

**The Son of God  
The Son of Man  
The Last Adam**



**Jesus Christ**

by David A. DePra

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## **Chapter 1**

### **The Son of God Become Man**

Jesus referred to Himself as The Son of Man more than by any other name. But it is nevertheless a fact that Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God. Thus, in order to grasp the meaning of Jesus as The Son of Man, we must first understand Him as The Son of God -- for it is The Son of God who became The Son of Man.

Many have said Jesus never actually claimed that He was God or the Son of God, but this Truth is actually front and center in all of His teachings – whether directly or indirectly. For example, the nine, “I AM,” statements in the gospel of John could not have been made by someone unless they knew they were the Son of God. But we can easily cut to the quick on this matter by reading Matthew 16:

***Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some [say that thou art] John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed [it] unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. (Matt. 16:13-17)***

You will note that in His question, Jesus calls Himself, “the Son of Man.” But He is asking them

about a much deeper dimension of His identity. He is saying, "I am The Son of Man. But WHO is The Son of Man?"

Can we see that Jesus could not have asked this question unless He was The Son of God become The Son of Man? If He were merely a human being then there would be no need for a further question – for He would be The Son of Man and that would be the end of it. But no. Jesus had a deeper identity – He had not been born OF the human race, but INTO the human race from the outside. He wanted them to confess that this had been revealed to them.

Herein we clearly see, "the Word become flesh; the God-man." Jesus IS The Son of Man -- but had an eternally deeper dimension and identity. The Son of Man was The Son of God.

The disciples rightly answered His question, "Who do you say that I, The Son of Man, am? They declared that Jesus was, "the Son of the Living God." Thus, on this occasion, Jesus had every opportunity to deny He was the Son of God. But instead, He said that Peter was blessed for having seen it. Indeed, Jesus said that it was the Father Himself Who had revealed to them that Jesus was, "the Son of the Living God."

The Son of Man and The Son of God are the same Person. Yet Jesus had been The Son of God before He became The Son of Man – He had been born into this world from the outside and taken upon Himself the human nature – for the sake of our redemption. And incredibly, having

accomplished that redemption, He will carry His perfected humanity within Himself for all eternity.

### **The Word WAS God**

Among all of the passages that show Jesus is God, front and center stands the prolog to the gospel of John:

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.....and the Word became flesh. (John 1:1, 14)***

Despite the attempts of groups like the Jehovah Witnesses to deliberately mistranslate this passage into saying, "and the Word was **A** God," the Greek definitely reads, "and the Word **WAS** God."

But John does not stop there. John 1:14 tells us, "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." In other words, the only begotten Son of God was born into this world from the outside – because He preexisted -- and He became human. The Son of God became The Son of Man.

Thus, we have our answer to the meaning of the name, "The Son of Man." It refers to Jesus in His humanity; God in the flesh; God become man.

But we must be clear: Jesus did not DISCARD His divinity to be born a human being. Rather, He set it aside as to functioning in it. In other words, the humanity of Jesus did not replace His divinity. Rather, His humanity was, "added to,"

His divinity. He was God and man – divine and human – in one Person.

### **The Ascended Son of Man**

It is of vital important to understand the essential that the Son of God be born into this world as a human being. It is essential to the redemption of the rest of the human race. Indeed, the present and eternal relationship between God and redeemed humanity depends upon the humanity of Jesus Christ.

Herein we see why Jesus continually referred to Himself as, "the Son of Man." He did not refer to Himself by that name to minimize the fact that He was the Son of God. No. But by referring to Himself as The Son of Man, Jesus was pointing to the fact that only in GOD BECOME MAN could human beings find salvation, and be brought back into relationship – brought back into a oneness – with the Father.

But have we realized that even though Jesus did not discard His divinity to become human, that neither did He discard His humanity when He was raised from the dead and then ascended to the Father? Today He remains the Son of God and the Son of Man.

In this day and age, the sinless humanity of Christ is usually brought in as a necessity for Him to have died for us all – which is an essential Truth. But what is usually not taught is that Jesus continues to carry His humanity as the ascended Lord of all. Jesus Christ is sitting at the right hand of God as the ascended Son of Man.

He never discarded His humanity – which is exactly why human beings can be seated IN HIM.

Jesus did not discard His humanity through His sinless life, His death, His resurrection, or His ascension. He continued to be The Son of Man. We see that this is the Truth after the resurrection when He showed Himself to His disciples. He wanted to make sure they knew He had a human body – howbeit glorified through His resurrection. Neither did He discard His humanity when He ascended – He ascended BODILY into heaven and will return IN LIKE MANNER.

We know this to be so through numerous passages, but we certainly know it through the testimony of Stephen at his martyrdom:

***Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. (Acts 7:56)***

Note: Stephen sees THE SON OF MAN. Jesus Christ, the Son of God; the Son of Man, is at the right hand of God -- and He continues to carry His humanity, and because of this, He continues to carry all of humanity who are IN HIM.

The idea that when Jesus finished His redemptive work and ascended into heaven unto the Father – the idea that He simply went back to the way He was before His human birth is not the Truth at all. But what He did do was even greater. He became LORD of all – carrying all victory with Him as a human being FOR human beings. He carried all of who are in Him to the throne of God – so



that all who believe could be seated in Him forever.

***And hath raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:6)***

Jesus became a human being so that human beings could be redeemed back to God. Jesus is one with God, and believers are one with Jesus. That makes believers one with God.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Christ in Us**

Before we can fully grasp why Jesus had to become human, and before we can appreciate what He accomplished as a human, we need to lay a foundation. We must understand the real meaning of Christianity.

There are three verses that I want to mention that aptly define Christianity:

***Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Col. 1:27)***

***If anyone be in Christ he is a new creature.  
(II Cor. 5:17)***

***He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit  
with Him. (I Cor. 6:17)***

These verses are just a few that define for us exactly what Christianity IS. Christianity is CHRIST IN US. Or, as Paul says in other places, Christianity is the believer IN CHRIST. Paul also tells us HOW Christ dwells in the believer: We are one in spirit with Christ – we are joined to Him. This union is what constitutes the new creature in Christ. Christianity is therefore a spiritual, resurrection union with Jesus Christ.

Resurrection union with Christ – Christ in believers – is the core of all that God is doing. Everything that God has done, and everything God is doing, and everything that God will do, is based upon this reality of CHRIST in humanity through spiritual union. Everything begins with

Christ and ends with Christ. And Christ is IN believers.

God created human beings for a great purpose: Human beings were created to be one with God, and to manifest Him, and to actually become expressions and extensions of Him. This would result in dominion within the will and purpose of God. Is that not what God originally intended for Adam? Thus, salvation in Christ is not merely a matter of getting saved and going to heaven. Rather, salvation is deliverance out from the dead Adam race through the Cross – UNTO resurrection union with God through Jesus Christ. The entire purpose of God depends upon this.

But it is here that we must again see the Truth of The Son of Man. In order for human beings to become one with Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ had to become a human being. The Son of God became a human being so that human beings could be united with God through Him. THAT is redemption. Thus, unless the Son of God became a human being there is no redemption possible for human beings. There is no purpose of God for humanity.

### **All in Christ**

Not only is it vital that believers realize that Christ dwells within them – that they are united with Christ in spirit – but it is vital to see that in Christ God has given us all that He has to give. Indeed, Christ IS the fullness of all that God is, and all that God gives by His grace.

So often we think in terms of God having given us THINGS because of Christ. We say God has given us eternal life because of Christ, or that God sanctifies us because of Christ. But as sincere as these claims might be, they are not the Truth. God has not given us THINGS because of Christ – but rather – God has given us Christ -- in Whom are all things.

This is why we must see that Christianity is CHRIST IN US – we must see that believers are joined to the Lord in spirit. IN CHRIST, God has given humanity all that He has to give. He has given humanity NOTHING otherwise. Thus, if you are joined to His Son, you can come to experience all that is in Him – all the fullness of God. But if you are not joined to Christ, you have nothing. It is that simple. It is all of Christ or nothing.

Let's look at a few passages that show that God has given all He has to give in, and only in, His Son:

***In him was life; and the life was the light of men. (John 1:4)***

***He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Rom. 8:32)***

***In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Col. 2:3)***

***But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness,***

***and sanctification, and redemption. (I Cor. 1:30)***

If you read Colossians 2 you will find four warnings given from Paul as to the dangers of seeking the things of God from sources other than the Person of Christ – things such as life, truth, experiences, blessings, purpose, help, direction. No. All that a believer needs is found in the Person of Christ – and we are one with Christ. Thus, if we want to discover all that is given IN Christ, we must discover Christ Himself.

