



Behold the Lamb
Publications

Simply Christ

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

Volume VI

*Twelve Gospel Messages from our
Weekly SIMPLY CHRIST Newsletter!*

A Simple Gospel

When God reveals something to you it never makes you feel as though you are the smartest person around. Usually you are left wondering why you had never seen this before. You may say to yourself: “A child could have understood this. Why have I been blind to it for so long?” True revelation from God is as though you just discovered that $2 + 2 = 4$. The thing God reveals becomes so simple that you feel as though every one else should understand it also.

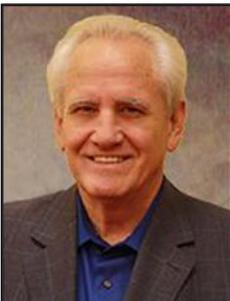
“...thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.” Matthew 11:25

At times the gospel is presented in a fashion that resembles a person attempting to prove that $2 + 2 = 5$. A person may spend their entire life seeking to understand what is being presented to them,

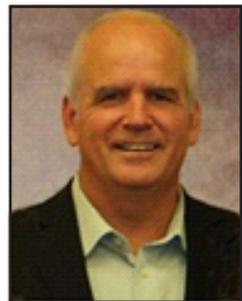
but never seem to be able to grasp it. Some may come to the conclusion of themselves that they are just not “smart” enough to understand it. “Why does it make sense to everyone else besides me?” We need to consider that sometimes things do not because make sense because they are not what the word of God says!

The purpose of Simply Christ and other Behold the Lamb

Publications is to share the gospel of Christ according to what the scriptures actually say. We dare not attempt to “put a square peg in a round hole” or make the scripture say something other than what God has said.



Leroy Surface



Keith Surface

As a young man I was told by an elder minister that I should just accept what the

leaders of “our movement” told us was true rather than believe what I saw the scriptures to be saying. I chose to believe that the word of God is true. Anyone that will do the same will find the gospel of Christ to be a simple message with the power to make everyone who believes it ...free indeed!

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

Volume VI

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SWALLOWING A CAMEL

The Bible tells us of certain kinds of people (or people who do certain things) who absolutely “*shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*” I Corinthians 6:9. The apostle Paul said “*do not be deceived!*” It does not matter what our doctrines say, or how often we are assured that there are exceptions, the word of God is adamant and clear that those who do these kind of things will not be accepted by God. Consider the witness of the following passages written by the apostle Paul.

*“For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. **Let no man deceive you with vain words:** for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.”* Ephesians 5:5-7.

*“**Be not deceived:** neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”*

I Corinthians 6:9-10.

*“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**”* Galatians 5:19-21.

The sort of things mentioned above are neither in the heart nor life of those who are born of God. Paul tells us “*And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*” I Corinthians

6:11. We may have at one time been some of these things, but when we were *“born again”* these were washed out of our heart and nature by the blood of Jesus Christ. It is the grace of God that delivers and keeps us from sin. For such things to again become a part of a believer’s heart and life they must first *“fall from grace”* to a place where *“Christ is become of no effect unto you...”* Galatians 5:4. When Christ becomes *“of no effect”* to a believer, sin always returns to reside in their heart.

Jesus described *“sinful deeds”* as the *“evil fruit”* that grows on a *“corrupt tree”* Matthew 7:17, but, he said *“A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit...”* Matthew 7:18. If oranges grow on a tree, you know it is an orange tree. Even so, if evil fruit grows on a tree, you know it is a corrupt tree.

The *“fruit of the Spirit”* is *“love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance...”* Galatians 5:22-23. These are the sort of things you find in the life of a child of God. They are *“good trees,”* therefore as Jesus said, they cannot produce *“evil fruit.”*

It is important to recognize that even a *“good tree”* can sometimes be found lacking in its fruit. Just as water, sun, and nutrients cause the fruit of a tree to abound, *“the knowledge of the truth”* and our fellowship with the Lord causes our spiritual fruit to increase. A child of God going through a *“spiritual drought”* may notice a lack of the fullness of spiritual fruit, but lacking in *“good fruit”* is not the same as bearing *“evil fruit.”* Someone may *“lack”* in the fullness of *“love,”* but lacking the fullness of love is not the same as bearing the evil fruit of *“hate.”* The apostle John assures us that the one who hates does not have *“eternal life abiding in him.”* 1 John 3:15. Another person may lack the fullness of the fruit of *“longsuffering,”* but this lack is not the same as bearing the fruit of *“wrath”* and *“envy.”*

If you view sin to be everything that comes short of the fullness of Jesus Christ then perhaps impatience, doubt, and misunderstanding could in that respect be considered as sin. But when people then go on to claim that all *“sin”* is the same before

God, I say evidently someone forgot to tell this to Jesus. He told Pilate, *“Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath **the greater sin.**”* John 19:11. Is the person who is offended because they misunderstood something the same before God as a person who lies, steals, or commits fornication? Absolutely not! The first may possibly be a *“good tree”* that is lacking in the fullness of *“good fruit,”* but the latter is bearing *“evil fruit”* because it is a *“corrupt tree.”*

Jesus spoke of those who *“strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.”* Matthew 23:24. In doctrine they criminalize every human action, but make provision for the things God’s word says he will never accept. They are like those Isaiah spoke of who *“...make a man an offender for a word...”* Isaiah 29:21. They have “sin tests” that neither Jesus nor His disciples passed. Mark 7:2, John 9:16, 24 Luke 7:31-34. How many times have I heard it presented that *“impatience”* is “sin” just as much as adultery? I assure you the betrayed spouse does not see it that way, and neither does God. One is due to human frailty, the other is outright sin. It is not sinful to be human, but it is a sin to be sinful! Salvation does not take away our humanity even though Christ does take away our sin. I John 3:5. Our knowledge and understanding is limited, we are affected by circumstances, and sometimes we all get things wrong. This is a part of being human, but remember, Jesus Christ died to *save “humans” from their sin!* Matthew 1:21.

“AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU: BUT YE ARE WASHED, BUT YE ARE SANCTIFIED, BUT YE ARE JUSTIFIED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, AND BY THE SPIRIT OF OUR GOD.” I Corinthians 6:11.

