions. This is how the law works. Remember we are carnal by this corrupt nature passed on to us by Adam our father after the flesh. The fact that we die at all is proof of our nature and the truth of this law. Death is a consequence of sin. We are therefore also blind to spiritual things. We could not see this invisible nature of sin but we could see it through our acts. The Law labels our acts as transgressions and then adds the penalty of death to them. This shows us our nature through what the nature does: Sinful acts! In others words sinners sin! It also shows us sin ends in death. So you see sin is a nature of corruption. Sin will kill you even without the Law. It is the inevitable end of the nature. The law shows you what is killing you and why by demonstration. The Law reveals the chains of corruption we are bound with as slaves. It shows us a need to be saved. It shows us the need for a savior. More on this point later.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses,

even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet 8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Where sin started

Remember earlier we talked about how every thing began in the spiritual and was manifested to the physical. Everything starts in heaven and is revealed on earth. This reflects that sin starts in your heart (the spirit) and is revealed in what you do (transgressions).

Sin also started in Heaven. It did not start with Adam and Eve who were in the physical, not it was only manifested to them from Satan. Sin started in heaven in Lucifer's heart.

Ezekiel 28:13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Adam and Eve again

As we previously discussed, Adam and Eve represent together the union of the soul. Adam pictures the spirit: he has headship and is first. Eve pictures the body: she is the weaker vessel, made to be a helper and also made to be in submission to her husband. When we see how sin (the serpent Satan) entered into this union through Eve by inflaming her desires we learn how sin works upon the soul. The serpent did not go to Adam for Adam would have laughed in his face. In the same way Satan does not come to our spirit. He has nothing to offer it. Satan goes through the flesh. We are intimate with our bodies and want to please them. We do not care to please the serpent. In the same way Adam wanted to please his wife. Satan went through Eve to get to Adam.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the

garden:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

In Eve we see Satan the serpent focusing her desires on the fruit of the tree: "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food" (lust of the Flesh) "that it was pleasant to the eyes" (lust of the eyes) "a tree to be desired to make one wise" (the pride of life). All the three components of sin are present.

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Adam then received the fruit from his wife. He wanted to please his wife more than God. He was not intimate with the serpent and he was not intimate enough with God. He was dragged into sin through his wife's desires, through his own desire to please her. This is what happens in our soul. Man is dragged away to serve sin by his desires to please his body, his flesh.

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Satan still works in the same way. He works by enticing us through our flesh. Our spirits become drawn away looking to please our bodies. Our spirits become slaves to our flesh through its desires.

Corruption

Sin is therefore a nature of corruption. The nature of Adam and Eve's union was corrupted in Adam becoming a slave to his wife through her desires. The proper order was supposed to be Eve in submission to Adam and Adam in submission to God. Now the union is corrupted with Adam cut off from God and in slavery to his wife through her desires. It is an aberration of the marriage. In other words sin. This is what has happened in all of us born of Adam. In this subtle change of the nature of our soul we are all born in bondage to corruption.

Let us look a little deeper. Think of Adam as a piece of fruit being nourished in a tree. God is the tree. As long as the fruit remains in the tree it is renewed daily. When however the fruit falls from the tree it is no longer renewed. Corruption sets in and it rots. Adam was cut off from God when he disobeyed. Corruption set in and ended in death. The union could not be sustained by what Adam had become a slave to: Eve-his own flesh. This is what is going on in all of the children of Adam. It is a corrupt nature that the flesh and its desires cannot sustain. Our spirits are cut off from God and in bondage to our bodies through its desires. It is a corrupt order and nature. It will end in death.

The two trees

As you may have noticed there is a good dose of the pattern of God expressed through Adam and Eve. At this point I would be remiss in skipping over the meaning of the two trees at the heart of the matter in the midst of the Garden. To look at this figure in an orderly way so as to understand we must take it a step at a time. First we must establish from scripture that there were two trees in the midst of the garden.

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Next we must establish that all Adam and Eve saw was one of these trees. The tree of life was invisible to them.

Genesis 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God only makes mention of the tree of knowledge of good and evil to Adam. Is this because Adam was allowed to eat of the tree of life? Or was it because the tree of knowledge was the only one visible to Adam in the “midst of the garden”? The answer is simple. When Eve had her discussion with the serpent she only mentioned one tree, she didn't even call it by name so as to be specific. Why is this? Because she like Adam could see only one tree, the tree of knowledge.

Genesis 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

She did not refer to it as the “tree of knowledge”, so as not confuse it with the tree of life. All she saw was one tree in the midst of the garden. Remember Adam and Eve's eyes were closed at this point on the subject of good and evil. One of the serpent's lures was that their eyes would be opened to the knowledge of good and evil if they ate of that tree.

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

It was only later that God dealt with the problem of man partaking of the tree of life. Why? Because now he could see it.

Genesis 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

The key to understanding the two trees is the fact that through it Adam and Eve's eyes were open and suddenly they realized for the first time in their lives that they were naked and made

coverings for themselves. For the first time they experienced guilt and shame. It is no coincidence that the law of Moses has this exact same effect on people. When we are unaware of our sinful nature we think of all the things we do as justified because of our desires. We are not aware of our main problem. But when we are exposed to the law which informs us as to what sin is we suddenly react as the first man and woman did. We feel guilt and shame over what we have done and then many of us try to cover ourselves so that we at least appear as righteous. We justify ourselves. This is the sinful nature's response to the knowledge of sin. In the light of the law we may blame others, wear a plastic smile to hide behind, choose to live in the dark all to avoid being exposed as sinners.

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Genesis 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

Genesis 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. Genesis 3:13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Do you begin to see? The tree of knowledge of good and evil is a picture of the Law of Moses for it is only by that Law that we have the knowledge of sin. Where there is no law sin is not seen. Your eyes remain closed to the truth about your nature.

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Romans 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

Romans 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

The tree of life is Christ on the cross but we shall save this understanding and its explanation later. But do you begin to see? The law was given to show us we were sinners and therefore in need of a savior. As long as we were blind to the truth we would still die, but we would do so in ignorance. We would accept death as natural. Death is not natural. It is the consequence of sin. This is why the law of Moses came to be known as the "law of sin and death".

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Romans 2:12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans Chapter 7

The Apostle Paul uses the text of Genesis chapter three to explain to us what it is like to be a man under the condemnation of the law. He quotes it thought for thought. Follow along with the below comparison.

First Paul tells us that the knowledge of sin is the law.

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Paul uses the sin of coveting as the example of sin as this is the base of most sin, coveting what we lust after. Think of all the sins Adam and Eve could commit. They only had one commandment and that concerned coveting something they were warned to leave alone. This was the only sin they had need be concerned with. There was no one else to murder, or steal from, or commit adultery with, and they had only one command. What did Eve do? She coveted the fruit of the tree. Having this one commandment Satan the serpent saw it as an opportunity to deceive her.

Romans 7:8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.⁹ For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.¹⁰ And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

Adam and Eve were fine as far as they knew without the Knowledge of sin but Satan (sin) took occasion by the commandment to deceive them and so bring them to death. The commandment was meant to keep them alive by its warning but they found instead it brought them death.

Romans 7:11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

Do you understand now what Paul is saying? The Law is pictured in that tree. The fruit of that tree is death to us as the knowledge of the law cannot save us. It can only condemn us. Its value is in showing us we have a nature of sin. It opens our eyes to the truth that we cannot sustain ourselves, that we are sinners by nature. It opens our eyes to see the tree of life, it shows us we

need a savior. Next we will examine the “law of sin and death” in more detail and demonstrate how all this comes together for our good.

Chapter Four

The Mosaic Law

The Law of Moses

The subject of the Mosaic law is a vast one. Our purpose here is twofold so the scope of the subject will be limited to a brief overview where these two points are concerned. Do not think for a minute that this study in any way is exhaustive. These two points are the basics of what every Christian should know where the law is concerned.

- 1. The Mosaic law was given as a tutor because of sin.**
- 2. The Mosaic law is pure prophecy.**

10 Commandments

The 10 commandments as given in scripture are as follows:

- 1.Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- 2.Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- 3.Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
- 4.Exodus 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 5.Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- 6.Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.
- 7.Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 8.Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.
- 9.Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
- 10.Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

There were also 613 ordinances that concerned various ceremonial washings, determinations of what was considered clean and unclean as well as other meaningful practices etc. that were to rule the daily lives of the Israelites. All of these were practiced literally but also were rich in symbolism. In applying the Law and the setting up of the sacrifices, offerings and even the tabernacle. All these things were full of meaning. In fact Moses was warned to follow the pattern in all these things so that the pattern of God and its meanings would be preserved. All of these have great meaning for us in the new covenant.

Hebrews 8:5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.⁶ But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Hebrews 9:8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:⁹ Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; ¹⁰ Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Ephesians 3:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,⁴ Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)⁵ Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

This what Christians today, especially gentile believers, need to understand about the law. The law with its commandments and ordinances through the filter of Christ's death is pure revelation of a spiritual nature and rich in meaning. There has been a spiritual reformation through the death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. He fulfilled the law. If you could fulfill it Jesus would not of had to die! We do not try to fullfill it ourselves. We walk in faith in the fact that Christ has fulfilled it on our behalf. The letter of the Law was for physical people under it. We walk by the Spirit of the law as those spiritually alive through faith.

2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Romans 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

Romans 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Colossians 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

The letter of the law acts as a tutor to lead you to the truth that you are a sinner by nature and in need of a savior. Now that the savior has come and you have received him as savior and Lord, You are no longer in need of a tutor. Now you have the Holy Ghost in you as a Christian. The letter of the law is about your flesh. The spirit of the law is about your heart. The letter of the law was literal and structure.. The spirit of the law is meaning. The purpose of structure is to hold meaning, just like the body is meant to hold spirit. We will deal in depth concerning structure and meaning in the next course.

Galatians 4:1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1 John 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

To try to fulfill the Law of Moses by literal observance of its commandments and ordinances is to say that you can do it apart from Christ. It is to say that Christ has not fulfilled all righteousness. It is to walk by your own interpretation of how the law is fulfilled as the Jews tried to. Ask yourself, if the Spirit is given you to lead you and guide you should you depend on yourself and your own effort? Or should you rather submit yourself to God. We walk by the Spirit in faith, not by the carnal mind of the flesh that could never properly interpret the law much less fulfill it.

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? 2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Those under the law still need a tutor. We who are children and no longer slaves walk by the new nature in us: The Holy Ghost!

1 Timothy 1:9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

We do not walk by a set of rules that govern our behavior. Our behavior is governed by the nature of Christ in us. In fact according to scripture those under the law cannot please God. Their nature as we have previously established is contrary to God. We please God now through faith in the sacrifice of the one man who has pleased God. Jesus his son. Remember Jesus did not have Adam as his father, rather God is his father. The Spirit of Christ in us makes us his children through faith in him. That is the nature we of faith walk by. Not a set rules, but rather a pure nature.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

We through Christ are no longer children of Adam and slaves under the curse of the Law, but rather children who share in the divine nature of Jesus.

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

The Law as prophecy

Now that we understand the law as a tutor or teacher we can look at it from another angle. The Law of Moses by giving us a standard of righteousness we could never hope to achieve ourselves becomes a prophecy of a perfect man. Let us look at the facts. No one besides Jesus ever fulfilled the righteous requirements of the Law.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Now at this juncture you might be questioning the truth of this. You may be thinking of Abraham and Jacob and others the scripture calls righteous. What you need to understand is that not one of these men were righteous of themselves rather they had righteousness imputed to them because of faith in God. Their faith was in God to justify them. In this way these old testament saints greeted the promise of Christ from afar because he is the single justification of all men.