What this means as far as experience is that when we are saved – when we are united with Christ in spirit – we receive IN Christ ALL that God has to give. There is nothing left to receive. We cannot be united with Christ and lack anything. But this does not mean we will experience all of Christ immediately. No. We will spend the rest of our lives, indeed, all of eternity, discovering the Christ we have received in fullness. Christ will be unfolded to us through many trials, through the work of the Cross, and through many blessings, during this age.

This is a central Truth of Christianity, and yet it is barely known or taught today. In this day and age, believers are given every conceivable alternative to find the true life and experience except for Christ Himself. “Christ in us,” is hidden, corrupted, or redefined.

“Christ in us,” IS Christianity. But this would never have been possible unless our Savior had become one of us and carried us up to God’s throne.

## Chapter 3

### The Living Word

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-4, 14)***

We have seen that Jesus Christ is The Son of God, but also The Son of Man. The name, "The Son of God," points to His divinity, and the name, "The Son of Man," points to His humanity. But here, in John 1, John calls Jesus THE WORD.

Why does John call Jesus Christ; the only begotten Son of God, by the name, "the Word?" The phrase, "the word of God," is found numerous places in scripture, but in this verse, and in Revelation 19:13, Jesus Christ is given that NAME. Why?

The answer to this question points us directly to Jesus Christ as The Son of Man. Jesus was God's Living Word to humanity – Jesus Christ is the Living Word that God is speaking.

God is speaking Jesus Christ in more than, "words." The human being who was Jesus Christ – the Person who was The Son of God Incarnate –

He IS the Word God is speaking. God is speaking in a Person. Indeed, God is speaking that Person.

God has never stopped speaking Christ. God continues to speak Jesus Christ today through an ongoing, inward revelation in His people. Jesus continues to be God's Living Word.

## **The Logos**

The Greek term in John 1 for, "word," is LOGOS. At the root, it means, "a spoken word." But the definition absolutely includes the entire thought, concept, and intent BEHIND that spoken word. So, don't think of, "logos," as just what is spoken -- but also think about the mind of God in speaking it. That will give you a better grasp and handle on this term, "logos," as God has used it in reference to His Son.

M.R. Vincent, a scholar of NT Greek, says that the root word, "logos," comes from a family and a group that means, "to gather up." But since we are talking here about thoughts as well as speaking -- what this means is that, "logos," is a gathering together of the entire thought and mind of God.

But again, this, "thought and mind of God," is not conveyed to us merely in WORDS -- but in the form of a PERSON, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is, as a Person, the FULLNESS of all that is the mind of God -- which He wants to reveal to us. Jesus, in other words, is the WORD that God is speaking. He IS that. Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, IS the Logos -- the Logos of God.

Notice that this goes far beyond the fact that Jesus taught Truth, or that He gave revelation. Well, He did. BUT Jesus Himself IS the revelation of God – in human form. He IS the absolute expression of God to us -- and this is why He is called the LOGOS.

Now, can we see a little bit more as to what the term LOGOS means? If Jesus is the sum total and the gathering together of the entire mind and thought of God -- wrapped up in a Person -- then obviously He could say, "I am the Truth." Or to put it another way, "I am the true LOGOS, spoken to you by my Father as His revelation of Himself. I AM that LOGOS," That is what is wrapped up in the incredible, all-encompassing term, "LOGOS."

### **God is Speaking Christ**

The Truth of Jesus as the LOGOS of God opens up the meaning of so many other passages. A primary passage is Hebrews 1:1-2:

***God, who at sundry times and in different manners, spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets..."***

This is a reference, then, of how God USED to speak, but verse 2 says:

***(God) in these last days has spoken unto us in a Son.***

A literal translation of this would be, "God has spoken to us SON-WISE." So right there it is:



Jesus, the Person, is the living Word, or living Logos, which God is right now speaking to you and me. In other words, Jesus Christ is, "the language," by which God speaks in His people.

Now, that might seem strange to say it that way - - that God is speaking to us, "son-wise"; that God is speaking to us in a Son. But what does that really mean? Well, it does NOT mean that God is merely issuing forth messages and leadings. No. Rather, it means that God is primarily today speaking to His people through an on-going and inward revelation of the Person of Jesus Christ.

If you are a believer and you are saved, you are joined to the Lord and one spirit with Him -- and Jesus Christ dwells in you. The purpose of God then, from that point, is going to be to form Christ in you -- to bring you into an inward discovery and realization of the Christ with Whom you are one in spirit -- and who dwells in you. This is how God speaks to us son-wise: Through an on-going revelation of the Person who IS the Logos.

This inward realization was Paul's heart cry:

***My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you. (Gal. 4:19)***

The word translated, "formed," in this verse means, "to inwardly realize and express." This is the result of God speaking Christ IN His people. We begin to realize Christ – and our minds are renewed according to Christ.

Think about it: If there is a Person called the Logos -- and we have seen that He is Jesus Christ -- then there has to be a God who SPEAKS that Logos -- right? You cannot just have a logos -- because the term itself demands that there be one who speaks the logos. Thus, Jesus IS the Word that God is speaking. He IS God's revelation to us -- in the human Person; in the One who is the expression of His full mind and thought. He IS the ONE Whom God is speaking.

Notice also the first part of Heb. 1:3, which says that Jesus Christ is the brightness of God's glory and the express image of His Person. Is this not simply another way of saying that The Son of Man was the full expression of God through the means of a human being?

Thus, if we are believers we are united with Christ in spirit. Thus, God is speaking to us Son-wise. Jesus Christ is the LOGOS that God is speaking. Jesus Christ is the Word.

## **Chapter 4**

### **But We See Jesus**

Jesus was the Son of God with the Father – the Word – BEFORE His human birth. We know that He was the Word BEFORE His human birth because John says, “In the beginning was the Word,”...and then later he says, “and The Word BECAME flesh and dwelt among us.” But Paul, in his epistle to the Philippians, described what Jesus did in order to become a human being.

***Though he possessed the nature of God, he did not grasp at equality with God, but laid it aside to take on the nature of a slave and become like other men. When he had assumed human form, he still further humbled himself and carried his obedience so far as to die, and to die upon the cross. That is why God has so greatly exalted him, and given him the name above all others, so that in the name of Jesus everyone should kneel, in heaven and on earth and in the underworld, and everyone should acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, and thus glorify God the Father. (Phil. 2:6-11, Goodspeed Translation)***

Jesus relinquished – not who He was – not His divinity – but He relinquished His position in the heavenlies with the Father, and laid aside His divinity – as to functioning from out of it -- in order to become one of us.

To LAY ASIDE His divinity does not mean that He discarded His divinity such that He was no longer

God. No. It simply means that as a human being He did not operate from out of His divine nature. He remained divine as the Son of God, but He lived out from the Father as a human being; the Son of Man.

What this means is that when we read about the miracles of Jesus, we are not reading about Jesus using His divine powers as the Son of God. Rather, we are reading about Jesus, the Son of Man, being a HUMAN vessel through Whom the Father could do His will – miracles included.

There are some apologists who object to this because they fear that Word of Faith heretics will use this Truth to claim that they have the same power. But we must not reject the Truth because some people abuse, twist, and use it to their own destruction. The fact remains that Jesus did NOT operate from out of His divinity when He was here as a man. He stated this directly:

***The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what he sees the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. (John 5:19)***

***My Father is greater than I. (John 14:28)***

The actual Greek reading is, "The Son can do nothing OUT FROM Himself." Jesus was speaking of the fact that He had laid aside His divinity to live as one of us – fully dependent as a man upon His Father.

## **Fully Human**

Jesus was fully human, despite remaining the Son of God. This means that He fully experienced what it meant to BE human. He was tempted in all points – yet without sin. He walked through life -- had relationships, hardship, joys, family, friends, and enemies. But He remained without sin and brought His entire humanity through His life, death, and resurrection, to the glory of God. This was essential if He was to become the Lamb of God Who could bear the sin of the world.

But there is one dimension here that is often overlooked. Jesus also fully experienced what it meant for a human being to have a relationship with God. He walked fully dependent upon His Father in fellowship by faith -- AS A HUMAN BEING. As already mentioned, He did not function from out of His divine nature – but functioned from out of His humanity. Otherwise, He could not have won victory in those human areas.

