



Behold  the Lamb
Publications

**The Father
and the
Son**



Also in this issue:
Our Spiritual House

The Father and the Son

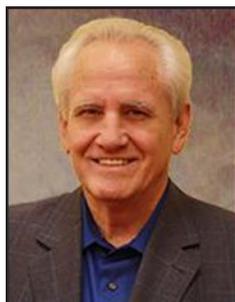
Out of the box and freed from sin!

“**What box do you fit in?**” That seems to be the question so many want us at **Behold the Lamb** to answer. “What denomination...what seminary...what degree...are you Trinitarian ...Oneness ...Calvinist ...Armenian ...what do we believe? For many years I have written a booklet every month, saying exactly “what we believe.” As the apostle Paul said “...*as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;*” II Corinthians 4:13. When God called me to preach over fifty years ago, He explicitly instructed me not to study church doctrines or the writings of men, but to study only the scriptures of the bible (KJV). The things you read in **Behold the Lamb** are the result of doing just that. The most common response we receive from those who read **Behold the Lamb** for the first time is, “We’ve never heard this before.” I believe that is because we seek to “say” only what God says in His word.

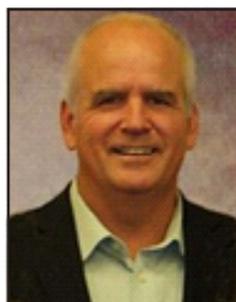
Recently I was questioned by a man wanting to know the “source” of my conviction that the children of God are not sinners. “Do you study after any of the great men of God who have passed on before us?” he asked. I said, “Yes, of course I do.” He responded, “Who?” I answered, “Paul, John, Peter, Isaiah, Jeremiah...” He wasn't happy with my answer, but

these and the other apostles and prophets of Christ in the scriptures are our only source of gospel truth. To believe what they said in the scriptures is to believe what God said, and that we seek to do, as we simply “Say what God says.”

This month's message is “The Father and the Son.” I have sought to lay out in order what the scripture says about



Leroy Surface



Keith Surface

the purpose of each in our complete salvation. Many today are confused and tend to believe the Holy Ghost comes to do what Christ shed His precious blood to do. They forget, it is impossible to receive the “Spirit of God” if they do not first possess “the Spirit of His Son.” Paul said, “If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.” I seek to give clear understanding of what this means to every child of God.

“The Father and the Son”

Message by: **Leroy Surface**

“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father...” I John 2:22-23

Introduction

The apostle John spoke in the strongest terms concerning what a person must believe about Jesus. He lived through the great persecution against the church during which all the other apostles and the apostle Paul had been executed because of the message they preached: *“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God which should come into the world”* John 11:27. The Jews worshiped God as *“the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,”* but they denied He was *“the Father of Jesus of Nazareth,”* and that Jesus of Nazareth is *“the Christ, the Son of God.”* They denied what we call *“the incarnation,”* when Christ, who is the eternal *“Word”* of God, who was both *“with God”* and *“was God,”* was *“made flesh”* to dwell among men. They believed in the coming of Christ (Messiah), but to believe *“Jesus is the Christ”* I John 5:1, or that *“Christ is the Son of God”* Matthew 22:41-42, brought the wrath of both the Jews and the Roman Empire against the Christians. Whether it were the Jews, the romans, or the Gnostics, John labeled those who deny *“Jesus is the Christ,”* as well as those who deny *“the Father and the Son”* as both *“liars”* and *“antichrists.”*

There is different phenomenon taking place in the theology of the modern church of today. There is much confusion about who the Father and the Son are, and what their roles are in our full salvation. No *“believer”* would deny it was Jesus who died on the cross. Every *“believer”* believes John 3:16, which says *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”* John 3:16. It is the place which

each of these, the Father and the Son fill in our full salvation that we will examine in this message.

“We Will Come”

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” John 14:23

Jesus gave a wonderful promise in His last day on earth with His disciples. Conditional upon a person *“loving Jesus and keeping His words,”* Jesus said, *“My Father will love him”* and *“We will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”* I need not go into what others believe and teach about these words, but I clearly see the promise that both *“the Spirit of the Father”* Matthew 10:20, and *“the Spirit of the Son”* Galatians 4:6, individually, will dwell in the children of God. The scriptures are filled with references to this great truth which has evidently been lost to many in this generation.

When I was a young man in the ministry, the question of the apostle Paul to a few believers he found at Ephesus was a common text for ministry, *“Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?”* Acts 19:2. The emphasis for the message was always placed on the words *“since you believed.”* I know that is the correct emphasis, because the apostle Paul wrote his epistle to the Ephesians years later, and reminded them of that first encounter, saying, *“...after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise (the Holy Ghost)...”* Ephesians 1:13. The question comes to my mind, however, if we do not receive the Holy Ghost until “after we believe,” what do we receive “when we believe?” This is just one of the questions I will seek to answer, using nothing but the scriptures from the KJV bible.

Many today, as in the time of Paul at Ephesus, have *“received Christ (the Spirit of the Son) into their hearts by faith,”* but they have not yet received *“the Holy Ghost”* which Jesus called *“The Spirit of your Father”* Matthew 10:20. In the past, the non-Pentecostal churches taught that we *“received the Holy Ghost”* at the moment of salvation, but those with the true experience of the baptism of the

Holy Ghost knew this was not so. With the advent of the Charismatic movement about fifty years ago, many of those who knew the original “*Pentecostal experience*” were caught up in the influx of millions who believed they received the Holy Ghost at salvation and “*learned how*” to “*speak in tongues.*” The reality of “Pentecost” was lost and along with it the power to “*turn the world upside down*” whenever the gospel of Christ is preached. Today, it is “*the church*” that has been “*turned upside down,*” and lost the reality of what it is to know both “*The Father AND the Son*” I John 2:22.

The “*church*” has been in a “*downward spiral*” for at about two generations and is not even aware of it. Ministers who do not know the truth, most of whom have never heard the truth, regularly lead the people to repeat “*sinner’s prayers,*” with the promise of “*eternal life*” if you are simply “*sincere.*” The only condition seems to be that you “*believe in Jesus,*” without regard to what it really means to “*believe in Jesus.*”

The apostle Paul reminded the saints at Ephesus of the day they first “*trusted in Christ;*” it was “*after ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation*” Ephesians 1:13. Jesus said, “*You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” John 8:32. Those who “*come to Jesus*” without hearing and believing “*the word of truth*” will enter into a lifetime of religious struggle, seeking to “*learn how*” to live for God and have “*peace with God*” Romans 5:1. If the “*word of truth*” which Jesus spoke of is not preached, no one will be “*made free from sin*” to “*serve God*” in righteousness and true holiness Romans 6:22. So, what is “*the word of truth*” which every one of the apostles preached?