THE CHRISTIAN NATURE

A woman called Bro. Leroy Surface, saying another pastor told her he could help her. “What is your problem,” Bro. Surface asked. She said she was tormented by an unclean spirit. At times it would take complete control of her body and contort it into vulgar positions. During these times, the unclean spirit would speak through her to

curse God and give filthy hand signs against the Holy Ghost, and she had no power to stop it. She was very honest about the horrid details of her condition, and asked Bro. Surface, “Can you help me? I have been to many ministers, but no one can do anything for me. Can you help me?”

Bro. Surface asked this woman, “Have you ever in your lifetime been filled with the Holy Ghost?” She answered quickly, “I am filled with the Spirit of God right now! In fact I have a wonderful gift of prophecy. I hear it speaking inside of me night and day. I only have to open my mouth, and prophecy begins to flow forth in the most amazing way.” Bro. Surface said to her, “I can help you if you will believe what I tell you.” “What is that?” she asked. Bro. Surface responded, “The spirit that takes control of your body and speaks vulgarities against the Holy Ghost is the same spirit that works in you to prophesy through you. You do not have the Holy Ghost. No one can help you as long as you believe your gift of prophecy is of God, but if you will reject the spirit that prophesies through you, you can be delivered from this vulgar spirit and go free.”

Religious thought has degenerated to the place that many believe God and Satan, light and darkness, and sin and righteousness can cohabit in the same vessel. The error of spiritual “dualism” has corrupted every aspect of the modern gospel message. Jesus said, *“Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.”*

Matthew 12:33. God and Satan do not inhabit the same temple. Neither do light and darkness co-exist in the same place. The apostle John said, *“God is light and in him is no darkness at all.”* The tree is either good, or it is corrupt, but there is no such thing as a spiritual tree that bares both good and corrupt fruit. Remember, it is Jesus who said *“A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit...”* Matthew 7:18.

The belief that a child of God has two natures is absurd. Every person sleeps part of a day and is awake another part of the day, but they do not have one nature when they sleep and another nature when they are awake. It is their nature to both sleep and wake. The forbidden tree offered the knowledge of both good and evil, but it was one tree. On the other hand, the tree of life has no

evil in it at all. A person may appear to do good sometimes and evil at other times. This does not mean they have two natures, but their nature only has the appearance of both *“good and evil.”* The fruit of sin and the fruit of righteousness do not grow on the same tree.

Religious deceivers *“bewitched”* the Galatian believers to embrace the Law of Moses, a covenant which Paul warned them was *“...born after the flesh.”* Galatians 4:23-24. Because they were embracing a covenant of flesh, the *“works of the flesh”* came alive and began to work in their hearts. Paul told them with absolute confidence, *“Walk in the Spirit (the New Covenant), and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”* Galatians 5:16. He gives the reason for this confidence in his next words, saying, *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”* Galatians 5:17. Many people completely miss the point of this statement when they construe it to mean that the flesh and the spirit are at war with each other inside the same person. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The person who walks in the Spirit *“cannot do the things they would”* do if they were walking in the Covenant of *“flesh”* because the Spirit is totally different, opposite, and contrary to the flesh. Therefore the desires of the person who walks in the New Covenant (the Spirit) are completely different from the desires of the one who walks in a fleshly covenant (the flesh). One walks in *“righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”* The other struggles continually against the desires of their own heart, *knowing to do good, but evil is always present with them.*

Your *“nature”* is simply what is natural to you. A person’s true nature is revealed when they cease the struggle to be something different than what works in their heart. When people have to *“struggle”* to be a *“Christian,”* it is either because they have not been *“born of God,”* or they are trying to walk in a fleshly religious covenant. Your nature is either righteous, or it is sinful, but it is not both. When Christ purifies our heart Acts 15:9, sin is no longer our nature, and to commit sin is no longer natural.

THE WASHING OF REGENERATION

I received a question by email this week concerning a recent issue of Simply Christ. The question seemed to be based upon the belief that only our spirit is born of God, therefore Satan can continue to work in our soul to cause us to sin. We then must go through the process of “*renewing the mind*” until we get to a place that we have victory over sin and Satan. The question was, “Can you show me where in the bible does it say our “Soul” got born again?”

It is true, the scripture never says our “soul” is born again. It is equally true the scripture never says our “spirit” is born again. In fact the scripture never specifies that a “part” of a person is born again. Jesus told Nicodemus “...**You must be born again.**” John 3:7. Peter says “God ...hath begotten **us** again...” 1 Peter 1:3, and John says “**Whosoever** believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...” 1 John 5:1. The new birth is always addressed concerning the person as a whole and not just “part” of the person.

This understanding that being “*born again*” speaks of the whole person is important lest we fall into the theological pit of trying to parcel out redemption. Such as, “Our spirit is holy, but our body (or soul, or mind, or nature) is sinful.” This sort of theology always negates the clear statements of the scripture. Without this sort of “parceling” we would be forced to take John at his word when he says “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin...” 1 John 3:9, or as John again says, “*In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.*” 1 John 3:10.

The key to understanding the “*new birth*” may best be found in Paul’s words to Titus. He said, “...*according to his mercy he saved us, by the **washing of regeneration**, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*” Titus 3:5. Notice that Paul speaks of the “*washing of regeneration.*” In this glorious work of “*regeneration*” (being reborn) there is a “*washing.*” If we speak of the new birth ONLY in terms of receiving a “*new spirit*” (which is absolutely true), we lose sight that there is also a “*washing*” that takes place when we are “*born again.*” It is evident that the “*new spirit*” we receive did not

need to be washed. If it did, it was already polluted before God gave it to us. So what had to be washed in this “*regeneration*”?

The writer of Hebrews answers this question as he exhorts us to draw near into the holiest “...*having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*” Hebrews 10:22. In this one verse, two “*washings*” are described that take place when we are “*born again.*” “***Our bodies are washed...***” We may not understand how it happened, but it is certain that “*our bodies*” were washed from sin, its stain, and its guilt in the hour that we were born of God.

The other washing mentioned here is “...*having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience.*” Our “*conscience*” spoken of here is defined as our “*moral consciousness.*” This speaks of our inner most thoughts and feelings. In the “*new birth*” the “*evil*” moral consciousness is washed from us by the blood of Christ Hebrews 9:14, and God Almighty keeps the promise he made saying, “*I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.*” Hebrews 10:16. Our conscience, heart, and mind are all made new when we are born of God.