It is because Jesus was functioning as a human being that He could be tempted. Temptation unto sin, and the possibility of sinning, would have been mere show if that were not the case. But it was the case. It was because Jesus was in a relationship with the Father as a human being that His relationship with the Father could be attacked and He could be tempted. And it was because He passed through all of those temptations without sin that His victory was REAL – it was REAL both IN humanity and FOR humanity.

For example, this meant that Jesus had to pray. When He prayed to His Father, was it all for a show? No. He had to pray because as He walked through life He had to be fully dependent upon the Father for everything. He had to continually abide in His Father.

Of course, it is not possible for us to grasp what it is like to walk with God by faith WITHOUT a sin nature. Neither is it possible for us to know what it is like to walk with God with a consciousness of having pre-existed with the Father before our birth. In short, we don't know what it is like to be God Incarnate. But having said that, the Son of God become man lived out His relationship with His Father AS A HUMAN BEING – fully dependent upon the Father, and fully submitted to the Father. There was nothing fake about it.

This Truth is brought home to us in the epistle to the Hebrews. In chapter 2, we are told that Jesus came to both experience humanity -- and to win the victory over all of it – and in doing so, made redemption for all of us possible:

***For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing [that is] not put under him. But***

***now we see not yet all things put under him.  
But we see Jesus, who was made a little  
lower than the angels for the suffering of  
death, crowned with glory and honor; that  
he by the grace of God should taste death  
for every man. (Heb. 2:5-9)***

Scripture reveals that God originally created the first Adam to have dominion over all of His creation. He failed. Thus, God sent His Son to be the LAST ADAM – the man who would accomplish for the Father all God desired for humanity.

In the above passage, the writer states that in this age we do not yet see the full purpose of God for humanity brought to pass – for the first Adam failed. BUT WE SEE JESUS. We see Jesus, who was MADE a little lower than the angels – He is the Word become flesh – we see that HE lived a sinless life and finished His redemptive work – and became the One in and through Whom God will bring to pass His purpose for all humanity.

Hebrews goes on to show a Truth that is all through scripture. It is a Truth that is only possible because Jesus became a man. And that Truth is this: Believers are indeed sons and daughters of God. But we are only sons and daughters of God IN THE SON. It is only by being united with Christ in resurrection union that we are sons and daughters of God. And as we have seen – and as Hebrews goes on to explain – this would have been impossible unless Jesus had actually become a human being, and functioned as a human being, and lived a sinless life as a human being:

***For it became him, for whom [are] all things, and by whom [are] all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 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, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. (Heb. 2:10-13)***

Note that we are ONE with Jesus – to the point where we are called His brethren. This is just like a family in the eyes of God – a family in which there is a great inheritance. The revelation of God along that line is this: There is the Father, and then there is the only begotten Son, and then there are the sons and daughters IN THE SON.

### **The Seed of Woman**

God's redemption plan and plan of eternal inheritance was all made possible by the Word become flesh:

***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. For verily he took not on [him the nature of] angels; but he took on [him] the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved***



***him to be made like unto [his] brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things [pertaining] to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted. (Heb. 2:14-18)***

This passage directly states that Jesus took part of the same flesh and blood as all of God's children IN ORDER THAT He might destroy the Devil. Do we see that? He HAD to become flesh and blood to redeem flesh and blood. He HAD to function from out of His humanity in order to win actual victory for all of humanity.

This passage also points out that Jesus took upon Himself the nature of, "the SEED of Abraham." This reminds us of the first promise of a Redeemer that God gave immediately after the sin of Adam:

***And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Gen. 3:15)***

"The seed of Abraham," is exactly the same seed as, "the seed of the woman," that God promised in that first prophecy of a Messiah. Clearly, "the seed of the woman," requires that the Redeemer be a human being. Thus, right from the start, we see the essential that the Son of God become a human being in order to restore human beings back to God.

## **Chapter 5**

### **The Last Adam**

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

Adam, the first man, is called THE FIRST ADAM. Jesus Christ is called THE LAST ADAM. Of course, the name, "Adam," means, "man." Man is a distinct type of being that God created -- in His image and likeness.

So once again, we see another way in which God speaks to the Truth that His only begotten Son became a flesh and blood human being. The Word became flesh. The Word became The Son of Man. The Word became The Last Adam.

But this raises an interesting question: Why is Christ called, "The Last Adam?" He obviously wasn't the last man ever born. So what does that name indicate?

### **In Adam**

Let's first talk about the first Adam. Adam was an actual individual – he was the first man. He isn't an allegory or a picture lesson. He wasn't the product of evolution. Rather, he was a created being – a created man. God created Adam of the dust of the ground and breathed into Him the breath of lives. (plural) He BECAME a living soul. (Genesis 2:7)

That is what the above passage says:

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

Now note: Adam was CREATED – and is the ONLY human being ever fully created by God. Eve was created – but she was created FROM out of Adam. No one else was ever created -- everyone else has been BORN of Adam and Eve. That is why the Bible states that the human race, through natural birth, is IN ADAM.

God began the human race with Adam – and when God created him, God said that he was good. The man, Adam, was NORMAL in God's original design. He was ALIVE in every way. He was alive physically, and he was alive spiritually – thus, the term, "the breath of LIVES." He was alive spiritually because he was one with Life Himself.

As originally created, Adam was designed to be one with God. But he willfully chose to reject God. Thus, because Adam was no longer one with God, Adam had become a different kind of human being than the one God had designed.

This cannot be understated – and it is virtually impossible to grasp -- not only what Adam lost, but the depth of his self-inflicted corruption. We do get an idea once we begin to know Jesus Christ. But Adam, as a creature, was ruined.

We must see this. Adam did not die because God stormed down from heaven and, "killed him" -- as the punishment for sin. No. Adam died because he rejected LIFE HIMSELF. God's judgment upon

Adam was built into Adam's sin: "In the day that you eat thereof you will surely die." In other words, "In the day that you reject Me the judgment upon you will be exactly what you have chosen – you will have rejected Me as your life and your all. The judgment will be death."

Sin kills – sin kills because it is against God. But to say that God kills as a punishment for sin is to say that the sin itself carries no death – but that unless God, "adds," the punishment that the sinner is just fine. This is nonsense. God's judgment for sin is certain – but that judgment is built into the fabric of God's design for humanity. Humanity was made for God. Life is ONLY found in God. Thus, sin by rejecting God and you will die. And God will judge you worthy of your choice.

God did not walk away from Adam. Adam walked away and even hid from God. This is important to realize because it means God does not need to be reconciled back to humanity. Rather, humanity needs to be reconciled back to God. Jesus did not die to change God's attitude or appease God's wrath – but died to make it possible for humanity to become a new creature that COULD once again be one with God IN HIM.

## **The Sin Nature**

God created Adam with a nature that could not live unless Adam stayed in spiritual union with Himself. The design of humanity with all of its potential – was kept alive and intact as long as Adam was one with God. Thus, when Adam rejected God, humanity, as a race, became

contrary – to its very core – to the race God created. We could say that, “the human mold was broken.” The original design was corrupted. Thus, the human race could only produce broken humanity.

This corrupted nature is what we all, “the sin nature.” It is humanity void of God – indeed, contrary to God. The sin nature is the, “NATURAL,” state of humanity without God. That state is a tormented one.

We see what happened if we compare the description of Adam BEFORE his sin to the description AFTER his sin. BEFORE his sin Adam is described as being, “naked and unashamed.” (Gen. 2:26) But AFTER his sin Adam is described as being, “naked and ashamed.” Notice that in both cases Adam was naked. But because of his sin, instead of being unashamed he was now ashamed. Indeed, he was in fear and tormented by his nakedness.

What does it mean to be NAKED – in this story? It means to be without any resources within yourself. Adam had NO life in himself. Sure. God designed him to be naked – but to be fully dependent upon God – to derive his very life from God.

And what does it mean for Adam to be, “not ashamed,” as opposed to being, “ashamed,” with regards to his nakedness? To be, “naked and unashamed,” meant that despite having no resources in himself, Adam was fully alive because he was one with God – there was no consciousness of need. But to be, “naked and

ashamed," meant that because Adam was no longer one with God he was fully conscious of his need, indeed, in fear of the fact.

Thus, when Adam sinned, the nature of humanity was changed from what God created as normal to a NEW NORMAL, or if you will, humanity became absolutely ABNORMAL as to very nature and being.