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Romans 4:6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,⁷ Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Galatians 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Galatians 3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

These old testament saints were not righteous of themselves but were imputed righteousness through faith in the sacrifices and the promise that God would justify sinners. In this way they greeted Christ from afar for he is the sacrifice pictured in the law and the justification of all men; first to the Jew and then to the Gentile.

Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Romans 3:30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

The law describes a righteous man

Think of the law of Moses as a full description of a man who could please God. No one fit this description who had Adam as his father as we have said before all who had Adam as their father were born into sin.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Jesus However had God as his father. In him was no sin nature. He was considered to be the perfect sacrifice therefore, like a lamb without blemish. Innocent and without the stain of sin.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

But in order to be declared as the lamb of God he had to live as a man who pleased God. He had to fulfill the law of righteousness. It is only in the law's fulfillment that he can be judged worthy to be its sacrifice.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Now put it together. First off God gave us a law we could not keep. This law identified all men born of Adam as being by nature corrupt. Second this law described a man who could please God as well as pointing to a sacrifice to justify those who could not please him. Jesus fulfilled God's own standard of righteousness and then laid down his life as a sacrifice for us. It becomes clear that the Law of Moses is a prophecy of Christ.

Our next chapter is about how we react to this knowledge. Do you see your need of a savior.

Chapter 5

Needing a savior

Now that we better understand the purpose of the “Law of Moses” and its place in our Christian foundations we can begin to see how it affects us. The Law informs us as to our corrupt nature through the things we do. By labeling our sinful acts as transgressions and adding the penalty of death to those acts the Law shows us that we will die as a result of this nature of corruption that we all inherited from our father Adam. This Law is God's standard of righteousness for all men, not just Hebrews. Just as Judaism went through a reformation to become Christianity which includes also the gentiles (all men) so also this law went through the same reformation and is used to convict all men of sin and their need for a savior. No man but Jesus ever fulfilled the righteous requirements of the law.

Hebrews 9:9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

The Law however was not only condemnation for the unrighteous but it also provides for a sacrifice to cleanse those who are found to be under the law's condemnation. In other words it promises a justification for all those that are judged unrighteous. This law worked in figure through the commandments, ordinances and sacrifices. The reality is all about the spiritual.

1 Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Hebrews 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.³ But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.⁵ Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:⁶ In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.⁷ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.⁸ Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;⁹ Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.¹⁰ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

By now you should begin to see that the Law and its teachings are necessary to learn in order to even begin to understand Christianity. You cannot repent of sin and acknowledge yourself as a sinner without it for the Law is the knowledge of sin. No other law or propriety has God given whereby a man can find the truth about his nature and God's righteous standard. Where once upon a time this law was given to the Israelites alone, now through the filter of Christ's death and resurrection it is given to all men. The Holy Spirit now uses the law of Moses to convict the whole world of sin.

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Need and Answer to Need

As we now understand that the law prophesies a perfect man , a man who could please God, we see it also identifies this man as the perfect sacrifice for sin. Think for a moment all this law has done for us:

- 1.It identifies our problem (sin)**
- 2.It shows us our true nature (sinners)It shows us God's righteous standard (a perfect man)**
- 3.It promises justification for all the unrighteous through a sacrifice that God would provide (a lamb without blemish)**
- 4.It identifies Jesus as the perfect man and the sacrifice for sin. (The lamb of God).**

Basically the Law demonstrates our need of a savior and prophesies his coming: God's answer to our need. This is truly the first revelation we all receive as newborn children: "Need and answer to need". As newborns we cry because we are too helpless to fend for ourselves. We suffer need. We need to be fed. We need to be held. We need to be changed. Soon we find that Mom and Dad are the answer to our need. They supply what we need as well as instruct us. It is no different in being born again. We find we are helpless. We find we need to be saved. Jesus is revealed as the answer to that need. He is revealed to us by the Spirit through the law of Moses. We all cry out when the need is great. It always starts out practical and physical. We need food, comfort, peace, urgent help etc. When we click to the fact that God has provided Jesus for our needs we begin to see that the needs are more than physical. We learn through walking with Christ our provision that he is also our eternal answer. Follow this teaching of Jesus as revealed in Matthew chapter 6:

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto

From the above teaching of Christ Jesus we learn about God's promise of physical provision is we seek his kingdom first. It focuses on what we eat, drink, and wear. But what can we glean of the spiritual and eternal from this teaching? What is God's true eternal provision for man? It is Christ Jesus himself. He is what we truly eat, drink, and wear. We eat of his body, we drink of his blood and we wear his righteousness.

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 6:48 I am that bread of life.⁴⁹ Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.⁵⁰ This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

John 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.⁵⁴ Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

1 Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

You begin to see from the truth from the scriptures? Jesus is what God has provided us to eat drink and wear. We eat of the Word (his flesh) we drink of the Spirit (his blood) and we wear his righteousness (His resurrection). He is the eternal provision of what the physical provision could only picture. The Hebrews ate of manna in the wilderness; in other words bread from heaven. That was only the picture however of the true bread from heaven. The physical is meant to teach us about the spiritual. The temporary teaches of the eternal. All of our journey's with God may start out physical but in the process is turns spiritual.

Humble Submission

The only requirement for this provision was to seek first God's kingdom. As we have already previously established a Christian is defined as one who does that very thing. Now we have the added truth of our helplessness to save ourselves and our need of what God has provided to save us. Quoting from the first Chapter in this book :

Christianity defined goes along way to defining a Christian as well. Christians are those who practice Christianity that is to say those who seek God his way , according to what he has provided. This practice is a discipline hence those who practice Christianity are called Jesus' disciples (Jesus' disciplined ones).. This practice began with repentance and receiving Jesus as their savior."The point is all we can do is gratefully receive what God has provided to save us and acknowledge our helplessness and the Gift of Jesus. We offer ourselves as those bought with the price of his blood. He takes over and lives his life of holiness through our submitted members. It is supernatural.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Galatians 2:20 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.

Now that we understand that Jesus is what God provided in answer to our need, let us learn exactly from the scriptures who Jesus is!

Chapter Six

Jesus the righteous

Now that we understand our need for a savior it is time to learn who he is. We do not have to settle for the usual obscured picture of Jesus we get from so many religious sources these days. Jesus all too many times is reduced to no more than a logo or a cultural abstract of an idea. He is portrayed as just a good man, or just another prophet, or worse as a myth. A different picture emerges if we follow the scriptures. The Jesus in our public consciousness is not the Jesus of scripture. The word of God is clear and concise. The focus of this class is simple. It is not our purpose here to discuss this subject in an exhaustive way but to rather zero in on two important facts: Jesus was a righteous man with God as his father and Jesus was by very nature God. After

this class I can guarantee that you will still have questions and may not understand fully but you will know for a fact that the bible upholds these two facts.

2 Corinthians 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

Man and God

The first point we should start with is Jesus is both man and God. In Jesus we see both natures joined in a way that boggles the mind. It is mind boggling because it goes into the spiritual realm beyond the carnal thinking of those born of Adam. It is not a carnal concept that can be understood with merely physical education. It is a revelation given only to those who share in the Holy spirit through the sacrifice of Christ. Like many things in the Word of God understanding starts with the physical but must turn spiritual in the process. The bible does give us the simple facts but the understanding of these only comes from a communion with God over time and prayerful study. Remember as we said before in previous classes; The physical things teach us of the spiritual. In fact, the spiritual understandings of scripture are predicated upon the physical understandings.

John 3:12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

This explains why men are so conflicted over scripture and many of it's themes. The nature of Christ is one of the most controversial of these. Men apply carnal reasoning and that leads them to many places but the truth is never one of those places. We must accept the facts of scripture no matter our understanding of them before we can receive clarity of revelation spiritually. Warning! If you have any doubts about the relevance or authority of scripture the following will not mean anything to you. You must believe the Bible is inspired of God in order to gain revelation from it's contents. This takes time, patience and prayer. Here however let us look at the facts as scripture presents them. We will start with the deity of Christ.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Jesus as God

Facts:

Jesus was in the beginning of creation with God and is declared as the Word to be God and creator.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² The same was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Jesus as God was planted in a virgin's (Mary) womb.

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Jesus is declared throughout scripture to be by very nature God and creator.

Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;³ Who being the brightness of his glory, and

the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

Here is where a person must submit themselves to the truth of the scriptures if in fact they do accept the scriptures as true and inspired of God. The scriptures are plain. Jesus is deity. There is no way around the simple truth.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Jesus as a Man

In understanding that Christ in his origin is God now we turn to him as a man. The first thing we must learn in this respect is that Jesus was the first man not to have Adam as his father. God was his father. He was the man Adam could not produce. No man born of Adam could ever be our sacrifice or savior because he would have been born of a corrupt nature. No one born of Adam could ever fulfill the law or please God.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Jesus in having God as his father was not born of the corruption of Adam. This is why it is important that Mary was a virgin. This is also how Jesus became known as the son of God. He was born of God as a man and the way he lived his life as a man who pleased God proved it. He was declared to be without sin.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Not only did the law testify to his sinless state as we have learned, but even demons acknowledged he was the son of God.

Matthew 8:29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

Mark 3:11 And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

As we have talked about previously Jesus fulfilled the Law. As Jesus himself taught, this was part of his mission.

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

It was not God that had to fulfill the law but a man. The Law was meant for men. It was important that Jesus become a man in order to do this.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

In this we see how the Law of Moses was not only a standard of righteousness but also the prophecy of Christ himself because he was tempted as we all are yet was shown to be without sin. He proved to be the Law's fulfillment and the Son of God.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

This is where we see certain titles also ascribed to Jesus like “The firstborn of all creation” And the “express image of God”

Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

Jesus was the first Man born of God in all creation. He in his faithfulness, obedience and acts was a perfect mirror of his father God. It was Jesus himself who said:

John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

John 14:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

It is important to note here that Jesus though God as well as man never once used his power as God but yet lived as a man would have too. He lived and walked in dependence on his father. Every miracle Jesus performed he did as a man who trusted God in faith. Jesus always glorified his Father and not himself. Look for example at the tests the Devil put him through in the wilderness:

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

You see Jesus did not act in his role as God in these temptings but rather answered Satan as a man who depended on God. Jesus always humbled himself as a man. There were instances in which he acknowledged his deity but his demeanor was always that of a man who trusted God. Even when some one gave him an honorary he declined it in favor of his father.

Matthew 19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

You see Jesus answered as a man should. He acknowledged God and humbled himself. He did not answer from his deity. You may remember he also was baptized of John. This was a baptism of repentance even though Jesus had no sin to repent of. He humbled himself to identify with us in all ways...even in our sin that later we might identify with him in his righteousness. He came to us as one of us. One born under law.

Matthew 3:13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

The conclusion is inescapable: Jesus is both man and God. Now we will revisit this subject where revelation is concerned in a future class, however, what is important here are the scriptural facts. To deny the deity of Christ is to deny the truth of scripture and everything that the Christian faith entails. You may not fully understand everything concerning the nature of Christ but least now you know the facts. From here we can now discuss Jesus as our sacrifice.

Chapter 7

Jesus the sacrifice

In order to understand Jesus as the sacrifice for sin we must first understand the biblical principle of the sacrifice. Now I imagine we all understand the meaning generally of a sacrifice but what of the Biblical context? In scripture we can glean two main understandings where a sacrifice is concerned:

1.To acknowledge God as the creator and provider of all things.

2.To cover sin.

Let us talk first about acknowledging God. A sacrifice to God could be an animal, or a portion of our crops, or something else that represented our dependance on God's provision and his authority over our lives. Sacrifice is very much a part of worship and always has been for those who follow God. To day our sacrifices may take a different form but the principle of sacrifice is still central to our worship. This principle has much to teach us and is rich in meaning. You can see meaning in the patriarchal system of the ancients reflect this principle. The father of the family was first and in authority as well as provider for the family. He generally was always fed first and his needs were primary. Only after he was taken care of would the rest of the family enjoy the bounty he had provided. His was the first and best of the increase. In this the family showed love and respect. So it is with God and us. God is and must be first in all things. He is our creator and provider and ultimately our father.