What happens to our “*soul*” when we are born again? Peter answers this question, saying, “*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed...*” I Peter 1:22-23. Part of the work of “*being born again*” is that our souls were “*purified.*” We receive this new birth by “... *obeying the truth through the Spirit.*” “*Obeying the truth*” is to believe the “*the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.*” Ephesians 1:18. It is the commandment of the Lord; “*Repent and believe the gospel.*” Mark 1:15. Our belief of the truth IS our obedience that causes us to be “*born again*” and our souls to be “*purified.*” These things and much more are ALL part of what it means to be “*born of God!*”

I cannot conclude this Simply Christ letter without briefly speaking of “*renewing the mind.*” Paul’s exhortation to “*be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,*

that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" Romans 12:2, IS NOT speaking of being transformed from "sinning Christians" into "not sinning Christians." Those Paul wrote these things to were not sinners and they were not like the world. These were "saints;" "holy ones," the "children of God." Only if they "conformed to the world" would they be like the world. The "renewing of the mind" these saints needed was in order that they be transformed into the "ministers of Christ." This was the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God that Paul wanted them to discover. Perhaps we will touch more on this another day.

FEEDING THE BEAST

During the 1980's the United States encouraged, armed, trained, and supported Mujahedeen fighters in Afghanistan against Soviet Union troops who occupied the country. We were more than willing to make use of them against our Cold War adversary. Emboldened by their victories in Afghanistan, however, some of these Mujahedeen fighters began to wage jihad worldwide against those they believed to be the enemies of their God. We fed the beast, and on September 11, 2001 the beast attacked us!

Paul's letter to the Galatians is written to warn of the deadly consequences that awaited believers who turned to a religious covenant that was "*after the flesh*." He was speaking of the Mosaic Law. He asked, "*Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?*" Galatians 4:21. Paul compared the Law and the New Covenant to Ishmael and Isaac. Galatians 4:22. One was "*born after the flesh*" and the other "*born after the Spirit*." Galatians 4:29. Throughout this epistle, he uses the word "*flesh*" to describe a person's attempt to serve God by the Law of Moses. On the other hand, he referred to those who walked in the "*grace of Christ*" Galatians 1:6 as those who "*walk in the Spirit*." Galatians 5:16.

Carnal religion is exemplified by the Law of Moses in that its source of strength is "*flesh*." Its strength is based on your ability to do what

it says. Paul tells us, *“For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.”* Romans 10:5. Keep the commandments! Be circumcised! Bring the animal sacrifices! Keep the feast days! If you would do these things the Law allowed you to keep your life in this world, but it could never give you the life of God. 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 strength of carnal religion is also its weakness. The Bible says the Law was *“weak through the flesh.”* Romans 8:3. Because it depends on your strength to keep it, when your strength fails, your carnal religion fails. The only way to make carnal religion “strong” is to strengthen *“flesh.”* But beware the strength of flesh!!!

As the Galatians rushed to embrace the Law, the apostle Paul asked them, *“Are ye so foolish? having **begun in the Spirit**, are ye now made perfect **by the flesh**?”* Galatians 3:3. These had been *“delivered from the power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of God’s dear Son.”* Colossians 1:13. *“**The flesh** with the affections and lusts”* had been *“crucified”* Galatians 5:24 by *“the cross of Christ”* Galatians 6:14 when they were *“born again”* in this New Covenant of Spirit. In the *“Spirit”* was where they began, and if they would simply *“walk in the Spirit”* they would *“not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.”* Galatians 5:16. In fact it is not possible for the one who walks in the *“Spirit”* to do what a person does who walks in the *“flesh”* because every desire of their heart is different and contrary to the *“flesh.”* Galatians 5:17. None of this is based upon the strength or ability of flesh. It is all the amazing grace of God.

The *“flesh”* is like a serpent with a head on both ends. One head can be very religious. It revels in its commandment keeping abilities. The more religious things it does the more spiritual it feels. Just as Saul of Tarsus trusted in fleshly things such as his lineage, circumcision, zeal, the rituals and commandments of the Law, and his religious affiliation Philippians 3:3-7, even so people today trust in confessions, baptisms, denomination, hair length, holy days, fleshly tongues, religious principles, and much more. This head of the serpent looks so wonderful to many, but it is still part of the serpent

because it is just religious flesh. Remember, Jesus said “...*the flesh profits nothing.*” John 6:63. The only thing a child of God has to trust in is “*Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*” I Corinthians 2:2.

Paul’s great warning to the Galatians can be summed up in these words: “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For **he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption**; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*” Galatians 6:7-8. They were embracing a covenant of flesh, but Paul knew they would reap from the other head of that serpent. He describes the second head of the serpent in these terms: “*Now **the works of the flesh** are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*” Galatians 5:19-21. In describing the “*works of the flesh*,” Paul is showing the Galatians where the path they have chosen will take them. If they embrace fleshly religion (for them the Law of Moses) they will reap the harvest of the “*works of the flesh*” in their hearts and lives. Paul brings the same warning in the book of Romans, saying “*For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die...*” Romans 8:13. There are two foremost reasons sincere “Christian” people war with “*the works of the flesh*” in their heart. One is that many have never been born of God’s Spirit. The other is they have been led to walk in fleshly religion and are simply reaping its harvest.

THE WATER AND THE BLOOD

As his lifeless body hung upon the cross, a Roman soldier took his spear and ran it into Jesus’ side. From the opening caused by the spear, water and blood flowed out. This was very strange because once the heart has ceased to beat a body does not bleed. Nevertheless, John is adamant; it was water AND blood that flowed from the side of Jesus Christ. John 19:34. Many years later John

reminds us again that it wasn't just water that came forth that day, but water AND blood. The truth of what happened is so important that John says *"And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth."* John 19:35.

The importance of both "the water and the blood" is revealed in the epistle to the Hebrews. The Law, having only a *"shadow of good things to come"* Hebrews 10:1, could only give us "shadowy glimpses" of the reality Christ would bring to us. At the heart of the Law's ceremonial cleansing was both water and blood. The apostle said, *"...almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."* Hebrews 9:22. The other important part of these cleansings were the *"divers washings"* Hebrews 9:10.