Yet this was not an abnormal nature as a thing unto itself. It was an abnormal nature in relation to God. God created man for Himself but once Adam sinned, he became corrupt and maladjusted for God. The Adam race was now abnormal unto God.

Herein we see that what is wrong with the human race is NOT primarily in what we DO. The problem is what we ARE – we are, by nature, at enmity against God. We are born spiritually dead – completely without union with God.

Adam's sin resulted in death, not just for himself, but for all of humanity AS A BEING. This is why the Bible says, "***In Adam*** all die..." (see I Cor. 15:22) And as we have seen, we are all IN ADAM by natural birth – but we are all broken to the core.

Everyone one of us can trace our human origin back to this FIRST ADAM. Thus, we are all said to be IN ADAM – we are the Adam race; the collective first man. But because Adam sinned, he became a different kind of man – we all inherit that corrupted nature. We are all abnormal by

natural birth. We are all a different kind of humanity than what God originally designed.

## **Jesus Christ**

It is essential for us to see that Jesus Christ was born – not OF the Adam race – but nevertheless INTO the Adam race. His human birth did not bypass the Adam race – His human birth did not create a new race. Sure. That is why He is called The Last Adam – a name that would be incorrect if He were not born into the Adam race. In addition, this is why the gospels provide genealogies of Jesus Christ – and both of those go back to Adam. Through His human birth by Mary, Jesus was born into the Adam race – and consequently -- was a member of the Adam race.

Our redemption depends on this. The entire plan and purpose of God through His Son depends upon the fact that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became a human being. The Word became flesh – He became a member of the Adam race.

But wait. There is a huge distinction we MUST SEE on this matter – we have already noted it. Jesus was not born OF the Adam race – He did not begin to exist when He was conceived in the womb of Mary. Rather, Jesus pre-existed as the eternal Son of God before His human birth. Thus, the Son of God was born INTO the Adam race from the outside.

We must get that: Jesus was not born OF the Adam race. Rather, He was born INTO the Adam race from the outside.

Jesus had been God the Son from eternity, and therefore, He is the only human being who ever existed before human birth. Thus, at physical birth, He had a human mother, but God was His heavenly Father. He was born the God-man. This is precisely why He did not inherit the sin nature when He was born into this world.

Paul says that The Son of God, "took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." (Phil. 2:7) To use rather mechanical language, Jesus was already divine. He was already God. But through His birth there was ADDED to Him the human nature. He became the God-man.

So what we see here is quite amazing. At a point 2000 plus years ago in our timeline, the Word of God became flesh – He gave up all that He was before His human birth and was voluntarily reduced down into the tiniest form of human life and deposited into Mary's womb. A conception took place – not through an act of human procreation – but through an act of God by His spirit.

Jesus did NOT become the Son of God when He was born into this world from the outside. He was the Son of God before His human birth. Through His human birth He became, "the Son of Man." He was indeed, "the Word BECOME flesh," that is, God the Son Incarnate.

### **The Man God Wanted**

So, the Son of God – Who had existed eternally with the Father – was conceived and born into the



Adam race from the outside. Yet He did not inherit the sin nature of the Adam race – because He had preexisted and was God the Son.

Can we see what God was doing? God had originally created Adam for the purpose of expressing, manifesting, and glorifying Him – and to have dominion over all of God's creation. This was God's original purpose for what would become the Adam race. Adam failed. But God would not be defeated or leave His creation in death. He would yet have a MAN – He would yet have, "an Adam," who would fulfill all His will. This is why He sent His only begotten Son.

Jesus came to be THE MAN who would glorify God. That is why Jesus had to live a sinless life. If all God wanted was a death then Jesus could have been sacrificed as a child. But no. God had to have a sinless man to die for the sinful Adam race. That was the only possible way to redemption.

Now we begin to see one reason why Jesus is called THE LAST ADAM – the LAST MAN. He was everything that God intended humankind to be. He lived it to God's glory. In that sense, therefore, Jesus Christ – as the sinless man – was the summation of God's thought for man. He was God's thought for humanity wrapped up in one Person. He can therefore be called the LAST ADAM – or, if you will, He could be called, "the Ultimate Adam." "The Last Adam," means that there is no need for another after Him – because He perfected the Adam race.

This was the first way in which Jesus was the Last Adam. Because He fully satisfied God as a human being born in Adam there was no need for another. But as we are going to see, in Christ, the Adam race actually did end. That is the second way in which Jesus Christ was The Last Adam -- through His death and resurrection as the Last Adam, Christ ended the Adam race and ushered in a brand new creation.

## **Chapter 6**

### **The End of the Adam Race**

God made Adam for a purpose – to glorify and reflect God Himself. But instead, Adam chose to turn away from God. So Adam DIED. And from this death there is NO WAY BACK. It isn't a matter of God forgiving or letting things slide. No. Adam was dead – void of God, and consequently, ruined as a creature. He was then a different kind of humanity -- subject to the realm of darkness. All of us inherit this condition through natural birth. As we have seen, it's called the SIN NATURE.

So what does Adam need? Well, if death is his problem, then Adam needs LIFE. But the old creation was ruined. Thus, there needs to be a NEW CREATION.

### **Born Fully Human**

Please note that when Jesus was born of Mary, He was NOT born as a NEW CREATURE. The human birth of Jesus did not begin the new creation – because as we have seen – Jesus was born into the old creation – of the very same Adamic order of humanity that God designed to be the first Adam. He took upon Himself human nature. But as we have also seen, because Jesus preexisted as The Son of God, the Word became flesh with a SINLESS human nature – He was born without the sin nature.

It is essential that we see that Jesus Christ was born into the Adam race. There was NO OTHER

humanity at that point. Unless Jesus was born fully humanity as a member of the same Adam race as the rest of us, He could not have accomplished the redemption for the rest of us.

We have already seen that in Jesus was the consummate Adam – He was the fulfillment in His own Person of the original design and purpose of God for man. That meant there was nothing to add or improve upon. There was no need for, “another Adam.” That is the first sense in which Jesus was The Last Adam.

### **The Adam Race Ended in Christ**

But incredibly, there is an even greater sense in which Jesus is, “The Last Adam.” As a human being Jesus was the living fulfillment of God’s thought for man. But then Jesus then laid down His sinless life for us. And when He did, He brought to a **close** the Adamic race. In Him, ADAM – that original race – actually DIED.

The name, “The LAST Adam” – refers to the fact that through His death on the Cross, the original creation which God began with Adam DIED. The Adam race ended in Christ on the Cross.

Don’t think of the term, “died,” as meaning that the Adam race ceased to exist. No, it did not cease to exist at that point. But it died in Christ in the sense that the Adam race was gathered up into Christ and final judgment was executed. Eventually, of course, it will cease to exist – the death of Christ made that a certainty.

Christ as The Last Adam – as the One in Whom the Adam race died -- will make no sense at all if we think that all Jesus did on the Cross was bear our, “punishment,” for us at the hand of God. But Christians by the thousands think that this is all Jesus was doing. It is widely believed that man sinned, God got mad, and Jesus appeased Him by taking our punishment for us. To many, that is the Redemption.

How many times have you heard that? Many Christians continue to think that all Jesus did on the Cross was to appease God’s anger against us because of sin. This, in turn, supposedly allows God to then lift from us the death penalty for sin. And once God lifts that death penalty, we reason, we are out from under the death penalty, and thus, have eternal LIFE!

But this is NOT the Redemption. Indeed, it makes eternal life nothing more than the result of God lifting His punishment of eternal death. It makes the new birth nothing more than a new legal classification. And worse, it does absolutely NOTHING to change the sinner – in fact, it changes God. God is now appeased; He is no longer angry. And so the sinner is pardoned.

This wrong idea of the Redemption merely removes the punishment for sin, but does nothing to actually DELIVER us from sin itself. It makes Jesus, not the SIN-BEARER, but only the punishment bearer FOR sin.

The Truth is, Jesus did not merely bear our punishment for us on the Cross – or merely bear the judgment FOR sin on the Cross. He did much

more. Jesus bore SIN ITSELF. Indeed, He bore the, "body of sin," – or to say it another way – Jesus bore the entire Adamic race in His body on the Cross.

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

***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. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: (Rom 6:6-8)***

***Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (1 Pet 2:24)***

The Last Adam BORE the FIRST Adam in His own body on the Cross. He then DIED. Thus, the entire Adamic race died IN CHRIST. But we do not end there. Having brought an END to the original Adamic race through His death on the Cross, Jesus was raised – not as a restored OLD creation, but as a NEW CREATION. And IN HIM, we are new creations as well.