Exodus 20:24 An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee.

Secondly a sacrifice is meant to cover sin. Only the shedding blood could bring justification. It is a principle of imputed righteousness and guilt of sin. Innocent animals were sacrificed and their blood used to cover the fact we were sinners who were naked and devoid of righteousness. These animals were innocent and that was imputed to us as our guilt was imputed to them as they died as sin offerings. The fact that the sacrifice also acknowledges that all we have comes from God's provision and so our sacrificing these animals acknowledges that God will provide our justification. Blood is shed because the life is in the blood. This represents the spirit that is in us. Our blood is our life force physically and hidden in side us even as the Spirit is our true life force and hidden in our flesh. The spirit of Christ is our new life force in regeneration and so represented in the blood shed. This is why the first and best of our increase was required. This speaks volumes of our understanding that what we have is from God who held nothing back from us up to and including his only son. We acknowledge this truth with the first and best of our increase in his provision. It is supposed to show we understand and declare our love and faith him.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

You can see how all these sacrifices of blood spoke of Jesus, a sacrifice God would provide for our justification. His innocence imputed to us and our guilt imputed to him. This is what it means that he became sin for us. The blood of animals was only the picture but Jesus is the true sacrifice for us all.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

The first sacrifice was performed for Adam and Eve. God set the example that they needed covering. Not the fig leaves that they chose (their idea of righteousness) but rather the blood of animals shed that they might wear their coats of skin to cover their nakedness.

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

God is our provider. He provides not only our needs but also our justification. Cain and Abel is the next biblical example of the sacrifice. Abel was a shepherd and Cain was a tiller of the ground, a farmer. Cain was jealous of his brother Abel because God accepted his sacrifice but not Cain's. Cain reasoned that if Abel was accepted and valued by God for what he did for a living than surely God would accept Cain's offering of his fruit of the ground. Cain's reasoning was flawed through his pride. It had nothing to do with the fact that Abel was a shepherd that Abel offered a lamb, the first and best of his flock. Abel understood that only innocent blood could cover sin. Cain tried to please God his own way, it was self justification just like the fig leaves of Adam and Eve. He should of bartered with Abel for a lamb but instead insisted on being accepted on his own terms. His sacrifice was rejected.

Genesis 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. Genesis 4:4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: Genesis 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. Genesis 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. Genesis 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

In this Cain pictures the natural man and Abel pictures Christ. The carnal man rejected and the spiritual accepted. The Spiritual or innocent one meets his death at the hands of a sinner. Do you see the picture of the sacrifice here? Jesus was also slain by sinners:

Luke 24:7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Hebrews 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

This book is not meant to be exhaustive in explaining the concept of the sacrifice but rather to help give you a basic understanding in how it applies to Christ. Can you see why Jesus is called the Lamb of God?

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Just as God is the one who provided all the sheep and so the first and best of a flock was offered to show a man's thankfulness and receipt of these blessings. This acknowledges his obedience and the fact that all good things come from God and therefore belong to him first. Jesus can be understood in this as the first of our increase (the first righteous man) A lamb without spot or blemish (innocent). As the first fruits of a great harvest of righteousness to come. We sinners offered him to God for sin. It may not have been our intention but this sacrifice is what cleanses us. His righteousness imputed to us and our curse imputed to him.

He was a sacrifice that God received with honor. As Jesus was the man that represented all of mankind before God he acted as high priest in the offering of himself.

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

You can even see where the Jews unwittingly acknowledged that Jesus was the guilt offering for the people in spite of themselves.

Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.:25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

John 11:50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

John 18:14 Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.

This chapter is only a small taste of what the sacrifice of Christ means to us. It is enough however for us to understand what comes next "How we identify with Christ".

Chapter 8

Identifying with Jesus

We have already talked about how Jesus identified himself with us in how he lived his life as a man dependent upon God. He Identified himself with sinners in his baptism, in his answers to those who called him “good” by saying “ no one is good but the father.” He answered as a man would have to. He who had no sin suffered the death of a transgressor of the Law. He lived his life in faith of his father. He not only set an example for us but shared in the struggles that all of us face as human beings.

Now we must learn what it means to identify with him. We must learn to share in his sufferings that we also may share in his glory. In order to share with him in his triumph over the flesh you must share with Jesus in his death.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2 Corinthians 1:5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:7 And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation

This is the key to Christian life. We must learn that a servant is not greater than his master. We cannot expect any more or less blessings in this life than Jesus received. Many Christians think that because they are a Christian that they will be successful in material ways and escape suffering. Material success is not a given for Christians. Christians have suffered and died for their faith since the beginning of the Church. God blesses us in many ways. He provides for us our needs but also submits us to trials. We must learn as Jesus did through what we suffer. In this we become strong in our faith in God instead of our own abilities. Jesus learned obedience this way and so will we.

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

Mark 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,³⁰ But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Hebrews 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Remember your hope in all of this. In the end you want to be revealed as a child of God. Your hope is not in material success. Your hope is not in this life but rather your hope is to share in the resurrection of the dead as with all the saints. We count our lives in this world as loss and our lives in Christ and his sacrifice gain! This is our fellowship with Jesus.

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

This calls for an eternal perspective. We like Jesus forsake this life for the life on the other side of the cross. The life we live here we live unto God in obedience. We give up the dreams and hope of the flesh as Jesus himself did. Jesus did not marry or have children, he did not build a retirement plan, he did not live his life for himself, but for God and for us. Jesus counted his true life as beginning in the resurrection and this life as the test.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

He lived as a stranger and an alien in this world and considered heaven as his true home. All of those who share in the Hope of Christ view it the same way. Even those of faith from the old covenant saw themselves as strangers to this world.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

John 8:23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.

John 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

All of this is part of identifying with Jesus. This shows us that our Christian life is more than just a prayer of repentance we mumbled one day. This kind of identity requires a life time of obedience, sacrifice, suffering, and faith. Your life was purchased with the blood of God's dear son. It is not your own. A believer is a disciple. It is a lifetime commitment of faith.

1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Jesus took on the burdens of our nature and did so his whole life as a man. Now we must share in his nature as those born of God, those who lay down their lives to their father's will. To this we are all called. It is a lifetime not just an event. With these understandings it will be much easier to grasp the truth of the reconciliation and the redemption in the next chapter.

Chapter 9

The reconciliation and redemption

Now is where we start to put together some of the things we have learned to reveal a larger picture of our salvation. Let us review a few facts:

- 1.The soul is the union of body and spirit together as one.**
- 2.Because of sin the soul is corrupt. This is the sin nature.**
- 3.The purpose of the Gospel is the salvation of the soul.**

In understanding that body, spirit, and soul is a triune nature, than we begin to understand how man is created in the image of God, who has a triune nature. (Father ,Son, and Holy Spirit.)

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

The corrupt soul or sin nature is a perversion in that the proper order is supposed to be the body in submission to the spirit who in turn is in submission to God. The flow should be from God to spirit and spirit to body. This is also depicted in the roles and order of man and woman in marriage or “union”. The woman should be in submission to man who in turn is in submission to God.

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

This order became corrupted when Adam submitted himself to his wife's desires instead of God. This depicts the spirit being taken captive to the flesh through the desires of the body. This reversal of order cuts them off from God who is the source of life. The flow is interrupted. The body cannot sustain the life of the union and so begins to die. The soul is then becomes an aberration of its intended form.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

In understanding the corrupt nature is the soul we come along way in understanding how salvation works. Both body and spirit must be renewed for the soul to be saved. This fact leads us back to another principle we have learned in a previous class. Everything starts out in the spirit and is manifested to the flesh. For example, Adam was cut off from God spiritually the day he sinned, but he was 930 years old before death was manifested to his body as the result of being cutoff. Adam was told he would die in “the day” he ate of the fruit of the tree. That death was instant as far as the spirit being cutoff from God. It happened literally in “that day” but it took nearly a thousand years for that death to be manifested to his body. This is because the time of manifestation is different from the time as it occurs in the spirit. With God a 1000 years is as a day to God and a day as a thousand years. Adam lived 930 years total, just 70 years short of a full day. You can see from this that whether we are speaking spiritually or physically Adam died in “ that day”.

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Salvation of our souls works the same way as Adam became corrupted. It starts in our spirits and is eventually manifested to our bodies. This is called the reconciliation and redemption. First the spirit is renewed and then the body through the resurrection of the dead. Salvation like sin is not seen in when it is hidden in the heart of a man. It must be manifested or revealed first in our actions and the physical and then in our redemption at the end. That is why faith without works is dead. What you do on the outside is a testament or manifestation of what is on the inside. The things unseen are manifested to the seen.

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

The Apostle Paul in Romans chapter five explains:

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

We are justified by Jesus' blood on the cross through faith in the sacrifice. This is the reconciliation of our hearts to God. Here our spirits are renewed by his Spirit joining with ours. The fellowship Adam lost is now restored, and what is more we have through faith more than what Adam ever had. God's spirit now lives in us! This speaks of what we have now, "salvation by faith!" But remember Salvation is not seen until it is manifested in the redemption of our bodies!

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; What we have of salvation is by "faith". We are justified and reconciled to the Father in our hearts. His Spirit is joined with our Spirits whereby we cry Abba Father. This is where it starts and it is spiritual. It is revealed or manifested at the bodies redemption. To receive this salvation however we must continue in faith! No one stands in faith for what he already has. We are not yet saved...We are saved by Faith. Faith in the sacrifice is our access into this grace in which we now stand. But if faith stops there is no salvation.

1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel,

2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We stand in faith of precious promises that when Jesus returns he will bring us the redemption! The Hope of the Gospel is the redemption of our bodies! We were given a new birth into a living Hope! But remember hope that is seen like faith, is not hope at all. Who stands in faith or hope for what he already has? Your spirit reconciled through faith is just the beginning. Salvation is not complete until your body is redeemed. The time in between faith and Hope, reconciliation and redemption is called grace. This is the space allowed you to grow in faith and obedience.

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Salvation is not complete until both spirit and body have been saved. What we have now is by faith. The Apostle Paul also tells us that now we have the spirit of adoption, but the redemption of the body is the actual adoption. The Spirit of adoption is the gift of the Holy Spirit that indwells us as believers through faith. He testifies with our spirits that we are God's children. This all takes place in the unseen. This truth of who our Father is is first manifested in our actions as our nature in Christ grows and then fully at the resurrection of the dead. Then we will appear as who we are inside. This is faith and hope fulfilled.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

This is why Jesus has two comings. In his first coming he is our sacrifice for reconciliation to God in our hearts and in his second coming he brings a redemption for our body. His first coming is our faith and his second our hope. He is first our reconciliation and then our redemption. The time inbetween these two things is called grace. The soul is restored in the same order it was lost for all things start in the spirit and are manifested to the body. It was so with sin and is also with righteousness.

Now that we have discussed a bit about the two parts of our overall salvation let us examine the gift given us for our reconciliation to God: The : Holy Spirit.

Chapter 10

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Now we move on to the subject of the gift of the Holy Spirit. The first thing you must understand is that the Holy Spirit is God, a part of the Godhead, and is a person not just a force.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

The Holy Spirit was given to those who received Jesus as Lord and savior. From the day of Pentecost all the way until now he is given to indwell all believers. He is our communion with God and God's power at work within us. He was given also as a seal, an earnest of the promise, a guarantee that God would complete our salvation if we continue in faith.