Preaching Christ

“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” Acts 5:42

During His life and ministry on earth, Jesus was never called “*Jesus Christ.*” In fact, He had instructed His disciples to “*tell no one that I am Jesus, the Christ*” Matthew 16:20. After His resurrection, however, He commanded His disciples, “*Go ye into all the world, and preach*

the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” Mark 16:15-16. The “gospel” they preached is what Paul called “*the gospel of Christ*” Romans 1:16, which is in its simplicity: “*Jesus is the Christ.*” Jesus said, “*...repent ye, and believe the gospel.*” Mark 1:15. The apostle John said, “*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.*” They “*...ceased not to teach and preach Jesus (is the) Christ*”

Peter preached this simple truth on the Day of Pentecost: “*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that **God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ***” (Jesus is the Christ) Acts 2:36. Paul preached it immediately after his conversion on the road to Damascus: “*And straightway he **preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, **proving that this (Jesus) is very Christ*****” Acts 9:20-22.

Twenty years later, Paul was still preaching the same message, which was “*turning the world upside down*” in every city and place he went. In the city of Thessalonica we have a record of what he preached: “*And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, opening and alleging, **that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ***” Acts 17:2-3.

The Jewish rabbis had been preaching the coming of Christ in the synagogues for several generations. They expected His appearance in the same year Jesus came into His ministry Luke 3:15, but they refused to consider any possibility that Jesus of Nazareth could be their blessed Messiah, “*the Christ.*” Even the Gentile world was expecting “*the Christ*” to come. The Samaritan woman at the well, while talking to Jesus, said, “*I know that Messias cometh, **which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things***” John 4:25. She left her water-pot at the well and went into the city, telling

everyone she met that she had found “*the Christ.*” Many came to hear Jesus for themselves as He spoke at the well. They said to the woman, “*Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that **this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world***” John 4:42.

Prophecy of “The Christ”

There is one prophecy of Christ in the scriptures that captured the imagination of all the people, both Jews and Gentiles. It is called “*the seventy weeks prophecy of Daniel.*” In fact, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to tell Daniel of something wonderful to come in the future of the children of Israel. The message began, “*Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, **to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy***” Daniel 9:24. The timeline of the prophecy is seventy “*weeks of years,*” which is 490 years in our reckoning of time. The wonderful promise of the prophecy is what captured the imagination of the people. An “*end of sins*” and “*everlasting righteousness*” was coming to them. It is in the next verse that we see the first hint about how these things will come about:

“*Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah (the Christ) the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks....*” Daniel 9:25

As it happened, King Artaxerxes of Persia gave the decree Gabriel spoke of in 457 B.C., and the countdown began unto the year “*the Christ,*” the “*Messiah of the Jews*” would come. It would be “*seven weeks*” of years and “*threescore and two weeks*” of years, which totals 483 years from the decree to the coming of “*the Christ.*” Doing the math brings us to the year 26 A.D., which is the same year the Holy Ghost came upon Jesus at John’s baptism service. The people heard a voice from heaven, saying, “*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*” Matthew 3:17. In that same year, there was great expectancy in Israel. Luke wrote, “*And as **the people were in***

*expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were **the Christ, or not***” Luke 3:15.

Jesus began His ministry in the first year of the seventieth week of Daniel’s prophecy. It is a great error, invented by Satan himself, which says the “*seventieth week*” was suspended until the last days of time, and given to one called “*The anti-Christ.*” This incredible scheme of the enemy blinds the minds of the people to the truth of the gospel, which says Christ came into the world to “*make an end of sins.*” He did so through His death on the cross, where He was “*cut off, but not for Himself*” Daniel 9:26 in the exact middle of the seventieth week when He “*...put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself*” Hebrews 9:26, and all “*sacrifice and oblation ceased...*” Daniel 9:27. Sadly, every modern version of the bible perverts these scriptures, and only the KJV is faithful to what the Hebrew text actually says.

John the Baptist understood this prophecy. He knew “*the Christ*” would “*make an end of sins,*” and “*bring in everlasting righteousness.*” He testified to this, saying, “*And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God*” John 1:33-34.

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin (makes an end of sins) of the world.” John 1:29

Receiving Christ

“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” John 1:10-11

Jews everywhere would have “received Christ” if He had been born of nobility in the city of Jerusalem. They believed “*the Christ*” would declare himself to be the rightful king of the Jews, establish his throne in Jerusalem, and drive the romans out of their land. He would govern the people by the Law of Moses, and thus rid the land

of sin and sinners. A dear Jewish friend of mine once told me, “*If Jesus had been ‘the Christ,’ he would have ‘made an end of sins,’ and we would not have all these prostitutes on our streets.*” Thank God, my friend has since believed “*Jesus is the Christ.*”

“*But as many as received him, to them gave he power (privilege) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*” John 1:12

To this point in John’s gospel, he has spoken only of “*the Word* (the Logos),” which is Christ. He has made no mention of “*the Son of God*” until verse 14 where we read, “*And the Word was made flesh* (Jesus), *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 1:14.

When John says in verse 12, “*as many as received Him,*” he speaks of “*receiving Christ.*” It is a strange paradox, but it is possible to “*receive Jesus*” without “*receiving Christ,*” but it is impossible to “*receive Christ*” without “*receiving Jesus.*” Let me explain.

Most Jews around the world no longer hate Jesus. My Jewish friend expressed a desire to me many years ago to be like Jesus. Many accept Jesus as a wonderful example of how to live, but they still do not believe “*Jesus is the Christ.*” Many of those who hate Christians tell us we should be “*more like Jesus.*” It is known that Mahatma Gandhi, the Hindu leader of India a hundred years ago, loved Jesus for the life he lived, while at the same time hating the lifestyle of many who call themselves “*Christians.*” Some say he would have “*received Christ*” if it had not been for “*Christians.*”

We “*receive Christ by faith.*” Paul told us “*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*” Galatians 3:26. This is not a mystical thing. It simply means we “*believe what God says*” about His Son 1 John 5:10, and the sum of that is, “*Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God*” Matthew 16:16-17. When Abraham was “*justified by faith,*” it was not “*mystical*” in any way. He simply “*believed what God said,*” which defines what faith is. The apostle John said, “*He that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son*” 1 John 5:10. The “*record*” is, “*Jesus is the Christ*” 1 John 5:1.

There are no “magic words” to getting saved. It is not a matter of “believing hard enough” that we are saved. It is simply a matter of knowing that “*Jesus is the Christ,*” and that Christ, who was eternally “*with God*” and “*was God,*” became a man to “*save us from our sin*” Matthew 1:21.