***For the love of Christ constrains us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.***

***Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Cor. 5:14-17)***

The collective FIRST ADAM died in the LAST ADAM – and for those who believe -- are raised NEW CREATIONS in Christ Jesus.

Jesus brought an END to that original Adam race by living it out to God's glory, and then by dying on the Cross. In Him, that original Adamic race is finished, closed out, and dead. This is why He is called THE LAST ADAM. And it is likewise why He is the Risen Christ.

## **Chapter 7**

### **Crucified WITH Christ**

***I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Gal. 2:20)***

The Adam race ended in Christ at His death because in Christ the Adam race died.

We do need to understand what this means for this age. It does not mean that the Adam race ceased to exist. Neither does it mean that our personal sin nature ceases to exist. Rather, it means that the Adam race and its nature of sin remains present in us – but it was rendered powerless regarding all who would be planted into Christ and abide in Him by faith.

What this means is that God has raised us up out from the dead Adam race and birthed us anew as new creations in Christ. It is only to the extent that we abide in Christ as our life that He functions as the power by which we can live in freedom.

The above passage is key to this Truth. Paul certainly knew that Jesus Christ had died FOR him. Without that we have nothing. But Paul – as he does in Romans 6 – states the fullness of what this means for the believer: The believer is crucified WITH Christ.

It is because the believer is crucified WITH Christ that our Adam nature dies in Him – is rendered



impotent IN HIM. This is why it is possible – if we abide in Christ as our life – to experience freedom from sin.

To the extent that we abide in Christ by faith we experience freedom from that which died in Him – the old nature; the body of sin. This is the impact of Jesus Christ as The Last Adam.

### **Tasted Death for All**

Jesus Christ – as our substitute – as The Last Adam -- tasted death for every person:

***But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (Heb. 2:9)***

This means that Jesus died a death that no one else needs to die – and that those who receive Him will never die. But it does NOT mean that believers escape the death of the old creation. No, and thank goodness that we do not. The old creation does not escape death in Christ. Rather, the old creation – OUR old man of sin – actually does die in Christ.

The death of our Adam nature in Christ is the ONLY reason that we are raised in Him unto newness of life. And it is out from that newness of life – His resurrection life – that all freedom from sin is experienced.

This is a Truth that is stated all through the NT:

***Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [in the likeness] of [his] resurrection: 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. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. (Romans 6:3-8)***

Jesus Christ finished His redemptive work FOR humanity, and completely independent of humanity – as our substitute. But that is precisely what makes it possible for His redemptive work to be accomplished IN humanity. But it is accomplished IN humanity because God joins us to Christ Himself in a spiritual union. We are crucified WITH Christ and raised WITH Christ. This is Christianity.

None of this would have been possible unless Jesus Christ had become human. If Jesus had not become human, and continued to carry His humanity all the way through death, resurrection, and ascension, there would be no correspondence between God and humanity. There would be no way for humanity to be united with Him in death and resurrection.

But Jesus did become a human being. Thus, what Jesus did FOR us becomes real IN US – because

we are made one in spirit with the One who has done it FOR us.

Jesus Christ RIGHT NOW is, "Christ crucified." No, He is not presently hanging on the Cross. But He continues to carry in His very Person the full impact and victory of that Cross. Thus, when we are joined to Him, and become a partaker of Christ, we are immediately brought into contact with all of the impacts of the Cross – we are brought into fellowship with CHRIST CRUCIFIED.

The same can be said about CHRIST RISEN. Right now, Jesus Christ is CHRIST RISEN. Jesus continues to carry in His very Person the full impact and victory of the resurrection. But not just as a historical act. No. Jesus IS the resurrection and the life. So when we are joined to Him we are joined to resurrection Himself and life Himself. It becomes possible for us to experience Him in those dimensions.

Jesus is also right now, Christ ascended as Lord. We are seated in Christ in the heavenlies. We are able to be made one with Him – and abide in Him -- because He continues to carry His humanity.

Gather all of this up and we see that there is nothing God has given the believer outside of Christ Himself. Yet God has given all He has to give IN Christ. Likewise, there is no Christian life outside of Christ AS OUR LIFE. This is utter and definite.

When we are joined to the Lord and made one spirit with Him, we are entering into fellowship with Christ in His death, resurrection, and

ascension. But not as THINGS or experiences apart from Christ. No. We are entering into fellowship with Christ Himself – in Whom are all of these finished realities.

### **United With Christ**

***Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. (Rom. 6:8)***

Can we see that being, “crucified with Christ,” means the death of the Adam life of the believer? Yes. But in the same passage we also see the new life of the believer as a new creation.

So often in our Christian teaching we limit the redemptive work of Christ to historical acts. Or we limit what Christ has done to doctrines. Or we limit His work to that which changed God’s attitude towards us. But the real Truth is so much more. The Son of God became a human being so that human beings could be joined to Him and experience all that He has done and all that He is. This would result in the death of the old – full freedom from the Adam nature – and new life as a new creation in Christ Jesus.

## **Chapter 8**

### **Freedom From Sin**

***Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [in the Likeness] of [his] resurrection. (Rom. 6:3-5)***

Freedom from sin is possible because freedom from the Adam race is possible – and because freedom INTO new life is possible. By taking our place in the death of Christ – being planted into His death – we are set free from the power of the old nature in Adam. And by being planted into the risen Christ we receive eternal life through resurrection union with the ONE who IS THE LIFE.

We are not set free in the sense of, “the body of sin,” ceasing to exist. Rather, and the Greek says this, the body of sin is rendered impotent – to the extent that we abide in Christ by faith.

### **Death Unto Life**

Believers continue to carry the old nature in their natural man and physical body. But we are united with Christ in spirit. By taking our place in the Cross and abiding in Christ and taking hold of Him as our life freedom from sin is experienced.

In the above passage this Truth is brought out several times. Note the wording: baptized INTO Jesus Christ; baptized INTO His death; buried WITH Him; planted TOGETHER into HIS death, and so on. But these are always unto LIFE. We die in Him that we might live in Him. This is all because we are joined to Him. We might add a few other scriptures:

***I am crucified WITH Christ. (Gal. 2:20)***

***If anyone is IN CHRIST they are a new creature. (II Cor. 5:17)***

***He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him." (II Cor. 6:17)***

These verses emphasize the fact that it is not only the Cross that sets us free from sin. No. It is the resurrection – it is resurrection union with Christ. But resurrection union with Christ is impossible unless we take our place in His death. Thus, the two are as one – because the two are in the One Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

### **Christ is All**

What we discover in these passages is something mentioned earlier: God does not give us THINGS because of Christ. No. He gives us Christ – and we are joined to the One in Whom are all things.

Likewise, God does not, "act upon us," or, "do things to us," because of Christ. No. Again – God joins us to His Son and it is by experiencing

Jesus Christ that we discover and experience all that is found IN HIM.

We must not allow theology and doctrines – and we must hold to true theology and doctrines – but we must not allow those to blur the fact that we are united with the Living Christ. In Christ is all. In Him we find the old crucified, but likewise in Him we find newness of resurrection life.

### **Freedom in Christ**

As noted, God does not, “act upon us,” and, “do things to us,” to set us free. No. We are united with Christ and IN HIM is all freedom – but we MUST abide and live out from Him by faith to experience that freedom.

Believers are capable of choosing to yield to sin anytime they wish. But they don’t have to do so. Indeed, to the extent that we yield to Jesus Christ by faith we will discover that IN HIM there absolutely is freedom from sin.

***Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace (Romans 6:6-14)***

But you see, it is here that once again we see a common error. Christians tend to seek freedom from sin as a separate experience from Jesus Christ. We pray, "God, give me freedom from sin." We think of this freedom as a condition or as a thing God can give us. No. God answers, "I have only MY SON to give you. In Him, and in Him alone, is freedom from sin. Lose yourself and embrace Him. Believe and abide in Him."

God is not going to come down and lift you out of your sin. He is not going to act upon you and make it impossible for you to sin. God is not going to give you some sort of power over sin. God is not going to, "deliver," you from sin. If you have sought Him for any of these solutions, you have likely received only silence as an answer. But what God will do is show you the TRUTH – that IN CHRIST freedom from sin is already won. Thus, rather than deliverance from sin we need deliverance from unbelief – we need to see the Truth and embrace it.