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

If one does not have the Holy Spirit living in them then he does not belong to Christ.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

This gift was offered to all men through the sacrifice of Jesus. He is the very nature of God. He is living Love. He is God within us. He is the Love that was shed abroad in our hearts through the sacrifice of Christ. Remember when we talked about the blood hidden within our flesh? How the life is in the blood? How Jesus shed his blood for us? How we are considered covered with his blood? How we must drink his blood to be a part of him. That is all figurative of the Holy Ghost.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

When Jesus said that we must eat of his flesh and drink of his blood he was speaking of something beyond physical. He was speaking figuratively of partaking of the Word and the Spirit of God. We must eat of the word and drink of the spirit to have fellowship with God for that is who Jesus is to us : the very meaning of Emmanuel, “ God with us”.

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

1 Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.²⁵ After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Now put it all together. Jesus' body and blood is represented by bread and wine which in turn represents the Word we partake of and the Spirit we drink. Bread and wine is for this reason used in our communion services but beyond the figures the Word and the Spirit is our daily communion with God through Jesus the Christ. When we prayerfully study the scriptures through the Spirit we partake of God and his nature. In other words we eat and drink Jesus so as to be a part of him. This is our fellowship with God. This is how we become the Body of Christ as a church. This is the conception of those "Born again".

Born Again

To understand the new Birth one must understand the difference in being Born again through faith and Born again period. Born again through faith is the regeneration of the Spirit more properly our "reconciliation to God". Born again however is the resurrection of the dead our "redemption". The reconciliation and redemption as you learned from a previous class are the two parts of our salvation. First the spirit and then the body each in its turn. Remember everything starts in the Spiritual realm and then is manifested to the seen. Born again through faith means exactly that. You are standing in faith for the new birth which is the resurrection of the dead at Jesus' second coming. Now however the Holy Spirit is joined with your spirit to cleanse it and regenerate it to life so the process of renewal can begin. This all takes place in the unseen so it is a matter of faith. Remember how the scriptures define faith:

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

So through faith we are conceived and this conception is in the Spirit. The new birth is fulfillment of this conception. We count it as being done because this is what our faith proclaims. It is God calling things that are not as though they were:

Romans 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Just as God called Abraham the father of many nation long before he was so God calls those believers born again before it appears in the resurrection of the body of Christ. As Abraham had to abide in faith to receive this promise so must we. The Holy Ghost is given as a seal of this promise.

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Therefore through faith we are counted as being “born again of the Spirit.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Revelation

It is at this point we need to discuss the revelation of the Spirit that is given to those of whom the Spirit lives. Think of Jesus' body in the tomb. For three days his body lie in the tomb and was not quickened until the time appointed. His body here represents the word, or more to the point the scriptures, or even the Law. The letter alone is dead like the body in the tomb. It is not quickened unless and until the Holy Spirit activates it. The Holy Spirit raised Jesus to life at the appointed time. Think of your heart as that tomb. The word may be in your heart but is not activated until your heart is quickened by the Spirit of God. It is only then that it becomes living word. To begin to truly understand the Word of God it must be quickened by the Holy Spirit in you. From this proceeds revelation. The revelation of the Spirit can make a believer a living witness of the resurrection of Jesus as if he or she were there to see it. This is because that is what is happening in the heart of the believer. Then you are beyond just believing men as your teachers, or a book. Then you are a living witness to Christ and the truth. You meet Jesus this way and are then no longer subject to a dependance on the teachings or interpretations of men. Your faith becomes based on the facts that you experience not just the alleged facts of what you have been taught by men or organizations or even your own opinions. Notice what the Apostle Peter said of this process:

2 Peter 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.¹⁸ And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.¹⁹ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Do you know what Peter was speaking of when he brought up “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables” ? He was speaking of the scriptures as they were known then the words of the prophets”. That is all the scriptures would be with out confirmation of both eyewitness testimony and the revelation of the Spirit. In other words hearing from God. Peter and the others did not just follow what some ancient prophets said in some book. They were eyewitnesses to Jesus being Glorified of the Mount of transformation. They heard the voice of God testify to Jesus in “ this is my Son in whom I am well pleased”. Because they were there to witness and add their testimony to this book. This is what he meant when he said “ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that

shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:” His testimony of the event makes the words of the prophets in scripture “more sure” but even that is not enough because it is still only the testimony of men. But Peter says we would do well to pay attention to his testimony as a “light that shineth in a dark place” until God himself gives us revelation:

“ until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts”

In other words until God reveals to you personally through the revelation of the Spirit that both Peter's testimony and the words of the prophets of scripture are true. God Himself must confirm the truth to you. Otherwise it is just the words of various men and possibly “cunningly devised fables”. Peter is telling you to take his testimony as pointing the way to the truth until God confirms it to you in your heart! The bottom line is every Christian must have the Holy Spirit to know for sure what the truth is. The truth must dwell in you!

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1 John 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

This is where our dependence lies. We are led and taught of the Spirit Even when men sent from God speak it is the voice of the Spirit of Christ that cuts to our hearts. You may hear the voice of the man but the voice of the Holy Ghost is underneath and at work on your heart saying “yes! That is true!”. We are a supernatural people dependent on supernatural means. Many have left this propriety. They are lost in theology which is governed almost strictly by the words and thoughts of carnal men. Theology is supposed to be the study of God. It has become an attempt

to figure God out on the part of men. Revelation is who God reveals himself to be. The men sent from God do not speak from opinion but rather revelation. As Jesus did they can only speak what God would have them say. Anyone who speaks apart from this propriety does not speak for God.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

1 Peter 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

The Apostle Paul spoke in detail of this propriety.

1 Corinthians 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.² For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.³ And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.⁴ And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

Notice Paul was dependent on the means of the Spirit in his preaching. He did not come to them as the “great man” but rather in humility before God to be used as a vessel of the Spirit of Christ. He said “my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:” The power he speaks of is the power to make the word of God alive in their hearts. He was dependent on God to do the work of convincing! All God's servants do likewise. No carnal education in a seminary or Bible school could ever make a man a preacher or teacher. It is a calling not a vocation. Paul goes on to say:

1 Corinthians 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Any opinions or words of men are nothing but hearsay where the truth is concerned. Your faith rests on hearing from God whether it be prayerful study of the scriptures or the ministrations of a teacher. Without the power of the Spirit to make you a living witness to the truth you will be lost. If you read or study the scriptures without the Spirit you are left with nothing but your own opinions as to meaning or worse the opinions of others. The wisdom of God is secret and we as believers are entrusted with these secrets and mysteries as stewards. It is hidden from carnal minds of a purpose.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

1 Corinthians 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Matthew 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Luke 8:10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The end of the matter is simply this: A carnal education is no substitute for a relationship with God. The reason that there are so many different so called "Christian denominations" is that men are dependent on the wrong propriety. They have forgotten that the nature of truth is supernatural and that we are called to live supernatural lives of faith because the Spirit of the living God dwells in us.

Gifts of the Spirit

This brings us to the Gifts of the Spirit. We must divide these gifts into to two classes:

1.Gifts to the body of Christ

2.Gifts to the individual believer for the body's good

Do not misunderstand, both categories are gifts that enhance the Church but their distribution is according to purpose. Gifts to the Body of Christ are office gifts like what is known as the five fold ministry ; Apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, and evangelists. The second category are gifts given to the individual like tongues, healing, words of knowledge and wisdom etc. These gifts help an individual believer find his or her place in the body. The Individual is a microcosm of the Body of Christ. One receives a gift and the Body like an individual receives gifts as well.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues

1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

The best way to understand the categories of these gifts of the Spirit is the difference between the office and the individual. For example: Because one may have the gift of prophecy this does not necessarily set the individual in the office of a prophet. He or she can be considered to be a prophet in the functionary definition but not have the office of a prophet. The office of a prophet requires more than just a gift of prophecy. The office requires other gifts as well like discernment of spirits, word of wisdom, word of knowledge or others that allow him to fill the duties of his office in the Church. He must also be mature and settled in his relationship with the Lord and have shown evidence of his calling and office. It works this way with all the offices. Everyone who has the Holy Spirit dwelling in them tho has a gift. It may need to be stirred up and discerned but it is present all the same. Every one in the Church has a gift for the Body's profit. The test of maturity will show an individual fulfilling the responsibilities of his calling long before he or she assumes any authority.

Another point that needs to be addressed here is that having a gift of the Spirit does not mean one is closer to God than others or his somehow "super-spiritual". The fact is we are given these gifts because we are not "super-spiritual". The gifts of the Spirit from both categories are given as booster seats to both the Body of Christ and the individual believer because we are not yet "perfect" or mature. These gifts are meant to serve only until we reach that maturity as individuals and a body. There is "a more excellent way". That is when we are all perfected in Love and the unity of the faith. Then our power will be from that communion with God in our hearts. We will not be restricted to just certain gifts.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

1 Corinthians 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

The gifts serve while we have need of them for both the Body and the individual. When the Church however reaches its unity and maturity these gifts will not be necessary. We are still a ways off from that however and we need all these heavenly boosters now more than ever, especially Apostles and Prophets. More on this point in another class.

There are nine individual gifts of the Spirit.

1. **Word of Knowledge (To know something by supernatural means.)**
2. **Word of Wisdom (To apply knowledge, know God's will in a situation, or know the best way to handle a situation by supernatural means).**
3. **Faith (a supernatural boost of faith to believe for a specific need or the general body's welfare)**
4. **Healing (Divine healing of supernatural means for both the Body of Christ and people who are hearing the Gospel)**
5. **Miracles (the supernatural power to perform miracles like turning water into wine.)**
6. **Prophecy (supernatural ability to speak what God has to say to the people for edification, exhortation, comfort, and discipline. Often it is used to declare God's specific will.)**
7. **Discernment of Spirits (Supernatural ability to detect and reveal spirits like demons and also their influence and also to reveal a person's motives.**
8. **Tongues (ecstatic utterance like the language of angels. It is meant for a person's spirit to commune with God's Spirit and be edified. It bypasses the conscious mind. It is not generally understood on a conscious level unless someone has the gift of interpretation.**
9. **Interpretation of tongues (The supernatural interpretation of what a person speaking in tongues is saying in understandable words. Equal to prophecy when used correctly.)**

The office gifts are :

1. **Apostles (leaders and planters of the Churches in the Body of Christ. The first tier in God's distribution system to the Body.**
2. **Prophets (Second only to Apostles these who hold this office confirm God's will for the direction of the Church . They are the eyes of the Body and are used many times to confirm the role and acts of the Apostles.)**
3. **Teachers (They are also like Apostles responsible for Doctrinal purity and teaching the Gospel in all its facets)**
4. **Pastors (Pastors are responsible to act as facilitators of God's grace and work closely with the people of God for their benefit in a variety of ways. Teaching, preaching, comforting, administrating etc. Many times they are the Bishops or overseers of congregations.**

5. Evangelists (They preach primarily outside the Church to bring others into the fold.)

The above descriptions are by no means exhaustive but rather are meant to give you a rough idea of how the various gifts and offices function within the Body of Christ. By all of this it is easy to see that our dependance is on the Holy Ghost for all we do. He is our chief administrator, teacher, guide, comforter and means of revelation. He is our power and our connection to God in Christ Jesus. He is the glue that holds us all together. He never speaks of himself but rather testifies to the Father and the Son.

1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.⁵ And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.⁶ And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Correcting a misunderstanding

On the day of pentecost the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles. There were not 120 people in the upper room when the Holy Spirit fell but rather only the 12 apostles. And the scripture further declares the 12 were gathered in “one place”. The 120 believers were the total in Jerusalem at the time in those days when Peter stood up as their leader.

Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

Only the twelve were gathered when the Holy Spirit fell. It is through their work that the holy Spirit was spread to all the believers in the beginning. Read the below verses in context.