Times of Refreshing

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;” Act 3:19

“*Repentance,*” as used in this verse means “*to think differently,*” but salvation is more than simply “*thinking differently.*” Repentance must be followed by being “*converted,*” which simply means to “*turn around*” in thought and action. Salvation is more than “*turning around,*” however. This method to receive forgiveness and even pardon has been offered to the wicked and ungodly since the beginning of time. Almost seven hundred years before Jesus was born to Mary, the prophet Isaiah offered this promise from God:

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts (think differently): and let him return (turn around) unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:7

Can you see that a person can have “*forgiveness*” and even “*pardon,*” and still not have the salvation Christ died to bring? Repentance and turning to Christ are “*first works*” Revelation 2:5, and when any person does these things under conviction of the Holy Spirit of God, they have a “*guarantee*” their “*time of refreshing*” will come from the presence of God, and their “*sins*” will be “*blotted out.*” They will be “*made free from sin to serve righteousness*” Romans 6:18, which will become their new nature.

According to Peter in this verse, there may be a short space of time between “*repenting,*” “*converting,*” and the “*time of refreshing*” when sins are “*blotted out.*” Don’t misunderstand what I say. I know that whenever a person confesses their sin to God, He is “*faithful and just*” to forgive them. That alone, however, is not what

Christ died to accomplish. There are people too numerous to number who “*repent*” every day, but “*continue in sin*” because their “*sins*” have never been “*blotted out*.”

The Error of Philosophical Religion

“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.” Colossians 2:8

The apostle Paul warns against those who would come with their “*love of wisdom* (philosophy)” and their “*empty delusions* (vain deceit)” to bring you into bondage to the “*traditions of men* (ceremonial religion)” and the “*rudiments of the world* (the world’s way of doing things),” and “*not (never) after Christ*.” The modern church counselor will not tell you Christ alone is sufficient to deliver you from addictions and sinful lifestyles, but that is exactly what He died on the cross to do for everyone who will “*believe the truth*” and “*trust in Him*.”

According to the message God sent to the prophet Daniel by the angel Gabriel, Christ (the Messiah) came into the world “*...to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness...*” Daniel 9:24. When sins are “*blotted out*,” they are gone from the heart and mind of the believer. This can happen at the moment of repentance and faith, but it can happen only through “*belief of the truth*” II Thessalonians 2:13, of which Jesus said, “*Ye shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free*” John 8:32. This is the “*word of truth, the gospel of your salvation*” Ephesians 1:13, which the Ephesians received from the apostle **before** they believed and trusted in Christ

He Shall Send Jesus Christ

“And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you.” Acts 3:20

God has promised to “*send Jesus Christ*,” to those who have “*repented*” and “*turned*.” This is what brings “*the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord*.” I have known those who

say the only way they know they are saved is because they have done everything they were commanded to do; they “*prayed a sinner’s prayer,*” and they were “*baptized in water,*” but they have never experienced the “*time of refreshing.*” These will spend their lifetime trying to “*turn from their sins,*” which is not the gospel way of salvation. Under the law, the people spent their entire lives “*turning from sin,*” but they could not be “*free from sin.*” The “*repenting*” and “*turning*” that brings full and rich salvation is to “*think differently (believe the word of truth)*” and “*turn to Christ,*” to “*trust in Him*” Ephesians 1:12.

The apostle Paul spoke of those whose minds are in bondage to religious law. He said, “*But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it (the heart) shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away*” II Corinthians 3:15-16. When the vail is removed from the heart, we will see Jesus Christ “*as He is.*” The apostle John tells us, “*...we know that we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is*” I John 3:2. Paul said, “*But we all, with open face (the vail removed from our heart) beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord (seeing Christ as He is), are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord*” II Corinthians 3:18. It should be clearly understood, “*the Spirit of the Lord*” in this verse does not refer to the Holy Ghost. This can only refer to “*the Spirit of Christ.*” In the previous verse, Paul said, “*Now the Lord (Christ) is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty*” II Corinthians 3:17.

The promise is that God will “*send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you.*” The apostle John preached, “*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.*” This is the “*gospel of Christ,*” which Paul said is “*the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believeth (it)*” Romans 1:16. Peter was the first to express the wonderful simplicity of “*the gospel of Christ*” when He said to Jesus, “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*” Matthew 16:16. Just before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Martha expressed her faith when she said to Jesus, “*Thou are the Christ, the Son of God which should come into the world*” John 11:27.

“Jesus is the Christ, whom God has sent into the world” is the message the apostles preached everywhere they went. The *“gospel,”* the *“wonderful good news”* that Jesus of Nazareth is *“the Christ from heaven,”* who came to earth as a man to *“make an end of sins”* Daniel 9:24. He *“put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself”* Hebrews 9:26 when He died on the cross. This is *“the word of truth”* which must be received before any person can be *“made free from sin”* Romans 6:18, with their sins *“blotted out”* of their heart and nature.

The Spirit of Christ

“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Romans 8:9

By this simple statement we know the one essential to salvation: everyone must receive *“the Spirit of Christ.”* When Paul says, *“I am crucified...but Christ liveth in me...”* Galatians 2:20, he speaks of the *“Spirit of Christ”* which he received *“by faith (believing the truth).”*

The apostle John wrote, *“In the beginning was the Word (the Logos), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* John 1:1. *“Logos”* is the Greek word that was translated *“the Word,”* which is properly defined by Strong’s Greek Dictionary as *“divine expression.”* Jesus is *“the Word made flesh”* John 1:14. In His flesh, He was *“the image of the invisible God”* Colossians 1:15, *“the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person”* Hebrews 1:3. When we see what Jesus Christ was in the days of His flesh, we see what *“the Spirit of Christ”* is to everyone who receives Him. The apostle John is bold to say, *“...as He is, so are we in this world”* I John 4:17.

John said *“...and the Word was made flesh...”* The *“Word (Logos)”* is the *“incorruptible seed”* which impregnated the Virgin Mary. Peter spoke of this *“incorruptible seed”* as being absolutely necessary to everyone who is born of God: *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word (the Logos) of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”* I Peter 1:23. The *“Word of God”* spoken of in this verse is the eternal *“Spirit of Christ,”* the same who was *“in the beginning with God”* and *“was God”* John 1:1, who *“liveth and abideth forever.”* Christ is *“the incorruptible*

seed,” and “if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, He is none of His.”

The Spirit of God’s Son

“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” Galatians 4:6

The “*Spirit of Christ*” is “*the Spirit of God’s Son*,” and He comes into the heart of everyone who is “*born of God*.” The apostle Paul speaks of this to the believers at Galatia, “*Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus*” Galatians 3:26. They had “*heard the word of truth*,” and they “*believed that Jesus is the Christ*,” with a full knowledge of who Christ is. This is the “*gospel of salvation*,” which they believed to “*receive Christ by faith*” Ephesians 3:17. Now, the apostle says, “*...because you are sons (you have believed ‘Jesus is the Christ’), God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father*” Galatians 4:6. This fulfills the promise Peter gave to repentant Jews, “*...He shall send Jesus Christ*” Acts 3:20.