If we are IN CHRIST we need to deny ourselves and abide in HIM. That is a choice of faith that, if we truly believe, must be followed up by actions. We will yield to Christ and not yield to ourselves. And if we have seen the Truth and are yielding to Christ by faith, then all of the power of resurrection life is given to us IN CHRIST for freedom from sin. This is the Truth – it is the ONLY Truth. And it is to His Son that God will always, and only, lead us in these matters.



## **It is Finished**

If all that Jesus did on the Cross was bear the wrath and punishment FOR sin, it would have done nothing to actually address the fallen Adam nature. There would be NO freedom from sin – there would only be freedom from punishment FOR sin. In that case, we might say that the punishment for sin was lifted from us, but we would remain IN ADAM. This is not redemption, and it is never what is taught in scripture.

Jesus Christ – because He was the sinless Lamb of God – bore in His body ALL SIN – He was actually made to BE SIN. This is another way of saying that Jesus bore the entire Adam race. And then He died. This ended the Adam race and undercut all of the power of Satan over humanity. It broke the power of the Adam race over those who would be baptized into the death of Christ and be raised in Him.

Again – believers are free from sin ONLY IN CHRIST. Believers walk free from sin ONLY by living by faith IN AND OUT OF CHRIST. Otherwise, we will remain outside of union with Christ, or operate outside of union with Christ, and if we do, we will be subject to the power of sin. We will be living from out of the Adam nature.

***For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (I Cor. 15:22)***

Jesus Christ died for every human being who ever lived or ever will live. That is an absolute fact. But this does NOT mean that all are saved. Why?

Because it is only those who believe and are planted into His death that are raised in Him unto newness of eternal life.

It is vital to see one more thing: Jesus did die for every human being – and thus, for all of the sins of the human race – except for ONE SIN. Jesus could not die for the sin of refusing His death. Why? Because God cannot forgive the refusal of His forgiveness. That would be a moral contradiction.

There are those who reject unlimited atonement – notably Calvinists -- because they say that if Jesus died for all then all must be saved. They say that if Jesus died for all sin then no one could go to hell because of unbelief. This betrays an appalling ignorance of the redemption. Thus, we repeat: Jesus died for ALL. But only those who believe are saved. Jesus died for all sin – but could not die for the one sin of refusing His death. This is the sin that Jesus said, “has no forgiveness.”

## **Chapter 9**

### **Soul vs. Spirit**

When a person is drawn to Jesus Christ and responds by faith, they are, "joined to the Lord and made one spirit with Him." (I Cor. 6:17) That is HOW Christ dwells in the individual – it is what constitutes the new creation.

But notice: The new creation is resurrection union with Christ – the believer is made ONE SPIRIT with the Risen Christ. The believer is NOT made one soul, or natural man with Christ -- and not one physical body. In this age, we are made only ONE SPIRIT with Christ in resurrection union.

Of course, the basis of this resurrection union is the fact that we are baptized into His death; crucified with Christ. But our living by faith does not come out from His death. Our living is out from His life – indeed, Christ IS our life. (Col. 3:4)

This might be hard to grasp for some because we are so used to concentrating upon our need to be free from sin and condemnation. So we think we need to put our faith in the Cross, or in the fact that in Christ our old man of sin was rendered powerless. But as essential as these Truths are, we cannot live from out of Christ as our life merely through faith in His death. We have to hold that and carry that – but we must live out from, not His death, but out from our resurrection union with the indwelling Christ.

Paul makes it clear that if we are in Christ that our natural man is DEAD as to power over us –

but we have His life to govern us. Again – we are united with Christ in His death – that is why the body is dead – but we live out from Christ as our righteousness.

***And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is life because of righteousness. (Rom. 8:10)***

Now, what all of this leads to us the fact that when we are joined to the Lord there is created in each believer a separation between that which is joined to the Lord, and that which is NOT. There is a separation between the new creation in Christ – which is our union with Christ in spirit – and the old natural man that we are in Adam – which is dead as to power over us. This old nature is not joined to the Lord, but remains outside of spiritual union with Him.

Note that: There is in each believer TWO natures – the nature of the first Adam, but also the presence of Christ Himself.

This separation of soul and spirit is vital to see. It explains why believers are they way they are even after regeneration, and it explains why God works the way that He does work.

This also shows how the believer is seated in Christ in the heavenlies – we are joined to Him in spirit. It also shows the essential of Jesus as The Son of Man – no human being could be joined to Christ unless He retained His humanity as the ascended Christ.

## **Crucified With Christ**

We have seen that the believer is crucified WITH Christ. We are baptized into His death. In that sense, our, "body of sin," is joined to Christ in His death. But that is not life – it is death. And because it is death, it is rendered powerless – but only powerless over the new creation that is of His life.

This means that to the extent that the believer denies his natural man and yields to Christ by faith – then what God says is true will be experienced AS the Truth. To the extent that we live by faith from out of Christ we will have power over the natural man, and grow to be governed by His resurrection life.

The problem that most of us have is that we try to overcome that which is already dead, instead of believing it is dead and living out from the One who is alive – and has all power over the old creation.

## **Flesh vs. Spirit**

There are those who teach that believers no longer carry the sin nature. This is utterly preposterous – and contrary to scripture. We do carry the sin nature. It remains outside of our resurrection union with Christ. But through faith and obedience we are to live in and out from Christ – governed by Him and not by that sin nature.

Confusion arises when we do not see the Truth of the separation between soul and spirit. Many of

us continue to operate as if God is seeking to act upon our natural man to make it, "look like Jesus." We think that God wants to fix up or repair the old nature. This is error. God wants us to grow to know Jesus Christ. He wants our minds renewed according to Christ. He wants to build us up in Christ, which is to say, God is building up the new creation in Christ.

And what of the old? There is only one destination: The Cross. Death. Isn't that where it already is? Yes. We are crucified with Christ and the Christian life is to be one wherein we carry our Cross and work out through experience the death of the old. As we do, there comes a greater release of life in Christ.

***Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.  
(II Cor. 4:10-11)***

And so we have this: A oneness in spirit with the Living Christ – fellowship with Him in both His death and resurrection. This will work death upon our old nature – which for us means freedom from it. This will release us more and more into fellowship with Christ in His life.

## **Chapter 10**

### **Losing to Find**

***If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. (Matt. 16:24-25)***

Note the words, "IF any man will come after Me..." You would think that these words would immediately catch our attention. Yet in much Christian teaching today, believers are given a multitude of ways in which to, "come after Jesus" – and most of them bear no resemblance to what Jesus declares in this passage. Do we really think we are at liberty to ignore such declarations of Jesus Christ – and then claim that we are nevertheless following Him?

We need to be settled about this: This is the ONLY way to follow after Christ. If you have been joined to the Lord and are one with Him in spirit – that union with Christ is going to bring you to THIS, again and again. It is the way in which union with Christ becomes an experiencing of Christ.

This is exactly what we saw in the last chapter. The believer, by carrying the Cross, will, "always bear about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus." But the result will be that, "the life also of Jesus will be made manifest." The old nature must come under the Cross. The new nature can then be manifested. It is a matter of relinquishing the old in order to find His life.

What does it mean to, "lose your life," in the sense that Jesus means it? It means to relinquish self-ownership – in an unconditional abandonment to Jesus Christ. But within this relinquishment is more than sin. We are losing OURSELF to Christ. That includes losing our self-righteousness.

Now, if this seems impossible, it is. We are never told to crucify ourselves. But we can turn to Christ and, by faith, ask HIM to do whatever it takes to not only bring us to this choice, but to bring us into an actual experience of Christ in His death and resurrection. And God WILL answer that prayer. But when He does do, "whatever it takes," we need to pick up the Cross He brings and follow after Him – as Jesus stated.

Of course, death and resurrection in Christ is a finished work. But we must experience these IN CHRIST. Indeed, it is not possible to experience Christ unless death and resurrection be the impacts. God will bring us into these realities if we will surrender. Then, we can experience the death of old nature – because we will be experiencing Christ crucified – and we will experience new life in Christ – because we are experiencing Christ risen. All of this is found IN CHRIST – in the Person of Christ. None of it is experienced as a THING or as an experience apart from Him.

Christianity is an experiencing of Jesus Christ. Christ dwells IN US – that is the core -- and the Christian life is a matter of an ongoing discovery of Him unto the death of the control of the old and unto the liberty of resurrection life in the



new. It is all the outcome of being united with Him.