Acts 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.^{2:1} And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

This is why the Holy Spirit appeared as a second thing to repentance. In the beginning before pentacost you could be a believer without having received the Holy Spirit. That time rapidly ended as the apostles worked. Soon after pentecost a person received the Holy Spirit the moment they believed. If one reads Paul in Corinthians 12 the uassumption is present that if you are a believer by that time you hasve been baptized in the Spirit as well.

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.⁴⁵ And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

So notice these three Scriptural facts.

- 1. The Holy Ghost fell only on the Apostles at first.**
- 2. Through the distribution wrought through those Apostles the Holy Spirit was given to all believers.**
- 3. By the time 1st Corinthians was written the Holy Spirit baptism was received when ever one accepted Christ.**

There is therefore no special class of Christians who have the Holy Ghost . Every believer has it if in fact they are a believer.

Chapter Eleven Heaven, Hell, and the mechanics of the Gospel.

Here is where we begin to apply what we have learned so far. The bigger picture of what "Born again" is all about. Here we address from clear scripture the subject of "what happens when we die". The place to start is to first talk about Heaven and Hell. These are more dimensions of existence than they are geographical locations. Heaven is the realm of God and those things spiritual. Hell is also spiritual but separated from God the source of all light and life. Because it is spiritual our understanding of these realms is limited to say the least. A person will enter one of these to states of existence when they die. The realm of Heaven if you are in faith of Christ Jesus, Hell if you are not. Here we speak only of the spirit of people as the bodies of all men return to dust, the physical example of hell, the grave.

2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight).8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

Psalms 11:4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

1 Peter 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

2 Timothy 4:18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Psalms 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Psalms 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Hell

As you can see from a sampling of the above scriptures Heaven and Hell are both established truths. As of now all of our bodies go into hell or the grave. Remember the rules we have seen established from Scripture. For every Physical thing there is a spiritual thing. So it is with Hell. Physical Hell is the grave for your body. This Hell represents the spiritual one. Those who die outside of faith in Christ go to both Physical and Spiritual hell. Spiritual hell is where your spirit waits for judgment just like your body waits in the grave. Both will be brought up for judgment at the end of the world.

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

The scriptural facts concerning Hell are very different from the popular conceptions. When most of us think of Hell we picture a dark and fiery cavern somewhere deep beneath the earth where a horned Devil sits on his throne as ruler of the underworld. We imagine a host of demons torturing the souls of the damned in its darkest recesses. It is a fearful picture indeed but it is not scriptural. In order to understand the truth about Hell we must first understand the truth of our own nature as creatures made in God's image. Mankind was created to exist in two realms: The physical and the spiritual. We abide in both these realms in body and spirit, the two component

parts of our whole. Each component has its own realm, joining both realms in to one being, a living soul.

Genesis 2:7. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

The spirit can exist in the realm of the physical only as long as it has a body to be attached to. If the body dies then the spirit no longer has a place in the physical, and must exist totally in the spiritual. Where it comes to rest in the spirit realm is dependent on God's judgment alone, according to the life it lived while in the body.

The body is temporary and the spirit is eternal. We can see in this set of facts that we all die, or cease to exist in the physical realm. Though in the spiritual we do not cease to exist, some of us will not be allowed to dwell in God's presence because of sin. This is a spiritual death, for God is life. To be put away from Life is death. Those spirits who left the physical realm in right standing with God through Jesus and his sacrifice are whisked away to paradise and God (2 Cor. 5:8). Those who disobey the Gospel of Christ are taken to another place in the spirit realm, a place of darkness and deepest gloom, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt.8:12). Since there are two states of being for each one of us, we must understand both of their roles in the grand scheme of creation, how one is representative of the other. The physical is typical of the spiritual. This point has been demonstrated in previous studies here and is a central theme throughout scripture. In the biblical picture of Hell this theme is expressed as well. There are two Hells according to scripture, or rather one Hell in both realms of the physical and the spiritual. The physical Hell is the grave. This grave is symbolic of the spiritual Hell which is a prison for the disobedient spirits of mankind.

1Peter 3: 18. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit:19. By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;20. Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.21. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:22. Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Both body and spirit are shut away from life. The body from the land of the living, and the spirit from the spiritual land of the living, Heaven: the place of God's throne.

In the grave there is no hope, just as in its spiritual counterpart of Hell. Both are a prison of death. These circumstances are different where the Christian is concerned. While the grave is a prison of death for the body of a person who does not know Christ, it is considered a bed of hope for those who die in Christ Jesus. They are as dead as the non-believer, but the Christian dies with the hope of the resurrection of the dead, so he or she is considered to be only sleeping, for one day they will get up again.

1Thess. 4:13. But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.14. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.15. For this

we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the 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 so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Their spirits are with God and not in the prison of souls known as Hell.

There is however a resurrection for the soul who dies without Christ. It is known as the resurrection for God's judgment (Rev. 20:12-15). Many of those who enter into this judgment are cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death. This is not the resurrection of the just, but one unto judgment. In this resurrection, Death and Hell give up its inhabitants and is thrown along with them into the fiery lake. The Apostle told us:

1Cor. 15: 22-26: For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. Death is the last enemy.

Many those in Adam only, that is in the carnal, will suffer the second death because as the scriptures make clear, all those in Adam will die. The Christian is never considered dead and by faith in Christ overcomes death (John 11:25-26). Jesus by his death and resurrection overcame sin and death for us all. It is he who possesses the figurative keys of Hell and death because of this victory over sin and death through the cross and the tomb. It is only with this foundation of understanding that we can now precede to explain some of the specifics of Hell.

In chapter 16 in the gospel of Luke, Jesus gives us a picture of Hell. In this picture we see two compartments of Hell, or Hades (same meaning), a place for the righteous dead and a separate place for the unrighteous dead. These two compartments are separated by a great and fiery gulf, also known as the lake of fire. The place of the righteous dead was known as Abraham's bosom, or Paradise. Before Jesus died all the righteous dead were carried there by the angels (Luke 16:22). It was a good place to be for those spirits who obeyed God in faith in their lives, but it was not yet in Heaven. It was not moved to Heaven until Jesus made his sacrifice on the cross and rose again. The law had to first be paid and fulfilled in Christ the messiah before those considered righteous by faith could gain entrance to Heaven. This place of waiting was prepared for them in advance of the promised savior who would cleanse them of their sin. Once Jesus accomplished this, and he descended into Hell, it is reported in the scriptures that he ascended into Heaven to the right hand of the Father, leading captives in his train (Eph. 4:8-11). The Bible also tells us that when Jesus descended into Hell in 1 Peter 3:18-22 and he preached to those spirits who died in the flood before he took his seat at the right hand of the Father:

1 Peter 3:18-22 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few,

that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God;

This is why Jesus told the thief crucified next to him that he would indeed be with him in Paradise that day (Luke 23:43). Jesus was then about to descend to Hell, the prison of the spirits, in which Paradise was located. After three days in the deep, Christ rose and then ascended to the Father, taking Paradise and all its prisoners with him. We know that Paradise is in Heaven now because Paul told us:

2Cor. 12: 2-4:I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth; How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Another compartment of Hell is known as the bottomless pit (Rev. 9:11; 20:1-3) this is where the angels who disobeyed God are chained. These are those who left their abodes in Heaven to couple with women of earth (Jude :6-7; 2 Peter 2:4 ; Gen. 6:2-4). In the last days some of these will be loosed to wreak havoc on those who live on the earth (Rev.9:1-11). Hell and the lake of fire was made originally for the Devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41).

A few different names for this region of lost souls have been presented by scripture. Hell, Hades, Sheol (from the old testament), and Gehenna. These names have a wide and varied band of translation among scholars and theologians. It is true however, that all these differing labels do have reference to the same general place, and the same general theme of damnation and death. Hades and Hell as far as most scholars can decipher, concerns the grave and spiritually concerns what the grave represents: the prison of death. Sheol seems to be the old testament counterpart to this same concept. Only Gehenna has an added meaning. Gehenna was in short, a place where the people of Jesus's time took their trash to be burned. This was a spiritual reference to the lake of fire. Jesus often spoke in his parables and teachings of useless things being gathered and burned.

John 15: 5-6:I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

The concept of physical terms relating spiritual truths is largely ignored by many who have written about Hell. They did not understand that one is representative of the other. This understanding of how things we can see bear witness to things that we cannot see has eluded many of those who seek to understand and teach. This results in a confusion over words. One scholar will pick up on the physical meaning of a word, and another on the spiritual meaning. Though they may both be right, they end up in debate and at cross purposes. This is what I believe has happened with the subject of Hell. It is both the grave and the prison of the damned. Both physical and spiritual respectively.

There are many other misconceptions where the subject of Hades is concerned. Some Christian teachers believe Satan rules Hell. They teach that the netherworld is his place of residence. This is shown to be error, for Satan in the scripture is called the God of this world, and the prince and the power of the air (Eph. 2:2) He resides in the atmosphere of this earth on a spiritual level. He rules his kingdom from the heavenlies, He is that wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12). In fact, Hell is the last place he desires to be for one day he will be bound with a chain and cast into it for a thousand years (Rev. 20:2-3). A favorite verse of those that believe that Satan rules Hell is Matt. 16:18:

Matt. 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

They think that this verse must insinuate Satan's Kingdom. This portion of scripture is actually a reference to death and the grave. Jesus has the keys to Hell and death because he overcame death and Hell. Hell, this prison of death, could not hold him. It is the same for us, His church. Death shall not prevail against us.

There are even some who teach things that are even more absurd, like Jesus going to Hell and fighting the Devil, or taking the keys of death and hell from the Devil. Satan never had the keys of Hell and death. There are no literal keys This is nothing more than carnal thinking and pagan imagery. Christianity has no Lord of the dead who rules the underworld, but pagan religion has many of these. In ancient Greece it was Hades, God of the dead and underworld. In Rome it was Pluto. In Canaan it was Mot the death god. In Egypt it was Osirus. One particular doctrine has Jesus suffering in Hell at the hands of the Devil and his demons, suffering for our sin. This is not only unscriptural but borders on blasphemy.

That Satan had the power of death, on this the scripture from Heb. 2:14 is plain :

Heb. 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

The manner in which Satan held the power of death is in the fact that we were as sinners sentenced to death and in fear of it, and so in bondage to the law of sin and death and in bondage as well to the fear of death. It is by the law that the Devil had the means to accuse us. This is his power over us. Jesus has the keys of Hell and death by virtue of his innocent life, a life that Satan could not accuse according to the law. This was Jesus's key to the pit, the fact that he had fulfilled the righteous requirements of the law. Hell is for sinners, not innocent men. It is written

1Cor. 15:54-57: So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Satan held the power of death through the sting of sin empowered by the law. When Christ removed the law by fulfilling it, the Devil lost his power over us. Jesus's resurrection was proof

of his triumph over the law of sin and death. It was here that his triumph spoiled the devil of his power to accuse the brethren

Col. 2: 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.9. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.10. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:11. In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:12. Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.13. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;14. Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;15. And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

No, Satan does not rule hell. He is the accuser of the brethren. He is a celestial dignitary. That doesn't make him a good guy, but mere men should not slander what they do not understand. He is the smith that blows the coals.

Isa. 54:16. Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.17. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord

2Peter 2:10. But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.11. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.12. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

Jude 8. Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.9. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee10. But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.11. Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Heaven

We as human beings tend to think of heaven and hell as being up or down. We get this idea from the Bible for the most part. It was never meant to be geographical. The idea of up or down has to do with the Body in the Physical realm. The Body goes down to death in the grave. This is what physically happens. It also however pictures how one is humbled. Those who go into the heavens (sky) are seen to be exalted. This is the basic idea that is meant to be relayed by the death of the

Body and the promise of its lifting through resurrection. Humbling or exaltation. This is pictured in the Body but it speaks of truths in the spiritual realm that cannot be seen except in figure. Once again the physical things testify to the spiritual.