The blood of goats and bulls, being only a foreshadow of something better, could never *"take away sin."* Hebrews 10:4. If it could, the worshipper would no longer have a *"conscience of sins."* Hebrews 10:2. The conscience spoken of in the book of Hebrews is the *"moral consciousness."* It is the inner thoughts and feelings of a person. The scripture is clear that the *"blood of Christ purges our conscience from dead works"* Hebrews 9:14 and *"sprinkles our heart from an evil conscience."* Hebrews 10:22. In fact the sum of the message of the blood in the book of Hebrews is that *"...Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate."* Hebrews 13:12. The blood of Christ was shed to purge us from the source of sin, which is the sinful conscience (the sinful nature). Only when your conscience is purged by the blood of Christ does your struggle with sin cease.

Under the Law, the purpose of the *"divers washings"* was a bit different than the purpose of *"sprinkling the blood."* While the blood ceremonially dealt with the iniquity of the people, the washings were more about dealing with filth and contamination. The priests would wash before entering the holy places or doing certain priestly services. There were washings for the people that in many cases seemed to deal with public cleanliness. At the center of this was the *"water of separation."*

The Law commanded the priest to offer a “red heifer” as a burnt offering. Then *“a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin.”* Numbers 19:9. In fact, this water of separation was used by Israel to cleanse the people who had come in contact with unclean or harmful contaminants. Paul said it *“...sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh.”* Hebrews 9:13.

If a person came in contact with, or were involved with, something unclean they were considered to be contaminated or unclean. Until their bodies were washed, the contaminated person was forbidden to enter the congregation lest they *“defile the sanctuary of the Lord.”* When a person is truly born of God, their conscience is purged from sin, and sin is no longer their heart or nature. Yet their body had been the tool of iniquity and borne the contaminations or “stains” of sin such as fornication, adultery, perversion, wrath, and many other like things. Many children of God rejoice that their heart has been purified, but still carry condemnation over the sins they once committed through their body. “Will my body which was once used for fornication be accepted into the holy presence of God?” “Can these hands that once smote in anger and hatred ever be instruments of righteousness before the Most High?” Some believers wonder if the stain of sin is still present upon their fleshly members. “Am I defiling the sanctuary of the Lord with my presence?”

The apostle answers each of these questions in his simple exhortation to the children of God. He says, *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ...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.”* Hebrews 10:19-22. It needs to be established in every child of God’s understanding that not only has Christ sprinkled their heart from an evil conscience (sinful nature), but he has also washed the contamination and stain of sin from their body. He did this with the blood and water that flowed from his pierced side.

The apostle Paul reminds us of this wonderful truth when speaking of those who shall not inherit the kingdom of God. He names fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, and doers of other similar things. He then speaks to the children of God saying, "*...and such WERE some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*" ¹ Corinthians 6:11. The water and the blood that flowed from the side of Christ has sanctified our hearts from sin and washed our bodies from its every stain!

FROM GLORY TO GLORY

I was in a revival Campmeeting recently and heard a minister quote some statistics on pornography use among churchgoers. She said the most recent studies were saying that 80% of men in evangelical churches regularly viewed pornography. This number was up from 68% two years ago and 40% a decade earlier. These studies also show that over 50% of pastors also regularly view pornography.

You would think statistics such as these would awaken people to the realization that something is horribly wrong in the modern church, but actually the effect is just the opposite. These horrible statistical numbers only feed the lie that God's people are all still sinners. Somehow people feel better about their bondage when they hear that so many others are bound in the same darkness. Instead of being awakened, pastors across the land go deeper into their slumber, finding strange comfort in the knowledge that churches and ministers everywhere are caught up in the same epidemic of uncleanness that fills their own members. The words spoken by the prophet seem to fit so well: "*From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.*" ¹ Isaiah 1:6.

If these statistics are even half true, those involved in this uncleanness must number in the millions. Some of these millions are just pretenders. Others are just socially religious. Still others are devout, but see nothing wrong with pornography. Yet also in these great numbers are those who are ashamed of their darkness. Many want things do be different, but the bondage seems too great. Some pray and fast perhaps more than you or I, hoping their prayers and fastings will break off the uncleanness that grips their soul. Certainly there are those who desperately want to be real with God, but they do not know how they could ever be free. There is, however, one “statistic” from the word of God concerning these millions of churchgoing individuals: **Not a single one of these sees “the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”**

The gospel of Christ does not work through determination. ^{Hebrews 10:32}. It works through illumination! The apostle Paul said *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”* ^{II Corinthians 3:18}. When Christ is “seen” through the preaching of the gospel, the glorious light of Christ shines into the heart of the believer. It is through this “illumination” that the believer is changed into the image of Jesus Christ. This is true salvation that is not of works.

When Paul spoke of being changed *“from glory to glory,”* he is not speaking of “increasing stages of glory,” rather he is speaking of two different sources of glory. He uses most of the preceding verses to identify these two “glories.” The first glory is that which was seen in *“the face of Moses.”* ^{II Corinthians 3:7}. Paul identifies this “glory” as *“the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones.”* This glory is the glory of the Law. It is the glory revealed in the words *“thou shalt not...”* The “glory” of the Law separated Israel from other nations by controlling their actions, but it did not change what they were at heart. The commandment gives a sinner instruction on how he should order his life. If he will obey *“thou shalt...”* and *“thou shalt not...”* he may keep himself from the present wrath of God. Yet this “glory” is made to be *“no glory”* in comparison to the glory of Christ.

The glory of Christ is not revealed in *"thou shalt not..."* It is revealed in the words *"you ARE not!"* The Law commanded you not to steal, kill, or commit adultery. The New covenant takes such things out of your heart so you will not even desire such things. The Law only changes the actions of a person. The grace of God changes their heart and nature. This is the reason Paul says the glory of the Law *"had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth."*

II Corinthians 3:10.

Those who see the glory of Christ are changed from the *"glory"* of *"thou shalt not..."* to the *"glory"* of possessing *"a new heart and a righteous spirit."* Psalms 51:10. John said, *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."* John 1:17. What Moses offered in the Law is nothing compared to what Christ offers those who come to God through him.