When “*the Spirit of Christ*” comes into our hearts, it is not a “*cold, dry, legalistic matter*.” It is “*the time of refreshing*,” when He, “*the Spirit of God’s Son*” comes into our heart, crying “*Abba, Father*.” It is a time of great rejoicing. John Newton rejoiced, “*I once was lost, but now I’m found! I was blind, but now I see!*” (Amazing Grace). It is not a just a “*matter of faith*” when this happens. We received Him “*by faith*,” as John Newton wrote, “*...the hour I first believed*.” God responds to our faith when He “*sends the Spirit of His Son*,” the one “*in whom...by whom...and for whom all things were created*” Colossians 1:16, into our heart to live His life in us.

In the beginning, God sent Christ forth as “*the Word of God*” to create the heavens and earth: In redemption, God sent Him forth as “*the Son of God*” to die on the cross; and now, He has sent Him forth as “*the Spirit of His Son (the Spirit of Christ)*” to live His life in the children of God. This is absolutely necessary to the salvation of our soul. No one can receive the “*Holy Ghost (the Spirit of the Father Matthew 10:20)*” who has not first received “*the Spirit of His Son*.” Yet, as great as Christ is, by whom “*all things were made*”

John 1:3, the Father is greater John 14:28. When Christ comes into the heart of those who “receive Him,” He comes in “crying *Abba, Father.*” It is “*the Spirit of the Son*” calling for “*the Spirit of the Father*” to also come.

The word “*Abba*” is of Chaldean origin. It is an ancient word for father that denotes great respect for a kind and loving father, which one might out of respect call “*lord.*” We do not understand such respect, but remember that Sarah called Abraham “*lord.*” She did not do so out of “*fear,*” but from “*love, honor, and obedience.*” Such is the effect of the “*Spirit of Christ*” when He comes into a person. He brings great “*reverence*” for the “*Father,*” and a yearning for the “*Spirit of the Father (The Holy Ghost)*” to come into us. This is evidence that Christ does indeed abide in us. Paul says, “*Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*” Galatians 4:7.

The Spirit of Adoption

“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.” Romans 8:15

Another name for “*the Spirit of Christ*” is “*the Spirit of adoption.*” It is when Christ comes into our heart that we are placed as a son or daughter of God. The English word “adoption” is misleading in this verse. The Greek word actually means “*to place as a son,*” which sounds very much like “adoption.” The truth is, however, those who are “*the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus*” Galatians 3:26 are “*born of God.*” The apostle Paul tells us “*the adoption*” pertains to the children of Israel whom God chose in Abraham Romans 9:4. They were “*the chosen people,*” which always speaks of adoption. We who “trust in Christ” are not “step children;” we are, right now, “*the sons of God*” I John 3:2. It is the indwelling “*Spirit of Christ*” that has placed us as the sons of God.

The “*spirit of bondage*” is the spirit of a slave. Jesus said, “*He that committeth sin is the servant (slave) of sin*” John 8:34. In an effort to contain sin, Moses gave us “*the Law of Moses,*” which Paul said

“was added because of transgressions...” Galatians 3:19. Under the Law of Moses, the people received *“the spirit of bondage,”* which caused them to live their lives in fear. Paul warned the Galatian churches against the Law, calling it a *“yoke of bondage,”* and telling them not to become entangled with it Galatians 5:1. Those who trusted in the law actually brought a curse upon themselves, because the Law cursed those who neglected its smallest detail Galatians 3:10. In the same way God gave His Son to *“redeem us from all iniquity,”* the apostle says *“God sent forth His Son...to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons”* Galatians 4:4.

The apostle Paul tells us of a *“mystery”* that was hidden from ages and generations, but *“is now made manifest to His saints,”* which is *“Christ in you, the hope of Glory.”* Paul gives his personal profession; *“I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me”* Galatians 2:20. It is the eternal Spirit of Christ dwelling and living His life in us that manifests to the world that we are *“born of God,”* the *“sons and daughters of God”* II Corinthians 6:18. The *“Spirit of Christ”* is *“The Spirit of Adoption”* by which we are *“born again”* the children of God.

Christ, Our Sanctifier

“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.” Hebrews 2:11

Notice in this verse the one who sanctifies us also calls us *“brethren.”* This cannot speak of the Holy Ghost, because He has no *“Father,”* and He has no *“brethren.”* According to the clear statement of the apostle Paul, we are *“sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ”* Hebrews 10:10, and the shedding of His holy blood Hebrews 13:12. The Holy Ghost has no *“body of flesh”* to offer, and no *“blood”* to shed, which proves He cannot be our sanctifier.

Jesus Christ is our sanctifier. He is the *“Son of God”* who was *“born of a virgin.”* We who are sanctified are *“born again”* I Peter 1:23 of the same *“incorruptible seed”* Jesus was born of. The Spirit of Christ

dwells in us. The apostle Paul says both the sanctified and the sanctifier “*are all of one,*” which means we are “born again” of the same “Father” Jesus was born of. Jesus is called both “*the first begotten*” Hebrews 1:6 and “*the firstborn among many brethren*” Romans 8:29. The scripture says “*He is not ashamed to call us brethren,*” because we are those He has “*sanctified with His own blood*” Hebrews 13:12.

Why Christ Died

“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.” Hebrews 13:12

The apostle Paul very clearly tells us why Christ shed His blood and died on the cross. It was for our sanctification. Consider this verse very closely. In only seventeen words, the apostle tells us everything we need to know about the sufferings and death of Christ: “***That He might sanctify the people with His own blood.***” Yet, there are multitudes who believe it is the work of the Holy Ghost to “*work in us,*” and “*clean us up*” over a period of time. I have heard it said the death of Christ on the cross “*gives the Holy Ghost the ‘legal right’ to work in us.*” Consider how ridiculous it is to speak of God’s need of “legal right” to save us. According to these teachers, it is no longer we, the people, who must be subject to “*laws,*” it is God. Who made it “*illegal*” for God to work with man? It was “*sin*” that separated man from God, and “*sin*” must be “*taken away*” **before** the Spirit of God will once again dwell in man. The Son of God died on the cross as a “*lamb without blemish and without spot*” 1 Peter 1:19, to “*take away the sin of the world*” John 1:29.

“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.” 1 Peter 3:18

Christ died to “*bring us to God.*” Paul writes to the Colossians that Christ died to “*present*” us to God. He said “*...and you, that were sometime (at one time) alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh*

through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight...” Colossians 1:21-22.