Psalms 18:27 For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

Psalms 20:8 They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.

Psalms 22:29 All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.

Psalms 30:3 O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

Ecclesiastes 3:21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

You can see from just a few Bible verses like the ones above this concept of up and down and its comparison with the Spiritual ideas of Heaven and Hell were ingrained in men of the old covenant. Heaven is therefore our hope of exaltation and overcoming and death is our humbling. The fact is we must be humbled before we can exalt. This too is the pattern of first the physical and then the spiritual. We must all suffer before we can be glorified. We must all die before we can be raised. This hope is pictured in Christ perfectly. As a man he humbled himself to death and afterwards he was glorified. In this he revealed the path for all of us. Those who follow Christ must follow this pattern.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?⁴ Therefore 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.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Mechanics of salvation: A recap of all we have learned

We must understand that when Adam died in sin he died to righteousness. So then we all in Adam's nature died to righteousness. First he did so in his spirit man (the part that was eternal) and then that death was manifested to his body (the mortal part). This is an eternal principle what is true in the spiritual will be manifested or revealed in the physical, what is true in the heart of

man will be manifested in the flesh of man and his actions. So what happens in the spirit is a promise or prophecy of what will occur in the body for good or for evil. It is not done until it is manifested in the physical. The corruption of Adam's spirit was revealed through the death of his body. Jesus who was righteous by his spirit nature came in the body of a man. His righteous spirit or heart was revealed through his actions and the resurrection of his body. Jesus died to sin for all of us and through him we all can live now to righteousness: first by faith in his sacrifice in our hearts, then by his resurrection as that righteousness is manifested when he comes through the resurrection.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Romans 5:15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore 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.

So that newness of life spoken of is what we have now as a reconciliation to God in our spirits. This reconciliation by faith in Christ is the promise of our redemption of our souls; body and spirit.

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (resurrection)

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 1 Corinthians 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

The Holy spirit is given to us in this reconciliation when we believe. He is the token of guarantee that God will complete our salvation through the resurrection if we continue in faith. This faith of our heart (spirit) is manifested in what we do and will be fully in our bodies through the resurrection at our Lord's return.

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked 4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being

burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life (our corrupt bodies) 5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

So right now through faith we have that reconciliation of our spirits through the Holy Spirit in us through faith. We have that Spirit of adoption as sons: He is the righteousness of Christ in us. But this does not complete our salvation.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

This Spirit of adoption is manifested now in our actions and words. "if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." But this adoption is not complete until the resurrection at Christ's coming.

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

There are many more scriptures that confirm these things, and I encourage you to study them. This is our Gospel. It is the redemption of our souls..both body and spirit. But each in its turn, first the spirit and then the body at Christ's coming.

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

This is our faith in Christ. His death reconciles us to God; our hearts to his heart. Our spirits to his Spirit. This is first.

1 Corinthians 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

This is our hope in Christ...Our bodies raised as his was when he comes. This completes the salvation of our souls.

The Old Man or "Soul of Adam"

After we understand the nature of the soul and how both sin and salvation come as well as the order of how they are manifested it is helpful to look deeper into the sin nature to see what happens both the man who has Christ and the man who does not.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The soul of Adam stands condemned. It is the sin nature. The sin nature is the perverted union of body and spirit. The spirit finds itself in bondage to the flesh's desires through this union. The spirit in this union or soul may not want to serve the flesh's desires but it is a slave and must obey its master. It is just like a drug addict or an alcoholic. The Apostle Paul describes this slavery perfectly.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

The Law of Sin and Death

The basic understanding behind the law of Moses is that it was given to Israel by God knowing that they could not keep it.

1 Timothy 1:9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

The law was designed to show us we had a sin nature and were incapable of pleasing God of our selves because our nature was sinful. Now the law could not show us the nature of itself because it is spiritual. But the law could show us our nature through what we did. By labeling our actions as transgressions the law could show our nature through those transgressions. If our actions were sinful that meant we were sinners and corrupt. By adding the penalty of physical death to the law God shows us this nature will end in death. The soul who sins will die. Hence it can be referred to as the law of sin and death. It identifies sin in us and brings it out of hiding where we can see it through what we do. Through this we know that death is not natural, it is rather a consequence of sin

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. 6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the

oldness of the letter. 7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.:8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. 9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

So through the law God showed us both his standard of righteousness for a man and how we could not measure up to that standard of ourselves. It showed us we were separated from God in our hearts and that those born of Adam were born into his corrupt nature. Those who live according to that nature will die.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Jesus Fulfills the Law

So how does Jesus's death and resurrection restore us our souls? The law prescribed death as the penalty for sin. Jesus came in the form of flesh from heaven, but he himself was not a sinner. He was not born of Adam but of God. He is God by spirit but man by flesh. As a man he was the only man ever born of God. The only "begotten son" of God. This was the joining of Man to God. It is the making of a "new man" and so a new soul.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men::8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus coming in the form of a man was the way God had decided to redeem man to himself. It is because Jesus was both God and man that those of us who receive him can now be born of God and be his true sons after the spirit and not just fleshly as Adam was. This is how we as men are made partakers of the divine nature. This is how we can have the Holy Spirit in us now. The new man brought us more than the old man ever had.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power (the Holy Spirit) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

As partakers of this divine nature we can now be joined to God in a way Adam never was. In this you can see how Adam was only a figure of he who was to come.

Romans 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

So you can see as a man born from above Jesus kept the law in Spirit and in truth. He thus fulfilled the law's prophecy of a perfect man who could please God. A man Adam could never produce. He also fulfilled the prophecy of a sacrifice that would fulfill the law's requirements. In other words The law judged Jesus to be innocent and thus accepted his body as a sacrifice for our sin. He is therefore both the perfect man described by the law and the sacrifice the law accepts to ransom us from beneath its penalty of death.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Ephesians 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

The New Man Lives

The question then becomes one of union. With whom are you unified or identified? Adam in sin or Christ in righteousness? To be united with Christ is to be united in his death and so his resurrection from the dead bodily. He died bodily to sin for you! He was so raised from the dead bodily for you!

Romans 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection

If you die in union with Adam's soul, (the sin nature) this is what happens; Your spirit remains bound to the sin nature or the soul of Adam. The sin nature will continue on as long as it has a host. The body of sin may be destroyed in the grave also called Hell (corruption of the mortal body), but the spirit (the immortal part of you) will continue on in the prison of spirits or spiritual Hell to await judgment. (Hell is dual physical and spiritual because you are both physical and spiritual). The sin nature will be bound to your spirit forever. Its eternal destruction is the lake of fire. It is everlasting and continuing destruction. If however you lay down your life with Christ

now through faith, then your spirit is freed from the soul of Adam because of Jesus death for your part and the hope of the resurrection! Jesus condemned sin in the flesh (that is the body).

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

When the body does actually die your sin nature will die with it! Destroyed in the grave! That old man or union of sin (sin nature) will be condemned with your body and not your spirit!. Then through the resurrection your body can be redeemed clean free from that nature that was attached to it. Then both body and spirit are joined free of Adam's soul of sin and joined clean in the new man Christ! This is our Gospel!

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore 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.

Romans 6:6 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.

If you lay down your life with Christ you will find it again on the other side of death. When you die your spirit will go to be with him to wait for his second coming when your body is redeemed.

Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

2 Corinthians 5:5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. 6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

However, if you do not lay down your life here with Christ but instead have your life taken from you, you will die in your sins..that is in union with Adam; body and spirit together in that corrupt

soul. The sin nature will not be destroyed in the physical grave with your body, rather it will carry on attached to your spirit till it is destroyed in the lake of fire: This is the second death.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Give your life to Christ and die with him to sin here now through faith so your faith will be fulfilled when the body actually dies. Do not wait for your carnal life to be taken from you without Christ in your life. Then the sin nature will cling to your spirit in the hell. That will bring you into Judgment as you die in your sins.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

1 Timothy 5:24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

Chapter Twelve

The Resurrection and Christs Coming

The Truth About the Resurrection

Once a person receives Jesus as his Lord and savior and is baptized he begins to learn about what it is to walk in faith. In this class of continuing discipleship we will deal with the goal of faith. The goal is the end of the Gospel. It is the resurrection of the dead.

1Peter 1: 7. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:8. Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:9. Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Romans 8:23. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

The Resurrection of Jesus-Our Hope

It is important to understand exactly how Jesus was raised, as he is the first of us to be raised glorified. As he who is our older brother is raised so shall we be. His resurrection is the mirror of our blessed hope. He is our pattern.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.10. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.11. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,12. Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.13. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

Romans 8: 29. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.
30. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Colossians 1:13. Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:14. In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:15. Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Colossians1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

1Corinthians 15:20. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.21. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.22. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.23. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Jesus is God's pattern and promise for us. As Jesus was bodily raised, so will we be.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans 6: 4. Therefore 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.⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Philippians 3: 20. For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:²¹. Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

As Jesus was raised from the dead and then ascended to into the air to be glorified so shall we.

John 20:11. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,¹². And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.¹³. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.¹⁴. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.¹⁵. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. ¹⁶. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.¹⁷. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

1 Thess 4: 13. But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.¹⁴. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.¹⁵. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.¹⁶. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the 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 so shall we ever be with the Lord.¹⁸. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

As Jesus' body was glorified and spiritual and yet still tangible so will ours be in the resurrection.

John 20:24. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print

of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.26. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.27. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.28. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.29. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

John 21: 12. Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.13. Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.14. This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

Luke 24: 36. And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.37. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.38. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?39. Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.40. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.41. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?42. And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.43. And he took it, and did eat before them.

It is not a physical body but a spiritual one. It is of celestial origin not of terrestrial. That is not of this world. It is however tangible. He could be touched. He could eat. He could be seen. He could also walk through walls or disappear at his choice. This too is our hope.

1Corinthians 15:40. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.42. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

1 Corinthians 15:44. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.45. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.46. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.47. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.48. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.49. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.50. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.51. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,52. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.53. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Order in Redemption

As we have noted previously our salvation has two parts within in its whole. Everything is ordered according to God's pattern. First our spirits are redeemed through faith and then our bodies. It is done this way because the spiritual things must be manifested to the physical things. Jesus is not we coming to God so much as he is God coming to us.

Matthew 6: 9. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.10. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Matthew 12: 28. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

John 8:42. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

This is the same pattern by which God first made man a living soul or being. It took a physical part made of dust and another part breathed into man from God. Or breath sent from God. Our spirits were sent from God so to speak in a figure or picture just as the kingdom of God is coming to the physical. Just as Jesus was sent from heaven to the earth. In all three cases it was the spiritual coming to the physical. Compare the pattern in the following verses.

Genesis 2:7. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

1 Corinthians 15:45. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

46. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.47. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.48. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

This is the pattern of God in creation. First the physical is created then the spiritual is sent to it. The plan is that spiritual which comes second is preferred first. The spiritual must bring the physical into itself. We must be adopted in to the spiritual. So must our bodies be adopted into it. Each though in its turn. First our spirits are cleansed then our bodies resurrected.

John 4: 23. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.24. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

2 Corinthians 5:14. For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15. And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. 16. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 17. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19. To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Colossians 1:18. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20. And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Romans 8: 21. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

This is the ministry of reconciliation. It is the sent one Jesus Christ reconciling creation from its bondage to decay and reconciling us to God. The kingdom of heaven is sent to earth to bring it in to heaven. The resurrection is the purest manifestation of this. The will of God demonstrated in the reconciliation from flesh to spirit. From Adam to Christ. So we see it is God coming to us in Christ Jesus.