The immorality and pornography problems seem to be as prevalent in the *"holiness"* churches as it is in those churches that believe we must sin every day. There is no eternal difference between just saying *"thou shalt not..."* or telling them God accepts them in their sin. Neither has the power to cleanse a sinful heart. As long as pastors refuse to declare that *"God's people are not sinners BECAUSE CHRIST SAVES US FROM SIN,"* the sin problems in the church are only going to increase. Church goers around this world are condemned to remain in the darkness of sin without hope because they cannot believe a gospel that they never hear. This is such a needless shame because *"...God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."* II Corinthians 4:6. If the ministers of Christ will declare it, those who sit in darkness will see Christ. And if they see HIM, they shall be *"changed into the same image!"*

THAT CHRIST BE MAGNIFIED

Almost thirty years ago a lady and her teenage son began attending the church I was pastoring. She had been deeply stirred by the

messages about the cross and the blood she was hearing through our local television broadcasts. In each service we could see her increasingly stirred by the message of the cross and the blood as God anointed us to preach it to the people.

A young man in the church whom I had known since childhood and I planned a one day trip to take our wives and go tubing down a river in the Texas hill country. This was something we did on numerous occasions as teenagers and we thought it would be a good relaxing time. My sister and her family were invited to join us, then another family, then yet another, until I lost count. Not to leave the new lady and her son out, they were invited also. I have to say I began to feel “checked” in my spirit over this trip. It had started out to be with a couple childhood friends, but now it had grown into a church event. Even though I was checked in spirit and wanted to cancel, I decided the best thing to do was not offend anyone and go ahead as planned. We would of course make sure that everything was decent and in order.

As our entire group took to the rafts and tubes to float down the river, the teenage boy in me kicked in. Someone challenged me in good fun and I began to show everyone that I was king of the river. I began to toss people out of the rafts and tubes into the cold water. Some of the other young men tried to throw me out of a raft, but I would not be conquered. Their efforts were in vain. The only one I could not throw into the river was my older sister who had securely lodged herself under the cross section of a rubber raft. I pulled and tugged on her, but she would not be moved. Everyone was laughing and I was having the time of my life.

In the midst of this I happened to glance at the lady who had joined us with her son. Everyone else was laughing at my antics, but in her face I could see only shock and dismay. It seemed I could look into her thoughts and I knew instantly the meaning of what I saw. In her eyes the man of God to whom she was looking to bring her the light of Christ was exposed to be nothing more than an immature rambunctious fool. My heart sank because I knew she was right! My antics ended in that moment. I knew this lady was lost to our

ministry and nothing I could say would change that. She was in one more service and I never saw her or her son again.

Why did I not listen to the check of the Holy Spirit in my heart? How did I not understand that to her I represented Christ? Many people do not understand why this should be, but I have grieved over her loss even unto this day. I can handle people being offended over the gospel I preach, but to lose a single person because of my foolishness is more than I can bear. I can only pray that God directed her to a faithful pastor who was more worthy than myself.

The apostle Paul tells us that everything God did for our redemption, he did *“That we should be to the praise of his glory...”*

Ephesians 1:12. Can you see that God purposed from the beginning to have a people whose very existence would bring glory to Him? Before the world began, God chose a people *“in Christ”* who would *“...be holy and without blame before him in love.”* Ephesians 1:4. They would be his children Ephesians 1:5 and they would be redeemed from sin. Ephesians 1:7. Just as God *“...crowned Adam with glory and honor”* Hebrews 2:7, he crowns his children with the glory of his presence. He did all this in order that *“we should be to the praise of his glory.”*

People corrupt their walk with God when they order their actions based solely upon “is this sin or not.” If it is sin, a child of God will have nothing to do with it. Sin is washed from their heart by the blood of Jesus Christ and it is repulsive to those who know Christ. Yet many began to embrace worldliness because they can justify to themselves that their actions are NOT sin. If it leads others into darkness is it “NOT sin?” If it destroys a soul is it “NOT sin?” So often there is no concern at all if one’s actions bring glory or shame to the name of Jesus Christ. For a child of God, perhaps that is the greatest sin of all!

“ACCORDING TO MY EARNEST EXPECTATION AND MY HOPE, THAT IN NOTHING I SHALL BE ASHAMED, BUT THAT WITH ALL BOLDNESS, AS ALWAYS, SO NOW ALSO CHRIST SHALL BE MAGNIFIED IN MY BODY, WHETHER IT BE BY LIFE, OR BY DEATH.” Philippians 1:20

THE HORSE AND HIS RIDER

I went to bed a few nights ago hearing the words of Moses repeated over and over in my spirit. *"...the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea ...the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."* Exodus 15:1.

When God delivered the children of Israel from Pharaoh's bondage, they quickly gathered possessions and headed out of Egypt. Pharaoh soon changed his mind about letting the children of Israel go, and gathered his army to bring them back to Egypt. The scripture says, *"But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea."* Exodus 4:9. When the children of Israel *"lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; ...they were sore afraid:"* Exodus 14:10. Although they had been delivered, they feared Pharaoh and the power he had to take them back into captivity.

Moses said unto the people, *"Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever."* Exodus 14:13. What an astounding statement this was. All the might of Egypt was gathered against these former slaves to take them back into captivity, yet Moses told them to *"take a look, for this is the last time you will ever see Pharaoh and his army."*

We all know the events that followed, how God parted the Red Sea and the children of Israel passed through it as on dry ground. When the army of Pharaoh attempted to follow them through the parted sea, the wheels fell off their chariots and the waters returned upon them in such force that not a single one escaped. Exodus 14:28. All that was left was broken chariots and carcasses washing up upon the sea shore. It was upon beholding this sight that Moses and the children of Israel began to sing, *"...the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."*

As I heard those words over and over in my spirit, I began to understand what the Lord was speaking to me in the gospel. He was reminding me of our deliverance from both sin and Satan. Just

as Pharaoh's army was destroyed in the Red Sea, for the child of God, sin and Satan were destroyed in the shed blood of Christ. There are two simple passages of scripture that, if believed for what they say, will completely transform your walk with God. Both of these passages tell us in clear terms what Jesus Christ destroyed for us upon the cross.