### **If We are Risen in Christ**

***If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Col. 3:1-5)***

"If you are risen in Christ" – in other words, if you are in resurrection union with Christ – if you are in ascension union with Christ – then THESE things ought to characterize your life. And if you read what Paul says, you will note the same Truth found in Romans 6. You will find the Truth about the separation of soul from spirit. And you will find the choices of faith if we lose our life to Christ and find Him as our life.

Living IN and OUT FROM union with Christ will, by definition, mean that we will NOT live IN and OUT FROM the old Adam nature. Indeed, to the extent that we live IN and OUT FROM Christ we are going to find freedom and victory over that old Adam nature. Why? Because in Christ, WE – our old body of sin – are dead. Yet we have new life. In this age, it is HID with Christ in God – that is –

it is within a physical body – but Christ is nevertheless in us in all power.

Note again: Your life is HID with Christ in God. Can we see spiritual oneness here? That we, as regenerated human beings, are planted into The Son of Man – the glorified God-man? It all goes back to Him – to what He has done, but to all that HE IS as the ascended Lord of all.

We are also told to MORTIFY the flesh; to MORTIFY sin. What does that mean? The word translated, “mortify,” means, “to destroy by neglect.” Surely that means to refuse to respond to the flesh – we just ignore it or neglect to respond to it -- even though there may be temptations. Why does that work? Because the flesh is already powerless – or better said – WE are dead to the flesh. We are dead to the flesh because in Christ we are alive to God.

We are able to mortify the flesh – not by fighting and defeating it – but by ignoring it – because in Christ the power of it is already broken. But none of this will work unless we mortify the flesh by abiding IN CHRIST by faith. This means we refuse to listen to the flesh all the while giving ourselves to Christ.

Thus, we can repeat: To the extent that we abide in Christ and live from out of Him by faith we will discover that IN CHRIST the flesh has no power over us. The flesh remains – we continue to carry it in this age. But there is a separation in us between the flesh and the spiritual union we have in Christ. Thus, as we by faith take hold of

life in Christ the flesh cannot touch us because it cannot touch Christ.

Again – our union with Christ is the key. Victory is found IN Christ. Christ IS the power of God. It is only as we live in Him that all that He has done and all that He is functions for us.

These are the realities behind LOSING ourselves to Jesus that we may find Him as our life. Such a promise of Christ is not a threat of punishment. It is a promise of freedom. To lose yourself to Him means that we abandon in death what is already dead in Him – and begin to find life in Him. In short, His command will bring us into an actual experience of the Truth – into an actual experience and realization of Christ Himself.

## **Chapter 11**

### **Two Men**

***For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (I Cor. 15:22)***

When all is said and done, there really are only TWO MEN. There is Adam, and there is Christ. In the end, we are going to choose to be identified with one or the other. We are going to be IN ADAM, or IN CHRIST.

Let's repeat a few foundational Truths we have already mentioned. You and I are IN ADAM by natural birth. All of humanity is summed up under that one name: Adam. But we are IN CHRIST through the death of the old creature we are IN ADAM, and then through the NEW BIRTH as a NEW creature IN Christ Jesus.

But if we are IN CHRIST we continue to carry Adam during this age. We are united with Christ in spirit, but the soul man and physical body remain outside of that union. The work of the Cross is upon the flesh – the soul man and physical body – in order that the Christ who is in us might be released and manifested.

ALL of this goes back to the necessity of Jesus being the glorified Son of Man – ascended to the Father. His glorified humanity is what makes it possible for human beings to be united with Him in spirit.

Notice once again the following passages which clearly show that Christ in us -- our ONENESS

with Him – is the reality by which we receive all that is IN HIM:

***I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (John 15:5)***

***For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 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. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: (Rom 6:5-8)***

***I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20)***

***But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. (1 Cor 6:17)***

***For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. (Col 3:3-4)***

***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: (Col 1:27)***

## **Not Merely Legal, But Living**

So many Christians treat the Redemption as if it is a purely LEGAL transaction. We say that we have all sinned, and therefore are under the judgment of God. But Jesus came and paid the price for sin by bearing our punishment, and therefore God lifted that punishment from us, and declared us forgiven.

But this is not the Truth. In fact, if that were all there was to the Redemption, it wouldn't result in new life for anyone. Indeed, that version of the Redemption makes the problem between God and man to be GOD. It is a redemption that merely changes GOD'S attitude toward man. It is actually a denial that anything happens IN US at all to change us towards God. We are forgiven but unchanged.

Even the common doctrine of, "justification by faith," does not go far enough. This doctrine rightly states that if we put our faith in Christ that God imputes to Him our sin, and imputes to us His righteousness. That is correct as far as a LEGAL explanation. But is eternal life merely a LEGAL classification? Does God merely classify us as LEGALLY born from above, or are we truly indwelt by the Living Christ?

Yes, we are literally joined to the Lord and indwelt by Christ. Thus, yes, God does legally impute to Christ our sin – but more – Christ actually became our sin – He BORE the body of sin in HIS body. And yes, God does legally impute to us the righteousness of Christ. But more, God IMPARTS to us Christ Himself. The

believer's old man in Adam dies in Christ just as surely as Christ died. And the believer is raised in spiritual union with Christ just as surely as Christ was raised. Finally, the believer is ascended with Christ just as surely as Christ is ascended. We are IN HIM.

## **The New Creation**

The first Adam brought death into the human race. But the LAST man, or LAST ADAM, brought LIFE. He did this by bringing an END to that first race through death on the Cross. And then by being raised to newness of life.

***For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Cor. 15:21-22)***

We are here seeing two entirely different orders; two different creations or realms. Two different CREATURES: One in Adam, and the other in Christ. Christ brought to an end the first Adam as a creation on the Cross, but ushered in the new creation through His resurrection.

The NEW CREATURE is not remote, impractical, or inhuman. The new creation in Christ IS glorified humanity – it is glorified humanity because it is the result of human beings being made one in spirit with the Glorified Son of Man.

We never become divine. We will never be, "little gods." We will become those who, because we are IN CHRIST, are able to manifest and express Him. Because He was glorified through His

resurrection, and became the life-giving spiritual human being, we can be planted into Him as redeemed human beings. This union is the NEW CREATURE in Christ.

This is precisely what Paul taught to the Corinthians:

***Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things [are] of God. (II Cor. 5:17-18)***

Note again the emphasis upon humanity – “if any man be IN CHRIST.” In this age, human beings are to become one with Christ in a spiritual, resurrection union. The new creature is the resurrection union of a redeemed human being with the resurrected and ascended Son of Man, Jesus Christ.

Also note that OLD THINGS are passed OVER as it pertains to the new creature. That is the correct translation. Obviously, in this age, old things have not yet PASSED AWAY. No. But nothing of the old creature that we are in Adam is incorporated into the new creature in Christ. Rather, all things that are of the new creature are OUT FROM GOD. Again, that is what the Greek says. In short, all life is given to us in Christ. We contribute nothing.

We must keep repeating: On their own, human beings CANNOT be made one with God. Physical human beings cannot be one with God, Who is spirit. Therefore, the Son of God became a human being, and through His resurrection,



became a life-giving spiritual human being into Whom the redeemed could be planted.

***The first man Adam was made a living soul;  
the last Adam [was made] a quickening  
spirit. (I Cor. 15:45)***

Jesus Christ was raised bodily from the dead. But His body had been glorified – His body remained human, but was now glorified. This was possible because of His sinless life and death. He was not a disembodied spirit, but a fully spiritual human – a human filled with the fullness of God.

That is the meaning of the term, “life-giving spirit.” The fact that Jesus continued to be human after the resurrection, and carries His humanity as the ascended Christ, is why believers are able to be joined to Him in spirit. It is also why, at our resurrection of the body at His return, that we will be able to live at one with Him in every dimension.

## **Chapter 12**

### **Christ Ascended**

When we think of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, we rightly put the emphasis upon His life, death, and resurrection. But the ascension of Jesus Christ was just as essential to His redemptive work. Indeed, the ascension is an essential reality if we are to walk with Christ as those who are IN CHRIST.

So we need to ask: What was accomplished by the ascension of Jesus Christ? And what practical impact does it have for us as believers today?

In summary, the ascension of Jesus Christ gathered together all of His redemptive work – redemption was gathered together in the very Person of Jesus Christ -- and seated Him as Lord of all. And the practical impact upon believers is that Jesus is Lord, not only OF believers, but He is Lord IN believers.