Look at the last three words of this verse, “...in His sight.” Jesus said to some who were among the most religious elite in Israel, “*Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God*” Matthew 22:29. Those in our generation who are very “religious,” but equally ignorant of the scriptures, tell us the words “in His sight” refer to “*the way God sees us.*” According to their theory, we are “still sinners,” who “sin every day,” and will “continue to sin as long as we live in this body of flesh,” but Jesus has so “covered us” that God can’t see us; “He only sees Jesus when He looks at us.” Oh, what foolish thinking and believing this is.

The words “in His sight” were translated from the Greek words “*katenōpion hautou,*” which simply mean “*directly in front of Him.*” Those Christ has redeemed, He has sanctified with His own blood. Jesus Christ has died as the “*Lamb of God*” John 1:29, and He has “*taken away our sins*” I John 3:5. Our hearts have been “*purified by faith*” John 15:8-9 in the very moment we believed the truth. When we stand before God to give account, we will be truly and absolutely “*holy, unblameable, and unproveable.*”

What Christ died on the cross to accomplish was “*finished*” on the cross to be received by those who believe the truth and trust in Him. He did not lay His life down to give us a new “philosophy of life,” or a “new way of living.” Through His death, burial, and resurrection, He brought us “*in union with Him*” into the New Creation, and we are, right now, “*new creatures in Christ Jesus*” II Corinthians 5:17. The gospel clearly states that we died with Him Romans 6:6-7, we were buried with Him Romans 6:4 in His death, and we were resurrected with Him Ephesians 2:4-5. His death was our death; His burial was our burial; His resurrection was our resurrection; His life is our life; and His victory is our victory. “...*old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ...*” II Corinthians 5:17-18.

Christ: a “Comforter” in You...

“If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 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. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” John 14:15-18

It is commonly known that the Holy Ghost is called “*the Comforter*.” A lesser known fact is, Christ is also a comforter to those who receive Him. We have seen that it is God who sends “*the Spirit of His Son*” Galatians 4:6 into the hearts of those who “repent” and “convert” to Jesus, “*the Christ*.” Acts 3:19-20. Jesus Christ is the “comforter” who had spent several years “*with*” the disciples in earthly ministry, and He promised to dwell “*in*” them. Jesus plainly said, “*I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you*” John 14:18. When Jesus said “*I will come to you*,” He was not speaking of His “second coming” when, as Paul said, “*The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven...*” I Thessalonians 4:16. The Father (God) sends “*the Spirit of Christ*” into the heart of everyone who “*believes the truth*” and “*trusts in Him*” Ephesians 1:12. This is He of whom Paul said, “*If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His*” Romans 8:9. Upon giving this powerful truth, the apostle proceeds immediately to show the condition of those in whom Christ dwells.

Christ in You

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

There is a word in the Greek text that was not included in the translation of this verse. The Greek word “*men*,” which is properly translated “*in fact*” or “*indeed*,” is commonly found in sentences which include two contrasting clauses, one a “*concession*” and the other an “*affirmation*,” which are joined together with the word “*but*.” This verse, properly translated from the Greek, says, “*...if Christ be in you, the body is indeed dead because of sin*

(concession); *but the Spirit is life because of righteousness* (affirmation).”

The purpose of Christ dwelling in our hearts is to make us alive with His life. The apostle John said, *“This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”* ^{1John 5:11:12}. Six hundred years before Jesus was born to Mary, God promised to give a *“new heart and a new spirit”* ^{Ezekiel 36:26} within His people. The *“Spirit of Christ”* is our *“new spirit,”* and He is our life ^{Colossians 3:4}.

The Righteousness of God

The phrase *“because of righteousness”* refers to the *“righteousness of God,”* and not our own righteousness. We do not have “life” because we are righteous, but we are “righteous” because we have life. Paul said, *“...if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law”* ^{Galatians 3:21}. The law could not give life, so it follows that obedience to the law can never give righteousness.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed...” ^{Romans 1:16-17}

The term *“righteousness of God”* always speaks of the “justice of God” to save sinners. It is revealed in the “gospel of Christ.” The “gospel” tells us **1.** “Who Christ is ^{John 1:1}; **2.** What He came into the world to do ^{Daniel 9:24-25}; **3.** How He accomplished it all through His death on the cross ^{John 19:30}; **4.** And how God’s righteousness is wrought in everyone who believes *“Jesus is the Christ”* ^{1John 5:1}. That God is righteous is proven in that Christ came into the world and died on the cross to *“save sinners”* ^{1 Timothy 1:15}. *“Christ-crucified”* declares to the ends of the earth that *“God is just, and the justifier of him who believeth in Jesus”* ^{Romans 3:25-26}. It is the death of Jesus Christ on the cross (the justice of God to save sinners) and His

resurrection the third day, that has delivered us from sin and Satan, and given life to everyone who believes the truth.

The Apostle Paul's personal testimony was "*I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me**; the life I now live **in the flesh** (mortal body), I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me*" Galatians 2:20. Paul's spirit was "*life,*" because Christ was "*living in him.*" This is the wonderful estate of those who are "*born of God.*"

Sinning without the Body

The apostle Paul "concedes" the fact "*our body is indeed dead because of sin,*" but "confirms" the "*Spirit of Christ*" is our "*new spirit,*" and our "*life*" Colossians 3:4. Notice, however, that Paul did not say "*...the body is a sinner.*" Multitudes in this generation have believed that lie to their own condemnation. They teach "*our spirit is holy, but our body is sinful,*" and "*we will sin as long as we live in this body.*" Remember the words of Paul, "*The life I now live* (since I believed 'Jesus is the Christ' and trusted in Him) *in the flesh* (my mortal body), *I live by the faith of the Son of God...*"

Our "*body*" has never been the problem. James said, "*The body without the spirit is dead...*" James 2:26. By this we understand, our "*body*" has never been the source of sin. When the spirit leaves the body it is dead and we bury it. A dead body can do neither good nor evil, because it is dead. It has always been the one living in the body that either sins or does righteousness.

Jesus clearly says in His "*Sermon on the Mount*" that a man can commit adultery without the use of his body.

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matthew 5:27

The apostle Paul goes much further, and says, "*Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body*" I Corinthians 6:18. Jesus confirms the words of Paul: "*From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil*

thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man” Mark 7:21-23. The sins a person commits are not “*sins of the body,*” but rather they are “*sins against the body.*”

Considering the fact that our body is not, and never has been, the source of sin, what did Paul mean when he said, “*the body is dead because of sin.*” The entrance of Christ into our heart and nature does not change the effect “*Adam’s sin*” had on our body. Our body will remain dead, not “in sin,” but dead to doing the work of God until the “*the Spirit of God (The Holy Ghost)*” comes in to stay. Remember, “*Our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost*” 1 Corinthians 6:19, and only the Holy Ghost can quicken it and make it alive.