1. ***"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."*** Romans 6:6. Your hands are not your body. Neither are your feet. These things are certainly members of your body, but the term "body" speaks of all the members together. Even so, the "*body of sin*" is not an individual sin. It is the entirety of sin. That is what Christ destroyed for you upon the cross. If half of Pharaoh's army made it through the Red Sea, the children of Israel would have been brought back into slavery, but not a single Egyptian warrior who entered the sea survived. Pharaoh's army was destroyed, and he was absolutely powerless to do anything to the children of Israel. Israel would never serve Pharaoh again. When you see the truth that the entire "*body of sin is destroyed*" by Christ upon the cross you will never again serve sin. Christ did not destroy half your sin. He destroyed it all!

2. ***"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; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."*** Hebrews 2:14-15. For the children of God to continue to fear the devil is as needless as for the children of Israel to continue to fear Pharaoh. Of course had they been foolish enough to cross back over the Red Sea, Pharaoh could have made slaves of them again, but he had no power at all to cross the Red Sea and bring them back into bondage. His army and might was destroyed! Even so, Satan can do nothing to enslave those who simply abide in Christ. There is no devil in the kingdom of God at all. Satan cannot cross over into our abiding place. He can only rule in a land of darkness. If you dwell in Satan's kingdom, you can be "*taken captive by him at his will*" II Timothy 2:26, but if you are

one of those who have been “*delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of God’s dear Son*” Colossians 1:13, you have no need to fear Satan at all. For you he has been destroyed!

Many teachers seek to disannul these scriptures by claiming the word “*destroy*” only means to become “*idle.*” They teach that sin still dwells in God’s people, it has just become “*idle.*” Such teaching is a perversion of the truth of God’s word. The carcasses washing upon the sea shore and the broken chariots floating in the Red Sea were “*idle*” ...because they were destroyed! The body of sin does not remain in God’s people. It was destroyed upon the cross of Christ and it “*idly*” rots in the tomb where Christ left it when he raised us up in newness of life!

Satan rode into power on the back of sin, which entered the world through Adam’s transgression. Romans 5:12. He only has power where sin is present to give him dominion. SIN is the HORSE and SATAN is the RIDER. Thanks be to God because “THE HORSE AND HIS RIDER HATH HE THROWN INTO THE SEA.”

*“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us ...That he would grant unto us, **THAT WE BEING DELIVERED OUT OF THE HAND OF OUR ENEMIES MIGHT SERVE HIM WITHOUT FEAR**, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.”* Luke 1:68-75.

LIVING IN THE SHADOWS

Everywhere he went the man would proudly show people how he could stare at his shadow on the ground and see clearly to shave his face. Yes there were drawbacks. He once sliced off a portion of his lip, and he seemed to cut himself on a regular basis. He also always had spots of uncut facial hair that he missed while shaving. But to him it was worth the risks. After all, how many people do you know who can see by the light of a shadow?

The Bible tells us the sacrifices, ordinances, holy days, and Sabbaths that Moses instituted were merely “...a shadow of things to come” Hebrews 10:1. Since Christ is the “body” that cast the shadow, the apostle Paul was bewildered why believers would be looking to religious “shadows” when they could turn their eyes upon Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:17. Even today some people carefully study the Law of Moses and all its ritualism believing that in it they will discover the mysteries of Christ. Others take hold of such things believing it will make them more acceptable and pleasing to God.

The fact that so many Christians are infatuated with the holy days and ritualism of the Law is a troubling sign. Paul warned the believers against becoming involved in these “shadows.” He was speaking to such Christians when he asked, “*But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.*” Galatians 4:9-11. They had been called to walk in the light of Christ, but they were choosing the darkness of the Law, and the results would be disastrous.

The children of Israel thought the Law made them holy, when its actual purpose was to show that they were “*exceeding sinful.*” Romans 7:13. Paul said the Law “*was not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient...*” I Timothy 1:9. It made no one righteous; it only brought condemnation, saying of those who served it, “*There is none righteous, no, not one.*” Romans 3:10, 19. Yet those who become entangled with the Law become blind to its true purpose. Paul tells us that “*even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.*” II Corinthians 3:15.

It is the vanity of the mind that causes people to seek to explain Christ by looking into the Law. If you could understand the Law of Moses perfectly, still it would not give you understanding of Christ. Why? **Because Jesus Christ came to do what the Law could never do!** Let’s consider the following passages of scripture:

“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:” Romans 8:3. The Law could destroy the sinner, but it could never destroy the sin that was in the sinner. This is the reason Jesus Christ died upon the cross. Paul said, *“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.”* Romans 6:6.

“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.” Hebrews 10:4. The sacrifices of the Law could give you a covering for sin and they could bring you forgiveness for sin, but they could never take away your sin. Christ came to do that which was impossible for the Law to do. As John the Baptist said: *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”* John 1:29.

“For the law made nothing perfect (complete), but the bringing in of a better hope did...” Hebrews 7:19. The *“weakness and profitableness”* of the Law Hebrews 7:18 was that it could cleanse the outside of a person through commandments, but it could not wash sin from their inner man. This left them *“incomplete”* and unacceptable to God. We only receive this *“completion”* when the blood of Jesus Christ purges us from a *“conscience of sins.”* Hebrews 10:1-2. A *“conscience of sins”* is sin in the heart. Some call it the sinful nature. Those who have been washed from their sin have been made *“complete”* because the Bible says, *“For by one offering he hath perfected (completed) forever them that are sanctified.”* Hebrews 10:14.

“...for 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 give you a righteous *“lifestyle”* though the keeping of commandments, but it could never give you the life of Christ within. The *“lifestyle”* of a child of God does not come from a commandment. It flows forth from the *“new heart”* and *“new spirit”* which God gave them when he washed them from their sin. Ezekiel 36:25-27.

The power of the gospel of Christ is not discovered in its similarity to the Law, but in its difference from the Law. Those who seek to know God through the Law of Moses or through any set of religious rituals or commandments condemn themselves to walk in the shadows. Only when they lift up their eyes from the shadows and through believing the truth begin to gaze solely upon the person of Jesus Christ will they be *“changed into the same image.”* II Corinthians 3:18.