I Corinthians 15: 47. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

This is important to understand in order to grasp God's purpose in his order of reconciliation. Our Spirits are redeemed in the unseen world of faith and the Spirit but the manifestation of this must be witnessed in our bodies. It must be the physical that is changed to take on the nature of the spiritual in its turn. Our complete redemption is therefore accomplished in these two parts. First that which is spiritual then that which is mortal. This completes us as souls in the image of Christ instead of Adam. Remember that a soul is a body and spirit as one (Gen.2:7)

2 Corinthians 5

1. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3. If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 4. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being

burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.⁵ Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

In our Christian understanding the body is filled with sin so we consider it dead through faith. The spirit has been cleansed through faith in Christ's sacrifice.

Romans 8:10. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹ But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

So we see it is the Spirit redeemed first and then the body. So our spirits involve Christ's first coming and our bodies his second. Read the following portion of Romans chapter five carefully.

Romans 5:1. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4. And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5. And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. 6. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.¹¹ For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

You see it is now that we are justified by faith and have access into his grace by that same faith. In other words now our spirits can have communion or fellowship with God because Jesus died for us. He paid for our sin so that we can enter into that relationship with God in the Spirit. This all has to do with Jesus' first coming. It all has to do with his death on the cross. Through the cross we are now not God's enemies. Jesus has reconciled us through his death. This is our peace with God. But it is more than just being reconciled in our spirits. It is our whole being that must be reconciled. The resurrection is a promise that our bodies will be reconciled as well. So if we are reconciled to God in the spirit by faith we will be fully reconciled when he brings us the resurrection at his second coming. This is the salvation of our souls. And he has given us a portion of his spirit through faith as a guarantee that he will bring us this promised hope. The Spirit is God's seal that he will keep what he has promised. The point made here is if his death reconciles us to God what will his resurrection bring but eternal us? The completion of our salvation. This happens when he comes.

Romans 5: 9. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from

wrath through him.10. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

1 Peter1:3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,4. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reservedin heaven for you,5. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to berevealed in the last time.6. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are inheaviness through manifold temptations:7. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth,though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:8. Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:9. Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

2 Corinthians 5: 4. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.5. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

Ephesians 1: 5. Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6. To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.7. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;8. Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;9. Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:10. That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:11. In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:12. That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

Romans 8: 10. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.11. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit thatdwelleth in you.12. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.13. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortifythe deeds of the body, ye shall live.14. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.15. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye havereceived the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.16. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:17. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.18. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to becompared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.19. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of thesons of God.20. For the creature was made subject to vanity,

not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.²³ And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.²⁴ For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?²⁵ But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Can you see how the whole thrust of the New Testament writings speak these things in a unified clarity? Look at the scriptural facts:

1. God's pattern in redemption is first the spiritual then the physical
2. The Kingdom of God is coming to us first not us to it first.
3. The kingdom of God has therefore come in the spiritual but is yet to be manifested to the physical
4. That both physical and spiritual must be reconciled in to God through Christ
5. Faith through the grace of God in the sacrifice of Christ is our access to the father now in the Spirit. The resurrection is the promise of the body.
6. The redemption of the body is the completion of our adoption and our salvation.
7. The Holy Spirit is a seal that God will keep his promise and it is a deposit on the resurrection of the dead, the salvation of our souls.

When the Resurrection?

So far we have learned from the Scriptures that we will share in a resurrection like Jesus'. We have learned the resurrection is the hope or end of the Gospel. We have learned the pattern or order of redemption: First the spirit through faith and then the body. We have even learned a bit concerning God's plan of reconciliation. Now let us turn our attention to the time it our hope will be fulfilled.

1 Corinthians 15: 19. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

It is that simple. Jesus in his first coming brought us salvation through faith. In his second coming he brings us the fulfillment of this great salvation: The resurrection from the dead. This is our focus on his appearing as his disciples. It is the fulfillment of this Gospel we stand in faith for.

1 Thessalonians 4: 13. But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in

Jesus will God bring with him.15. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the 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 so shall we ever be with the Lord.18. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

It is a literal appearing. Every eye will see him.

Matthew 24: 27. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.28. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.29. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:30. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.31. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

This gathering of the elect is the resurrection we hope for. It comes “immediately after the tribulation of those days. All the saints of God have this hope. This is our Gospel.

Matthew 24:42. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.44. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

He comes as a thief in the night and the world will not be ready. He comes unexpected like birth pains do to a woman. But these birth pains that come upon the world end in a great travail we call the “great tribulation”. This is the sign that the children of God are about to be revealed from the womb of this earth in to the fullness of God’s kingdom. This is the resurrection of those in Christ at his coming.

Romans 8: 18. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.19. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.20. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,21. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.22. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.23. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.24. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?25. But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

1 Thessalonians 5:1. But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.2. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.3. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.4. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Revelation 3 :2. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.3. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

We will not receive this resurrection until he comes. So we watch and wait patiently in faith

Romans 13:11. And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.12. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.13. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.14. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Hebrews 9:28. So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

1 Peter 1: 3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,4. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,5. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

What we have now we have by faith. When he comes he brings that salvation we wait in hope of. He brings us eternal life.

John 6: 35. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.36. But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.37. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.38. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.39. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.40. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

This is our Hope in its clarity from the scripture. Jesus will bring the promise of God to all who belong to him and too all those who wait for him. Are you standing in faith? Are you waiting in patience? Do you share in this great hope

Chapter Thirteen

The Last Days and the Day of the Lord

Defining the Last Days

In order to understand what the truth of the “last days” we must have a clear definition as to what they are. The definition is clear from scripture. The concept of the “last days is made plain in the concept of the “ Last Day”. It was Jesus himself who made this concept plain. The last day is in fact the millennial reign of Christ Jesus.

Revelation 20:4. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

2Peter 3: 3. Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,⁴. And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, allthings continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:⁶. Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:⁷. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store,reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.⁸. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.⁹. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.¹⁰. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

The Last Day or “Day of the Lord” Defined

When we speak of the “day of the Lord” it brings to mind images and verses of God’s wrath upon mankind and the return of Jesus. It is much more than that. It is the rule and reign of Jesus over the earth for a thousand years. It is the time of his return and our resurrection as promised in the scriptures.

2 Thessalonians 2: 1. Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,². That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

This is the Day of the Lord, the day of Christ. It concerns our resurrection and his coming. But this day also concerns the wrath of God.

2Thessalonians 1: 7. And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,8. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;10. When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

The “day of the Lord” concerns both of these things. In the beginning of that day we who belong to Christ shall be resurrected. At the end of that day is the great white throne judgment. Where those who reject Christ and disobey his gospel will be punished with this everlasting punishment. It is an eternal punishment of being put outside his presence and tossed into the lake of fire where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. It is that flaming fire! He comes to be glorified in his holy people (resurrection) and to punish in the same day! It is just that the day happens to be a thousand years long. Read carefully the following verses about this punishment.

Revelation 20: 11. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.13. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.14. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.15. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 22: 12. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.13. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.14. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.15. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.16. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Matthew 8: 10. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. 11. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.12. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Thrown into the fiery Lake is the outer darkness. It is forever outside of the Lord’s presence. It is the true wrath of God. It isn’t just death in the body, but it is the second death.

Revelation 20: 14. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second

death.15. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Remember what Jesus told us :

Matthew 10:26 Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.27. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

For those outside it is full of wrath :So ... We can see that the “day of the Lord is both one of peace for believers and woe for those who are judged. It is a true day of wrath.

Isaiah2: 12. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:6. Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

Joel 1:15. Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

Joel 2: 11. And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

But for those of us who belong to him it is our hope:

1Corinthians 5:1. It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

2Corinthians 1:12. For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward. For we write none other things unto you, than what ye read or acknowledge; and I trust ye shall acknowledge even to the end; As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Now this is not to say that the “day of the Lord” will not bring about physical destruction..it will! Great destruction! In that day the earth and all that is in it will be destroyed. But that is not all! You must understand though the true wrath of God

reflected in that physical destruction is the second death.!

Two Resurrections

There are two resurrections in the “day of the Lord” one at its beginning, and the other at the end. Both however occur in the “day of the Lord.”

Revelation 20: 4. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.5. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.6. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.7. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,8. And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.9. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.10. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.11. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.12. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Daniel makes this plain as he speaks of these two resurrections as if they were on event. He speaks this way because both happen in the “day of the Lord”.

Daniel 12:1. And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.2. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

3. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Compare this to what Paul says again to the Thessalonians:

2Thessalonians 1: 7. And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,8. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;10. When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

Jesus himself spoke of the “last day concerning our resurrection. It is also witnessed in scripture that his followers believed and understood this:

John 6: 40. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6: 44. No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 11: 23. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.25. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:26. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Now it becomes plain. The day of the Lord is a day of darkness for some and a day of rejoicing for others. It is a day of punishment and a day of rest. It is revealed in these two resurrections in clarity. As Peter tells us this Day of the Lord starts with Jesus’ coming and ends with the great white throne Judgment. This thousand year day will bring about the destruction of the heavens and the earth. It is a day set aside for God to be glorified in his people and to punish the wicked with destruction and the second death.

2Peter 3: 7. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.10. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.11. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,12. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?13. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.14. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

This thousand year period is clearly the “day of the Lord” . The questions then can be posed..If the “day of the Lord” is a thousand years..How are the “last days“ defined?. That is dealt with in the next section.

Last Days Defined

If in fact the “day of the Lord” a thousand years long does this hold true for the Last days? Absolutely. The following will detail the truth of the last days as the final three thousand years of earth’s history before it is destroyed. These three thousand years, or three days, or “last days” are defined by Jesus himself and started at his first coming.

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

We know that Jesus said this in reference to his body being the temple. And after three days he did rise from the grave as he foretold on the morning of the third day.

1 Corinthians 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

The three days are symbolic of what was left of the seven thousand years of creation, or seven days according to Peter. Jesus came at the end of the first four thousand years, or the fourth day.

Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Genesis 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

Hebrews 4:4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

With this understanding we can see that Jesus also had a larger context for “his Body his temple being raised on the morning of the third day. For we are his temple, His body. We will be raised from the dead on the morning of the third day, the last day which is the day of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ephesians 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy

temple in the Lord:

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Remember that the last day is the millennium, the “day of the Lord” . It is the seventh thousand year period of our history. In this fashion it is the last day. We are at the end of the sixth thousand year period now. Coincidence? So we see seven days over all, but the final three are called “the last days”

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

The three last days become clear in this context of the last three thousand years as three days. This concept is expressed in detail through out scripture. So we see Jesus himself defined the “last days”.

Peter and Joel

Another set of witnesses in scripture that this is indeed the true understanding of what the “Last Days’ are can be found in the testimony of Peter in Acts two and the prophet Joel whom peter quotes:

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: 15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. 16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke::20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come:

Pay careful attention to Peter’s words. First he says that this sign of Pentecost is fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy. And Joel said this would happen in the last days! So the “Last days” began with Christ and the day of Pentecost proves it as a sign! And Joel also spoke of the “Last Day” in which the Sun would be darkened and the Moon not give her light. According to Jesus in Matthew 24 and John in Revelation 6 these are the events that immediately precede the “Day of the Lord which starts the millennial reign of Christ at his second coming.

Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Revelation 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Now look at Joel's Testimony again:

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come:

Notice how according to Joel and Peter the sign that the "Last Days" had began was Pentecost where the Holy Spirit was poured out and the "Last Day" is preceded by events and signs that do not occur until after the great tribulation! This shows that the last days are each a thousand years long! It has been two thousand years approx. since Pentecost and we are on the verge of the third day or better known as the "Day of the Lord". The last days and their biblical contest are now made clear.