The Hope of Glory

“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:26-27

There is a mystery that had been hidden from the eyes of the world from the time of Adam’s transgression until God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost Acts 10:38 at the Jordan River Matthew 3:16-17. The “mystery” is what God predestined man to be before He created man. It’s one thing to know that God created man in His own image and likeness, and another thing to comprehend what that actually means. Adam and Eve’s own children could not imagine what “mom and dad” had been before sin entered their hearts.

The apostle Paul was perhaps the first to receive understanding of the mystery, which he called “*the mystery of Christ*” Ephesians 3:4, when God taught him the gospel “*by revelation of Jesus Christ*” Galatians 1:12.

“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what

is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 3:8-9

Paul made mention of the “mystery” seventeen times in six of his epistles. He told Timothy, God has “...*saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began...*” II Timothy 1:9. Paul understood what God predestined the first man to be, is the “holy calling” God has called us unto. The apostle did not leave it to our imagination as to what the “*holy calling*” is, however. He continued, “...*but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ...*” II Timothy 1:10. If we want to know what God predestined man to be, look to Jesus Christ. The “mystery” is revealed in Him.

“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.” Hebrews 2:9

“*Christ in you,*” according to the Apostle Paul, is “*the hope of glory.*” The word “hope” was translated from the Greek word “*elpis,*” which speaks of “*expectation*” and “*confidence.*” Those in whom Christ dwells have the “*expectation*” of the “*glory of God.*” According to Paul, God who has saved us has also “...*called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ*” II Thessalonians 2:14. This is what God “predestined” man to be before He created man, and this is what God has predestined His “new creation” children to be. Again, according to the gospel Paul preached, “*justification by faith*” brings both “*peace with God*” and “*access into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God*” Romans 5:2.

The Character and Authority

“I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.”

John 5:43

In the New Testament, the English word “*name*” is translated from the Greek word “*onoma*,” which means “*character*” and “*authority*.” In the origin of names, a person was most often given a “name” based on their occupation. A man who ground at the mill would become a “Miller,” a man who made barrels would become a “Cooper,” one who built furniture would be known as a “Carpenter,” and one who laid stones, a “Mason.” When Jesus came in His Father’s name, He was what His Father is. He was “*the image of the invisible God*” Colossians 1:15; He was “*the brightness of His glory*,” and “*the express image of His person*” Hebrews 1:3. The words “*express image*” are translated from the Greek word “*charaktēr*,” which speaks of an “exact image,” and refers to the “die” an engraver may use to reproduce exact images in metal. The Son of God was the “*exact image*,” or “*character*” of His Father, manifested in flesh. “*The Spirit of Christ*” is the “*character of God*” in everyone who receives Him. He brings the “image of God” in everyone who “receives Him.”

When Jesus “*came in His Father’s name*,” He came in the “*character and authority*” of His Father. He was “born” with the character of God and He received the “authority of God” when the Holy Ghost came upon Him. There is no record of Jesus ever praying for the sick to be healed, much less saying “*...in the name of Jehovah*,” or “*...in the name of Yaweh*.” No! But he “*healed all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him*” Acts 10:38. Everything He was and everything He did was “*in the character and authority*” of His Father, thus, “*He came in His Father’s name*.”

“*...in that day ye shall ask me nothing... Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you*” John 16:23.

The “*character of God*” is “*The Spirit of Christ*.” The “*authority of God*” is “*The Holy Ghost*.” We cannot be “saved” without the Spirit of Christ. “*If any man have not the Spirit of Christ (character of God), he is none of His*” Romans 8:9. We cannot do the works of God without the Holy Ghost. “*Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you*” Acts 1:8.

What is in a Name?

The name of Jesus is not a “magic word,” such as a “magician” might use in their incantations. Sadly, that is exactly the way so many think of it. As long as they say “*in the name of Jesus,*” they think God is supposed to give them whatever they say. It is strange that even though saying these “magic words” does not work for so many, they keep hoping it will someday.

When I was a very small child, I heard about a boy named “Billy Batson,” who could “say a magic word” and be transformed into a super hero named “Captain Marvel.” I tried to “say the magic word” but nothing happened. I tied a towel around my neck and leaped off our front porch, but I never succeeded in flying. Sometime I would run the length of the porch and land on my belly in the grass, and get up believing “I almost flew that time.”

I knew a tent evangelist years ago who told me God had “*almost grew a new arm on a man*” in one of his services. I was amazed! I could remember when as a small child I “*almost flew,*” but I could not comprehend how God could “almost” do anything. God is God! He spoke a word, and the worlds came into existence, and one day Christ will fold them up as a worn out garment Hebrews 1:12, and they will be no more Revelation 21:1, making way for the “*New Heavens and the New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness*” II Peter 3:13.

When Peter raised up the lame man at the gate beautiful of the temple, he said, “*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.*” He spoke these words to show that the same Jesus they had crucified was the one who did the great miracle of healing. On the other hand, the apostle Paul found a man in Lystra who had never walked in his lifetime. The scripture says, “*The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, **Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked***” Acts 14:9-10. Paul did not pray for the man. He did not even say “*...in the name of Jesus*” when he told the man to “*stand upright on thy feet.*” Yet, it is obvious that Paul was not the healer. Paul was instead in the “*character and authority*” of Jesus Christ, and God did the work.

It would have been better if Paul had spoken to the man *“in the name of Jesus,”* which was, in fact, his common practice. When the people of that city saw what Paul had done, they decided he must be their mythological god *“Mercurius,”* and Barnabas, who was with him, they called *“Jupiter.”* The scriptures says of this incident, *“scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them”* Acts 14:18. When they refused to receive worship as gods, the people were stirred up against them, and they stoned Paul, and *“...drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead”* Acts 14:19.

The seven Jewish sons of the high priest Sceva decided to call *“the name of Jesus”* over a man possessed by a devil, and it did not work for them. *“Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?”* With that, the devil possessed man beat all seven of them up, stripped their clothes from them, and sent them out naked into the streets. They had *“used”* the name of Jesus, but they were not in His *“character and authority.”*

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” Proverbs 18:10

The *“name of the Lord”* is a dwelling place for those who have the Spirit of Christ and are *“filled with the Holy Ghost.”* Jesus said, *“In that day...whatsoever ye shall ask the Father **in my name**, he will give it you”* John 16:23. Do we dare to believe this is an absolute statement? During His last day with His disciples, Jesus said to them, *“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall **ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you**”* John 15:7. About sixty years later, the apostle John wrote to believers in his day, *“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, **we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him**”* I John 5:14-15.