“But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.” II Corinthians 3:15-16

A SECOND TRANSFORMATION

Some of the believers the apostle Paul wrote to were in spiritual “limbo.” They were not like the world, but neither were they like Christ. These were not sinners. They had been washed from their sins in the blood of Jesus. Their old man was crucified with Christ Romans 6:6 and they were alive unto God. Romans 6:11. Yet these believers were in a place of spiritual indecision. God had a work and purpose for them, but without another transformation they would never know his purpose and would go no further in the Lord.

To such believers as these, Paul writes, *“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.”* Romans 12:1. These who had in times past been ungodly and walked according to their fleshly lusts, had now been sanctified by the offering of the body of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10:10. They had in fact been made holy and acceptable unto God. Along with all saints, they were invited to draw close into God’s presence *“having (their) hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and (their) bodies washed with pure water.”* Hebrews 10:22. It does not take a lifetime or a process for a person to become holy and acceptable to God. It takes only the power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ!

When anyone is truly born again, they become a misfit in this world. One proof of this is Paul's admonition to them to "*...be not conformed to this world.*" Romans 12:2. The glorious work of salvation had completely changed these believers, and it would take a "change" in the wrong direction for them to be conformed back to the world. They were in the world, but they were not "*of the world.*" Yet without a second "transformation" they would never know the grace of ministry that was prepared for them and they would be in danger of being conformed back to the world around them.

This "conforming to the world" is what happened to the church at Corinth. Paul asked them "*...whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*" 1 Corinthians 3:3. Where there is sin, envy, strife, or divisions among those who have known the Lord, you can know they have been conformed to this world. The reality of Christ has been traded for a carnal religious walk. They no longer walk as children of God, but they are walking as other carnal men.

The belief that people are transformed from a sinful lifestyle into a lifestyle acceptable unto God through the "*renewing of the mind*" is a "case study" in carnality. It is the blood of Christ that delivers from sin, both in heart and in manner of life. Peter tells us we were "*redeemed ...from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers ...with the precious blood of Christ.*" 1 Peter 1:18-19. Christianity is not a lifestyle change. A true Christian is a new creation! Galatians 6:15. The process of cleansing a life through "renewing your mind" never produces what it promises. There is always another principle or precept for you to learn and keep. It is born in carnality, and that is where it will forever be. There is, however, a "*renewing of the mind*" by the Spirit of God that brings with it a needed "second transformation."

Paul implored the saints at Rome to be "*...transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*" Romans 12:2. This transformation by the renewing of their mind would be a direct result of them presenting their bodies to God as a living sacrifice. This "presenting

the body” begins daily in the altar of prayer and continues in every step a believer takes. If these believers would present their bodies to God, he would transform them into living, breathing, ambassadors of Christ. Their bodies would become the outstretched hand of God in this present evil world.

A child of God who comes daily into the presence of God, fully offering and surrendering themselves unto him for his service and glory, finds everything about their manner of thinking changes. Salvation ceases to be about themselves and becomes about others. Their lives cease to be their own as they begin to feel the heartbeat of God that causes them to lay down their lives for the gospel’s sake. Something happens inside and in every fiber of their being they know they *“must be about their Father’s business.”* It is this renewing of their mind by the Spirit of God that transforms them into ministers of Christ. Paul called this *“...the renewing of the Holy Ghost.”* Titus 3:5. The Spirit of God becomes their breath, and the word of God becomes their conversation.

As we are *“transformed by the renewing of our mind”* through the effectual working of God’s Spirit, God begins to set his work before us. As we give ourselves to that work we discover *“what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* Romans 12:2. We come to recognize how God will work through us and at times we find out how he will not. If this transformation is complete, our members become anointed instruments in the hand of God that he can stretch forth at his will.

I am convinced, based upon the scripture, that every child of God has a portion of the ministry of Christ committed unto them. Paul said, *“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.”* Ephesians 4:7. I am equally convinced that many Christians never even begin to walk in that holy calling. They never begin to daily present their bodies to God, therefore their mind is never renewed by his Spirit, and thus they are never transformed into ministers of Christ. They are in spiritual “limbo,” hanging between a *“holy calling”* and being *“conformed unto this world.”* Very often, if they linger in this “limbo” for too long, the world reclaims them as its own.

AN UNNATURAL CONDITION

Suppose a young man was involved in an accident and lost an arm and a leg. As he recovers, he is forced to adjust to life without the use of these two important members. It is a great struggle, but he relearns how to do almost every task involved in his life. Simple things are now complicated. Tasks he once took for granted, like dressing himself or preparing a meal, instantly become incredibly difficult to this man. Yet with training, assistance and sheer determination he pushes on through life. In the months and years that follow, he adjusts to this new reality of life and even amazes others with how well he can function. As decades pass, his manner of life almost seems natural to him ...but it is not! This situation was caused by a horrible tragedy, and it is not natural at all.

It is not natural for a person to be a sinner. So what if that has been the condition of humanity for many thousands of years? So what that every life experience tells you this is just what being human is? We were not created to be sinners. God created man in his image and likeness *Genesis 1:26*, and crowned him with glory and honor.” *Psalms 8:5*. Sin was brought upon humanity through a great tragedy. Something horrible entered our hearts that perverted the very essence of what it means to be human. We may call it a sinful nature, but it is not natural!

The Bible says “...by one man's disobedience many were made sinners...” *Romans 5:19*. All of us were “made sinners” when sin “entered the world” through Adam’s transgression. *Romans 5:12*. This thing called “Sin” entered as a great pollutant, or poison, which filled the human soul. From the very beginning, its presence in us changed every area of our existence. The first son of Adam killed his brother Abel because of envy ...and the worst was still yet to come.

The working of Sin in mankind became so horrible that “...it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.” *Genesis 6:6*. God sent the great flood and destroyed all except Noah and his family, but sin came through the flood in the hearts of those eight who were spared and began to

increase even more. Sodom and Gomorrah gave themselves over to filth and perversion and were destroyed, but this thing called Sin continued to rage.