Chapter 14

A little on the Pattern of God

First the physical than the spiritual

Basic understandings

The best place to start in the pattern of God is with the understanding of Genesis 2:7

Ge:2:7: And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

From the above verse one can easily see that man has two components that come together to make a third. The body is physical the spirit is spiritual and the soul are the two parts or components in union. This is a microcosm of God's pattern. Let us observe the things we can learn from this pattern. Point number one: notice first came the physical and then came the spiritual. Point number two: The being was not complete until both of these components came together as one. So we see from the pattern established in the order of man's creation is that first comes the physical and then the spiritual. The Bible must be understood in the same way. First you must understand physically and then you must understand it spiritually. The spiritual understandings are predicated upon the physical ones. Jesus himself told Nicodemus in John chapter 3:12

John:3:12: If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

Please see that this pattern is understood in the same manner it is applied. First the physical and then the spiritual. As you study the Scripture you will see that all things in creation work according to this pattern. Let me tell you about a number of things where you can see this pattern demonstrated in creation and in the Bible. Heaven and earth for example. Heaven is for the spiritual and the earth is for the the physical and both together give us creation. The first two come together to make the third. In the Bible we see the picture of Christ and the church. Christ is the head or the husband. The church is the body or the wife, and together they are one. Sounds just like a marriage doesn't it? From this it is easy to see that man has headship like the spirit, and woman is in submission like the body. Therefore man and woman together in a marriage or union. That is exactly what the soul is. The soul is the union of body and spirit together as one. Just as earth is under heavens rulership. Just as the woman is under the man just as Christ is above the church. All of these picture physical things joined with spiritual things and the two becoming one. It is like this in everything in creation.

Ge:2:24: Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

The man and the woman become one thing just as Christ and the church become one just as Heaven and Earth are one just as the soul is the union of body and spirit together.

Here we learned 4 important points:

- 1.First the physical and then the spiritual**
- 2.The physical and the spiritual become one**
- 3.The spiritual has headship over the physical.**
- 4The physical things are representative of the spiritual things.**

Let us focus on number four. The physical things, or the things you can see, demonstrate the spiritual things, or the things you cannot see: This is a testimony, physical to spiritual like a wife

is to her husband the same way the church is to Christ. This is why the spiritual understandings in Scripture are predicated upon the physical understandings. In other words this is why it is important for you to first understand physically in order to understand spiritually. First things first. Since Adam's creation God has not deviated from this pattern a single instance.

Applying these understandings

These marvelous figures are not just meant to be pretty understandings. They are applicable in the most important of ways. When we read the Scriptures and understand what it is literally saying and understanding the physical point the Scripture is making then we can understand the spiritual point. It is here that the Holy Spirit takes our physical understanding and turns it into revelation which is spiritual. For example in the above illustrations gleaned from Scripture you can see that man and woman were meant to be representative of Christ and the church. The relationship you could see and physically understand and relate to is pure demonstration of the supernatural relationship between Christ and his bride. In this we see the concepts of the church's submission and its importance. We see the concepts of Jesus's headship and his authority in both the husband and the spirit. We see the intimacy between physical and spiritual that is meant to be and we see the purpose of the two becoming one in order to bear fruit. Notice nothing is completed until the two come together. The order of the original man's creation gives us an overall order of God's purpose in creation. First we are all born physically just like God made the body first. But we know we must be born again according to Scripture in order to be spiritually alive. The first birth demonstrates the second. First we are born of flesh, or Adam. Next we must be born of the spirit or Christ. Only by taking part in both of these births can we become complete. Jesus's resurrection from the dead demonstrates the fulfillment of the two becoming one. So first we are born physically than we are born spiritually and at the resurrection of the dead Christ's return the two will become one. That is where man is complete in the image of Christ. So you see Adam was the physical Christ is the spiritual. They must become one. Creation is not complete until they do.

1Co:15:45: And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

46. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.47: The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.48: As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

49: And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Revelation

Let us look at another demonstration of how the order in the pattern of God also shows us how revelation comes. When Jesus died on the cross his body was put in the tomb. The body is physical. The point being the body without the spirit is dead. In the same way one can physically know the Scripture and have it planted in his heart just like Jesus's body in the tomb but there it remains dead. But just as it took the power of the Holy Ghost to Quicken Jesus's body to life so it takes the power of the Holy Spirit to Quicken the word in a person's heart. The word must become living in the same way that Jesus was the word and out of the tomb became living by the quickening power of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost must quicken the word in you for you to have a real understanding spiritually. This is how the word becomes living in you. Physical

understanding is only a piece just like physical life is only a part of you. You are not complete until you are spiritual. The word must become spiritual in you. The two become one like body and spirit. Paul the apostle found this out. He knew the law which was sent of God. He was a doctor of law. But his understanding was darkened and before he met Jesus he persecuted the church. It wasn't until after he met Christ on the road to Damascus that all that word in him which was dead became quickened unto life. It is through the revelation of the law that he was able to set up the rules and doctrines and discipline the church still uses today. The law was a pattern but only the spirit could give it meaning for life. This is revelation and how it works. You can physically study the Scripture on an academic level but until and unless the Holy Spirit quickens it you will remain in darkness. The two must become one: the word and the spirit become one in the same way body and spirit does, the same way man and woman in marriage does just as Christ and the church does in the same way heaven and earth does. All of these picture the relationship between Christ and the father and the two are one. Jesus is the part of God you can see. He was revealed as a man. God is the part you can't see and Jesus reveals him through the things he said and did. You could say in a way that Jesus is the body of God and this is why Jesus prayed we would become one even as he and the father were one. This is why Jesus also told his disciples when you see me you've seen the Father.

Joh:14:8: Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9: Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

10: Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

11: Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake

Adam and Christ

You can see that all of these things fall into the order of things between Adam and Christ. Adam was the physical Christ was the spiritual. Through one sin Adam brought many to death. Through one act of righteousness Christ wrought many to life. Adam was the first of his physically Christ is the first of a spiritually.

Ro:5:12: Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

13: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14: Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

15: But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

16: And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

17: For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18: Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life

19: For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

The Scripture is clear Adam is a figure or a picture of the one who was to come. Again the physical pictures the spiritual. The things you can see testify to the things you cannot. This is the pattern of God. Please invest yourself in the study as we go through all the ins and outs of this pattern and how revelation works. We are a supernatural people dependant upon the supernatural God. Revelation is an operation of the supernatural. Our strength is not in our academic prowess but rather in our spiritual dependency upon a living God. Theology is man's study of God. It is man's attempt to understand him but only on a physical level. Theology can never pierce the veil of the spiritual. Revelation is the true propriety of the Christian. We are dependent on God who reveals himself through his son Jesus. The physical is only a picture of the spiritual. The spiritual is the true existence. This is what makes the resurrection of the dead so important. The physical temporary but the spiritual is eternal.

Chapter 15

Out of the Mouth of Two or Three

In this second class on the pattern of God We deal with the Principle that all truth is presented to us from God from two or three witnesses.

Deuteronomy 17:6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.

Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

2 Corinthians 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

God himself has established this principle where by we can discern the truth. First look at the over all pattern we learned about the Physical and Spiritual from the first class in this course. There are two witnesses. Can you spot the two witnesses in the below verses?

1Co:15:45: And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.⁴⁶ Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.⁴⁷ The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.⁴⁸ As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

The two witnesses are the Physical and the Spiritual. You will find that every truth in the bible is established in this way. Below are 7 examples. Notice that the testimony of the first two witnesses added together make a third one.

- 1. Physical and Spiritual = The full testimony**
- 2. Body and Spirit = a living soul or union of the two**
- 3. Man and woman = a marriage or union: The man for the Spirit and the woman for the body.**
- 4. Earth and Heaven = Creation : Earth is physical heaven is Spiritual.**
- 5. Jew and Gentile = One new man: Those of the Law(Physical) and those of the Spirit.**
- 6. The law and the prophets = The full testimony of God**
- 7. Christ and the Church = they are one.**

The truth is represented always as first a physical witness and then a spiritual one. First you are born Physically (The body) then you are born Spiritually.(Born again) This by no coincidence is the same order in which God created man. First the physical and the Spiritual. The joining of the two made a third witness, a living soul.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

To see that this principle of understanding is faithfully applied let us look at its use in scripture.

1 Corinthians 14:13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

The actual tongue is Physical. The interpretation is Spiritual. It takes them both to be complete. Read on in this Chapter by the Apostle Paul. This pattern of “let everything be established out of the mouth of two or three” is doctrine and demonstrated in all we do as Christians.

1 Corinthians 14:27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

1 Corinthians 14:29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

Once again we see the pattern established. We see it repeated over and over again. The Physical and the Spiritual always are in agreement. They speak as one. The things we see testify to the things we cannot. The very nature of creation we see testifies to things in the spiritual we do not. In this testimony we find agreement. Two witnesses leave us with out excuse.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

This also shows us that even our needs are taken into account in this pattern. No one starts out spiritual, we all start out in the flesh. When we cry out to God because of need God fulfills our need. The physical needs show us we need Spiritual answers. Need is physical. Answer to need is spiritual. Our answers to prayer come from on high. Through our physical needs we are brought to cry out in prayer for help. In answering our needs God shows us we need him. Through this process we are led to God through are needs. All needs show us we need a savior. Through this process we receive Jesus from on high as answer to all our needs. It is a fact that one only seeks a Doctor when they are sick. God uses our needs to lead us to him. Our needs start out Physical but they will lead us to the truth of the Spiritual. Temporary physical needs are only pictures of our true need. We need an eternal salvation from sin. Jesus is that salvation. In the process of learning to depend on God for the physical needs to be filled we learn God is the answer to all our needs. The relationship turns from a physical one to a spiritual one in this process. Need and Answer to need are two witnesses.

The Law and the prophets work as witnesses in the same way. The Law teaches us we are sinners and there for need a savior. The prophets offer us the promise of a savior from heaven. This is why a priest and a king ruled over Israel together. Priest for the prophets and king for the law. Jesus is a priest and king for ever. He is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. The two testimonies be come one in him only.

Hebrews 7:1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

Hebrews 7:17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Melchisedec was both priest and King. Jesus is the fulfillment of this order. He is High priest at the right hand God where he rules as King. We are brought into this Holy order through our adoption into Christ where we will rule with him as priests and kings. The two witnesses coming together as , which is demonstrated at the resurrection of the dead where your body is exalted as a king with Christ of which your spirit is a priest. The two become one. A Priest king in the order of Melchisedec. The testimony of two is true.

You will always find two witnesses coming together to make a third in this pattern. This why we use bread and wine in communion.

Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

Jesus brought bread and wine as Melchisedec did. He gave us his body and blood.

Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

We must eat the Body of Christ and drink the Blood of Christ to have a part in him.

John 6:55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

Here Jesus was speaking of the Word and the Spirit. We eat of the word and we drink of his Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

We eat of the Word and we drink of the Spirit. This is our communion with the father. We have partaken of his son. Bread and wine represent this truth. Bread is for body and wine is for spirit. These figures were used in the old covenant to represent Christ. The Israelites ate manna from heaven (body) and drank water from a rock (Spirit). These both picture Jesus.

John 6:31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

1 Corinthians 10:3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Jesus is our meat and drink. He is our bread and wine. We eat of the word and drink of the spirit. These two witnesses work together. The Word tells you Physically and the Spirit makes it revelation. The Spirit quickens the Word. You have an outside witness and an inside witness. The two come together in you as one. The testimony of two is true. You become the third witness as the Spirit quickens the word in your heart. Out of the mouths of two or three witnesses is at the center of this pattern.

This completes the Basic Christianity study. In another volume we will continue into the Pattern of God a bit deeper. These are only basic understandings and you are encouraged to go further. I pray this is helpful to you.
In Jesus name I offer this,

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