The Spirit of the Father

“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 8:11

Consider who it was that raised Jesus from the dead?” Paul said to the Jews at Antioch of Pisidia, “**But God raised Him from the dead**” Acts 13:30. According to our text, God raised Christ from the dead, and He will also “*quicken (our) mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in (us).*” Exactly as “*The Spirit of Christ*” quickens us in spirit, and causes our “*Spirit to be life*” Romans 8:10, the Holy Ghost “*quicken our mortal body*” and makes it alive to do the works of God. When this is the case, the words of Jesus are fulfilled where He said, “*...we will come unto him, and make our abode with him*” John 14:23.

Notice it is the Father who sends the Spirit of Christ into our hearts John 14:16-18, Galatians 4:6, and it is Jesus Christ who sends the Holy Ghost John 16:7. There are other similar things that involve both the Father and the Son in our full salvation. When we repent and believe the gospel, it is God who “*justifies the ungodly*” Romans 4:5. He baptizes us “*into the death of Jesus*” Romans 6:3, and in so doing, our “*old man is crucified with Christ,*” and our “*body of sin is destroyed*” Romans 6:6.

When the Spirit of Christ comes in, He is calling for the Father, “*...crying Abba, Father*” Galatians 4:6. In fact, when hearts are “*purified by faith*” Acts 15:8-9, it is Jesus Christ who “*baptizes with the Holy Ghost*” Matthew 3:11. The Father baptizes us into the death of His Son, and the Son baptizes us into the life of His Father. What an wonderful and amazing salvation this is. In receiving the Spirit of Christ, we receive “*the character of God;*” in receiving the Holy Ghost, we receive “*the authority of God.*” This is the condition of those Jesus spoke of when He said, “*Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you*” John 16:23. To be “*in the name of Jesus*” is to possess “*the character and authority of God.*”

At That Day

During His last day with His disciples, Jesus revealed a number of things about Himself and His ministry they had never clearly understood. He said, “*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*” John 14:10. He had previously told them, “*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 5:19. The secret of Jesus’ ministry was the Father dwelling in Him by the Holy Ghost. He was the “*only begotten Son of God;*” He was “*the Christ;*” He was “*the Lord from heaven*” I Corinthians 15:47, but even so, He could not do anything other than what His Father did by His Holy Spirit dwelling in Him.

In His last day with His disciples, Jesus spoke of “another day,” saying, “*At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you*” John 14:20. “That Day” began on “The Day of Pentecost.” When the Holy Ghost (the Spirit of the Father Matthew 10:20) came to dwell in them, they would have the same relationship with “*the Father and His Son*” I John 1:3 as Jesus had with His Father. The apostle Paul understood this concerning his own life and ministry. Concerning the life he lived, Paul said, “*...not I, but Christ liveth in me*” Galatians 2:20. Concerning the work he did, he said, “*...yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me*” I Corinthians 15:10.

Those who believe they can “learn how” to do the works of God are terribly deceived and actually in danger of opening a door for unclean religious spirits to dwell in them and work through them. Do you ever wonder why there are those who seem to have such great “power” who also live unclean lives? We hear it said that God chooses to do His work through “flawed vessels.” That simply is not true. From the Day of Pentecost until now, the Holy Ghost has never been sent to a vessel that has not been “*purified by faith*” Acts 15:8-9. A “*flawed vessel*” is a “*vessel of dishonor*” II Timothy 2:20. In the next verse, the apostle describes a “*vessel of honor;*” it is “*sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work*” II Timothy 2:21. A “*vessel of dishonor*” is one who refuses to believe the “*blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin*” I John 1:7. They will end up on the “trash heap” of eternity.

Expediency

“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.” John 16:7

The “comforter” in this verse, speaks of the Holy Ghost, “*the Spirit of the Father.*” If they had understood, they would have rejoiced, but they could not see beyond His impending death. He had previously told them of His death and resurrection, but they had not believed His words Matthew 16:21-22. On this day, they believed He would die, but they could see His death only as an end. They did not believe He would rise again. Their minds were blinded by the sorrow of their hearts. They tried to put up a good front, telling Jesus, “*...now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb. Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: **by this we believe that thou camest forth from God***” John 16:29-30. Jesus immediately responded, “***Do ye now believe? Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me***” John 16:31-32.

The word “expedient” in this verse speaks of a great “advantage” to the disciples if Jesus “*went away.*” Since Jesus is “*the Christ,*” He must fulfil everything Christ was sent into the world to do. He must “*bruise the head of the serpent*” Genesis 3:15, “*destroy the devil*” Hebrews 2:14, “*put away sin*” Hebrews 9:26, “*make an end of sin*” Daniel 9:24-25, “*take away the sin of the world*” John 1:29, and “*sanctify the people with His own blood*” Hebrews 13:12. He has forgiven sins, healed the sick, cast out devils, fed the multitudes, and done many wonderful works during His 3½ years with His disciples, but He has not accomplished the first thing He was sent into the world to do. Now, it is well known that His death is being plotted, and Jesus is saying He must die. The disciples are in utter confusion, and sorrow has so blinded their minds to the point they think all is lost. They believe He will be taken and crucified, but they do not believe He will rise again Mark 16:14. Jesus tells them, “*It is expedient for you that I go away.*” Literally, “It is to your advantage.”

Jesus said “*...if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*” Remember he also said, “*I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you*” John 14:18. Some would use this verse to believe Jesus is “the Holy Ghost,” but

such is not the case. This speaks of “*the Spirit of His Son*” Galatians 4:6, whom the Father sends into the heart of everyone who believes “...*that Jesus is the Christ*” I John 5:1. Christ cannot be “*in*” His disciples as long as He is “*with*” them John 14:17. He must “*go to His Father*” John 14:28.

Jesus said, “*If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him*” John 14:23. What a wonderful prospect. Both “*the Father*” and “*the Son*” have promised to dwell in the children of God as “*the Spirit of Christ (the Son)*” and “*the Holy Ghost (the Spirit of the Father).*”

When Jesus said “*I will send Him unto you,*” He is speaking specifically of the Holy Ghost. Jesus said, “*Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you*” Acts 1:8. Remember, the “*Spirit of Christ*” must be the first to come into us from the Father. Those who have indeed “*received Christ*” have received “*the character of God,*” because Christ is the exact image of God Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 1:3. The blood of Christ has purified the hearts of those who believe, and they are fit candidates to receive the Holy Spirit of the Father, which is “*the authority of God.*” He will not come into a vessel that has not first been sanctified and made pure by the shed blood of His Son. Those “*unclean vessels*” who claim to be “*filled with the Spirit*” are terribly mistaken as to what it is that works in them.