Somehow we had to control the rage and subdue the passions. Moses gave the Law, but this only caused Sin to abound. Romans 5:20. After fifteen hundred years of the Law's dominion, its verdict on those who were under it was *"there is none righteous, no, not one."* Romans 3:10, 19. Who then could deny that Sin was the master of all humanity? Although this was true and Sin's dominion had no exception, it was still an unnatural condition for humankind.

The apostle reminds us of David's question, saying *"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?"* Hebrews 2:6. Why would God consider the condition of a sinful man or woman? Why not just destroy them and be done with it all? The simple answer is that he did not make us to be sinners. Sin never was our natural condition. God had made us to be a manifestation of his image and glory. Although that was lost through transgression, God's great desire was to restore his fallen creation back into being what he foreknew. Romans 8:29.

The scriptures are clear that Christ suffered for this purpose of *"...bringing many sons unto glory."* Hebrews 2:10. To do this he would have to accomplish the one thing that nothing, or no one else, could accomplish. He would have to *"take away the sin of the world!"* John 1:29. That unnatural thing would have to be purged from the heart and soul of man. Hebrews 1:3. This Jesus Christ did upon the cross at Calvary. There he *"sanctified the people with his own blood"* Hebrews 13:12 and *"cleansed them from all unrighteousness."* John 1:9. He suffered the death of the cross so that *"old man would be crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."* Romans 6:6. He then sent ministers everywhere with this simple gospel so that anyone who believed it would have *"their hearts purified by faith."* Acts 15:9. This fulfilled Jesus' promise he gave, saying, *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* John 8:32.

At Calvary, God restored to himself a people with *“clean hands and a pure heart.”* Psalms 24. Through the work of the blood of Christ, we now come into God’s presence *“...having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”* Hebrews 10:22. We are made free from sin. Romans 6:22. This is the natural condition of the children of God.

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

For centuries theologians have focused on the manhood of Christ seeking to discover a reason God “required a man” to die for our redemption. Out of this misconception has come many “scriptureless” theories of atonement. Anselm’s “satisfaction theory” presented Christ coming as a man to pay a great debt of honor which humanity owed to God. Because mankind had so dishonored God through transgression, Christ as a man had to pay God more honor than the sum of mankind’s dishonor. Calvin’s “penal substitution” presents that Christ had to become a man to take upon himself the punishment for all the sins of mankind. Other theories present that Christ had to come and live a perfect life as a man so that his sinless life could be accounted to us as righteousness in the eyes of God. All of these theories are steeped in human philosophy, but have almost no scriptural foundation at all.

In our generation, teachers have stumbled over each other attempting to show that Christ was exactly like any natural man. They say he could have sinned, that he struggled with sin, and that he even wanted to sin. Some have taught that he fought with and subdued fleshly lusts through prayer, fasting, and self-denial. Others say that Christ was just a natural man upon earth who did everything he did through the “power of faith.” One renowned “faith teacher” went so far as to declare that he, being the same as Jesus was upon earth, could have redeemed us just as well as Christ did. Once again these teachers have *“changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man...”* Romans 1:23.

Jesus Christ was not just a man. Some try to show that upon earth he was 100% man, but this is simply not true. Jesus Christ is *“the WORD”* made flesh. He is the *“...express image of his (God’s) person.”* Hebrews 1:3. He was born *“Holy”* Luke 1:35 and he had no sin or sin nature, for John writes *“in him there is no sin.”* I John 3:5. John’s testimony was that *“his glory”* was *“the glory as of the only begotten of the Father.”* John 1:14. He went on to tell us that the message they received through seeing, hearing, and handling the word of life (Jesus Christ), was that *“God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”* I John 1-5.

Even the earthly body of Jesus Christ was different from other men. His fleshly body could not have been 100% man. Yes, Mary was his mother, but God was his father. The angel said, *“that which is conceived in her (Mary) is of the Holy Ghost.”* Matthew 1:20. There is no human body that is 100% of its mother. The apostle tells us *“when he (Christ) cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but **a body hast thou prepared me.**”* Hebrews 10:5. The body of Jesus was not the same as any other human body that ever was or ever shall be. His human body had Mary as its mother and God Almighty as its father. This is the reason his blood sanctifies and his death destroyed both sin and Satan.

All creation, everything that was made, was created in, by, through, and for Christ. Even Lucifer was created in perfection by, and in, Christ. Yet Lucifer, whom we know as Satan, fell and carried much of God’s perfect creation into the darkness of his iniquity. Through Adam’s transgression, humanity was delivered into Satan’s kingdom, and he became the one who *“had the power of death.”* Hebrews 2:14. His power became so great that even Michael and the angels could not overcome him until the blood of Christ was shed. Revelation 12:7-11.

Calvary was never about the death of a man. From the beginning, Christ had been *“in the form of God.”* Philippians 2:6. Yet being in the *“form of God”*, he could not die. His *“death”* was his primary purpose in becoming *“flesh and blood.”* The scripture says, *“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." Hebrews 2:14-15. There is something about the death of Christ that caused every power of the old creation to become impotent. Everything had been created by Christ, and in Christ. The apostle Paul said, *"he is before all things, and by him all things consist."* Colossians 1:17. This means Christ literally "held everything together." When he died, the old creation became like a branch that has been cut from a tree. The leaves may still appear to be green for a while, but it has been cut from its life source and immediately begins to wither and decay. In this manner, Satan and the powers of darkness in ignorance and arrogance destroyed themselves when they killed the one by whom they had been created. As Paul said, *"Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."* 1 Corinthians 2:8. Through Christ's death, the power of the old creation was destroyed, but three days later he arose in victory with a "New Creation" in his hands! Those who are resurrected with Christ are *"new creations"* and have been lifted out of the sin, death, and decay of the old fallen creation.

If the physical body of Jesus was born of God, then so was his blood. The Bible describes the unprofitableness of the Law's sacrifices, saying, *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."* Hebrews 10:4. If you were to take all the blood of all the animals that were ever sacrificed unto God, you could not find one drop that had the power to take away sins. The same would be true if you took the blood of all the apostles and prophets, and of all the saints of God who would ever exist. You would still not find a drop of blood that could destroy Satan or wash a single soul from sin. The blood of Jesus alone has power to sanctify Hebrews 13:12, not because it is the blood of a sinless man, but because it is in fact *"the precious blood of Christ!"* 1 Peter 1:19.

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