“*And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.*” John 16:8-11

Two times in the previous verse, Jesus spoke of the Comforter (the Holy Ghost) as coming “*unto you.*” This verse implies “*...when He is come unto you,*” and not merely “*into the world*” as some think. The Holy Spirit of God does not work apart from His working through the children of God. It is when He is “*come unto you*” that He will “*reprove (convict and convince) the world of sin.*” A people who are not in the “*character and authority*” of God cannot effect the world around them for God. Both are absolutely essential to reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Christ has come into our hearts, “...*that we should be to the praise of His glory* (the character of God)” Ephesians 1:12. The Holy Ghost has come to “*quicken our mortal bodies*” Romans 8:11 to “**do**” the works of God. This is “the authority of God” manifest in the child of God by the Holy Ghost. He will make your life a “life of miracles.”

A Life of Miracles

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

The word “power” as used in this verse is translated from the Greek word “dunamis,” which is defined by “Strong’s Greek Dictionary” as “...specifically **miraculous power** (usually by implication **a miracle itself**).” The translators could have just as correctly translated, “*ye shall receive miracles, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.*” The language does not imply that everyone would be a “*worker of miracles,*” but rather a “*receiver of miracles.*”

“Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” Luke 24:49

In Acts 1:4, Jesus commanded His disciples not to depart from Jerusalem, but “*wait for the promise of the Father,*” which is the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The command to “*tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem,*” is instructions to follow **after** they have been filled with the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost: “*Stay in Jerusalem while I ‘clothe you with miracles’.*” (Literal translation from the Greek text).

The fear of Moses came upon every nation, not because he was a mighty general, or led a great army. They “feared Moses” because God “clothed him with miracles.” Here was a shepherd from the wilderness of Midian, who boldly approached the ruler of the mightiest nation on earth to demand him to release his slaves. Being rejected by Pharaoh, this unknown shepherd along with his older brother, stretched his staff over the waters of Egypt, and they turned

to blood. Every nation followed the news of the methodical destruction of Egypt, the death of the firstborn in every house, and the event at the Red Sea where the waters parted to let the children of Israel pass safely through. Perhaps most incredible of all was the news that the most powerful military force on earth was destroyed while pursuing this shepherd and his flock through the sea. They knew of the fire that protected them by night and the cloud that led them by day. They heard of the water that flowed from a dry flinty rock, and the manna from heaven that fed them in the wilderness. Who could withstand such a people? No one, as long as they pleased God.

Elijah was a man “*clothed with miracles*” the day he challenged 450 false prophets. He was the unknown inhabitant of Gilead who had dared to stand before the king 3 ½ years before to say, “*As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word*” I Kings 17:1. They must have laughed him out of town that day, but as weeks turned into months without rain, they began to question, “Who was this man who dared to speak to the king with such boldness?” Elijah had the attention of the entire nation the day he challenged them to “*serve the God who answers by fire*” I Kings 18:24. He turned Israel back to God that same day, and brought the rain that would heal their land.

Sadly, the modern church world is filled with those who seek “power” without “character,” and the unbelieving world laughs at them. There are others who “teach character” (which cannot be taught, it must be received), but have absolutely no life or power, and the world continues to laugh. It doesn’t take an “army,” or even a “company of prophets” to “*pull down strongholds*” and “*cast down imaginations*” II Corinthians 10:4-5; it only takes one man or woman who can stand in the character and authority of God to preach the gospel of Christ (“*Jesus is the Christ*” I John 5:1). This is “*the church*” of which Jesus said, “*...the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*”

Matthew 16:18.

A “Mystery” Revealed

The apostle Paul tells of a “mystery” which was “*hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to (in) his saints*” Colossians 1:26. In verse 27, he tells of “*the riches of the glory of the mystery,*” which is “*Christ in you, the hope of glory*” Colossians 1:27. When God created man in the beginning, He did not create a Jew or a Gentile, but He created a man and a woman “*in His image, and in His likeness.*” The scripture says, “*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them*” Genesis 1:27.

The “mystery” is what God “predestined” man to be, and what man was “*before the world was,*” that is, “*before*” the entrance of sin. We know by the scriptures that man was created in the image of God; he was “*like God;*” he was “*crowned*” with the glory of God; and he had authority over everything God had created. According to the Hebrew word “*Elohim,*” which was used by the psalmist, man was made “*a little lower than the angels (the Elohim, ie, God)*” Psalms 8:5. In his transgression, man fell to a place just a little above the beasts of the field. In the greatest stretch of man’s imagination, we cannot comprehend the least of what God made man to be before the entrance of sin. It is just as impossible for fallen man to comprehend what God has prepared for those who believe the truth and trust in Christ Ephesians 1:12.

This “*present evil world*” Galatians 1:4 began with the entrance of sin. The term “*before the world was*” is used four times in the New Testament. The term “*before the foundation of the world*” is used three times, and the term “*from the foundation of the world*” is used six times. In not a single instance do these terms refer to the “*creation of the earth,*” but in every instance to the “*foundation of the world,*” which refers to the entrance of sin through the disobedience of Adam. The terms “*before the world was,*” and “*before the foundation of the world*” both speak of what God created man to be in the beginning. The term “*from the foundation of the world*” always speak of things “*after the entrance of sin.*”

Jesus Christ is spoken of in John's "Revelation" as "*the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*" Revelation 13:8. The word "from" was translated from the Greek word "apo," which is properly defined by Strong's Greek Dictionary as "...*off, that is, away (from something near), in various senses (of place, time, or relation.*" A better translation would speak of "*the Lamb slain after the foundation of the world.*" On the same day sin entered through Adam's transgression, God promised a "*seed of the woman*" who would "*bruise the head of the serpent,*" while at the same time His own "*heel*" would be bruised. Jesus Christ died on the cross as "*the seed of the woman*" who came into the world, as the apostle Paul says, "...*that through death He might destroy he that had the power of death, that is, the devil*" Hebrews 2:14. Jesus also died as "*The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*" John 1:29. He is "*the Lamb slain after and because of the foundation of the world.*"

"...it pleased God...to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen..." Galatians 1:15-16

Paul tells Timothy, "*God...hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling...which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ...*" II Timothy 1:8-10.

The "mystery" of what God predestined man to be, and what Adam was before the entrance of sin, was revealed when "*the Word was made flesh*" John 1:14, and became Jesus, the Son of God. Paul was not boasting in himself when he said the Son of God, was "*revealed in me in order that I might preach Him among the heathen.*" Paul was not a "special case;" instead, he was a "pattern" I Timothy 1:16 of God's grace to take "*the chiefest of sinners*" and make of them "*the greatest of saints.*" The "*mystery of God*" is revealed in everyone who is truly "*born of God,*" through the indwelling of both "*The Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.*"

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