To make Jesus Lord of us is the work of the Spirit of God. By His spirit in believer God brings us into an inward realization of Jesus that renews our minds and adjusts us to Himself in a livable way.

### **The Son of Man Seated**

To see the Truth about the ascension of The Son of Man it is vital to understand that when Jesus ascended into heaven He carried within Himself His HUMANITY – He had been born as a human being, lived as a human being, died as a human

being, and was raised as a human being, and was then ascended carrying His humanity in His person. In other words, He was the SON OF MAN ascended.

There are numerous passages in scripture that prove that Jesus ascended to heaven just as He had been raised from the dead – He was taken to heaven bodily – as the glorified Son of Man. And likewise, these verses show that right NOW, He continues to be the Son of Man – exactly as He was after being raised from the dead – and is seated at the right hand of God in the heavenlies:

***But he (Steven), being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. (Acts 7:55-56)***

***And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. (Acts 1:9)***

***Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. (Mark 14:61-62)***

Of course, these passages are summarized by Paul in Ephesians:

***Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure***

***which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [even] in him:.... according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set [him] at his own right hand in the heavenly [places], Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all [things] under his feet, and gave him [to be] the head over all [things] to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. (Eph. 1:8-10, 19-23)***

Can we see in this passage a revelation of the purpose of God for the eternal ages? That purpose is that God might gather all things IN CHRIST. That Jesus Christ might be given all power and authority and be the HEAD over all things – over all things TO THE CHURCH. And lastly, that the church might BE the fullness of Him that fills all in all. In short, the church is to be the full manifestation of Jesus Christ.

The church is comprised of redeemed human beings – of those who are one in spirit with the ascended Christ, Who continues to carry His humanity. But not only does the humanity of Christ make possible our oneness with Him, but it likewise makes possible His manifestation in and through believers. Believers are redeemed human beings who have been made one with the

perfected and glorified Son of Man – and through Whom He desires to manifest Himself.

All of this purpose of God is directly dependent upon Jesus Christ as The Son of Man – as God the Son carrying His humanity – being seated in the heavenlies. Because the Son of God became human, humans can become one with God through Him – humans can be joined to Him in spirit and be vessels through Whom He can be expressed.

## **Chapter 13**

### **The Giving of the Spirit**

***Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Advocate will not come unto you. (John 16:7)***

Jesus stated directly that unless He ascended the Spirit could not be given. Why?

Christ had to first ascend before the spirit could be given because it was only once He ascended that believers could be made one with Him IN SPIRIT – by the means of THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

This was not a legal matter. It was living. It was through His resurrection that Jesus was made to be the glorified Son of Man – only then did He have the dimension in Himself that made it possible for believers to become one with Him in SPIRIT – in resurrection union. The ascension sealed this reality.

We must see this. In Acts 2 believers, for the first time, were made one with Christ by the means of the Spirit of God. This could NOT have happened before Christ was raised and ascended because it was through His resurrection that Christ Himself was actually made to be the glorified Son of Man – with a glorified spiritual human body. Paul describes this as being made, “a life-giving spirit.”

***The first man Adam was made a living soul;  
the last Adam [was made] a quickening  
spirit. (I Cor. 15:45)***

Human beings could not be joined to the Lord in spirit until the Lord Himself was raised and ascended – only the risen, glorified, Son of Man had the dimension of being a life-giving spirit. Thus, it was only once Jesus took His place at the right hand of God that His people could actually be joined to Him in resurrection and ascended oneness.

We must get away from the notion that what was given in Acts 2 was something separate from Christ. It was not a second experience, subsequent to salvation. What was given in Acts 2 was CHRIST IN SPIRIT. It WAS salvation.

There are NOT two experiences; there are not two indwellings. There is ONE – it is CHRIST IN US by the means of the spirit of God. This reality is what happened in Acts 2.

***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  
14:16)***

Note the phrase, “another Comforter.” The Greek here is a vital key. The Comforter – the better name is actually, “Advocate” -- that is to be sent

is not different from Christ, but is another similar to Himself. That is what the Greek word translated, "another," means. It does not mean, "different." It means, "similar." In short, in Acts 2, the disciples received Christ – they received Him spiritually – the spirit they received was not different from Christ – it WAS Christ received spiritually. That is the thought.

This is exactly what Jesus promised in the above passage. He states, "The Father will give you an Advocate similar to Myself that will abide with you forever – the Spirit of Truth – which has dwelled WITH you but will then be IN you. I, Jesus, will not leave you comfortless. I, Jesus will come to you." Can we see that Jesus was telling them directly that when the spirit was given to them that it was going to be HIMSELF – by the means of the spirit of God? Sure. It was Christ Himself Who would be given – they were going to be baptized into Christ -- joined to Him in spirit.

Link this up the words of this same John in his first epistle:

***My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (I John 2:1)***

Here Christ Himself is called the Advocate. It is therefore conclusive that in Acts 2 the disciples were not receiving an indwelling that was in addition to Christ. This was NOT a second blessing or a second experience on top of salvation. No. The disciples were receiving Christ Himself through the spirit of God. Their relationship with Him would now be upon a



spiritual level – Christ IN THEM – joined to them in resurrection union.

This Truth has be so marred by false teaching and practice that to even suggest it incites cries of heresy. But it is a fact: There is ONE spirit and ONE indwelling – Jesus Christ IN US by the means of the spirit of God. This Truth is found everywhere in the NT.

For example, take Paul's words to the Romans:

***But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ [be] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin; but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness. 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 dwells in you. (Rom. 8:9-11)***

Can we see that ALL of these terms and phrases are synonymous? They are ALL speaking of Christ in us by the means of the spirit of God.

Thus, we repeat: Through His resurrection Jesus became the glorified Son of Man. This made Him to be, as this glorified Last Adam, One who now had the dimension of being a life-giving spirit. That is what He became in His humanity through His resurrection from the dead. This made it possible for the rest of the human race to be joined to Him IN SPIRIT. The sinless humanity of Jesus became a life-giving humanity in spirit –

and this made it possible for humanity to be joined to Him in His spirit.

### **The Life-Giving Spirit**

***The first man Adam was made a living soul;  
the last Adam [was made] a quickening  
spirit. (1 Cor. 15:45)***

After the resurrection during the forty days that Jesus appeared to His disciples, He appeared in His resurrected, glorified, human body. But He was not a disembodied spirit. No. He showed them his wounds and he ate fish with them. This defines for us what Paul meant when he wrote that the Last Adam was made to be, "a life giving spirit." Paul is not talking about Jesus as God. No. He says, "The Last Adam – the sinless MAN -- was made to be a life-giving spirit." In other words, Paul is saying that the human dimension of Jesus Christ – through His resurrection – became a life-giving spirit.

The appearance of Jesus further defines that after his resurrection Jesus was NOT a disembodied spirit. No. That is not what Paul means by the term. Rather, Paul is referring the glorified human body of the resurrected Christ as being SPIRITUAL and LIFE-GIVING. He was now a life-giving spirit within His glorified humanity; fully at one with His resurrected body.

Jesus was God. He had divine nature. So in His divinity Jesus did not need to be made a life-giving spirit. Thus, His being made a life-giving spirit pertains to His sinless humanity. It was the human dimension of Jesus Christ that became a

life-giving spirit through His resurrection from the dead.

Now, of course, Jesus isn't two people. You cannot draw a line down the middle of Christ and say that this half is divine and the other half is human. But nevertheless, all that was human about The Last Adam was glorified through His resurrection – He was made to be a life-giving spirit. His glorified human body had a spiritual component to it that was able to give life to those who are IN HIM.

The term, "life-giving," infers the giving of life to others. Believers who are in Christ are those, "others." When believers are joined to the Lord they are joined to Life Himself – they are made one in spirit with the One who is the Life-Giving spirit. This is why we are alive – this is why Christ IS our life. We are alive IN HIM.

It was in this resurrected body, as a life-giving spirit – the glorified Son of Man, that Jesus ascended to heaven. He is today seated at God's right hand as this glorified Son of Man.

Now what this means for us is this: When we are joined to the Lord we are made ONE SPIRIT with Him. We are planted together with Him in His resurrection. Christ is IN US; we are IN Christ. Gather this up and we see that when the spirit was poured out in Acts 2 it was the means by which believers were joined to Christ.

There are NOT two indwellings. We are not indwelt by Jesus, but then by the spirit of God. There are NOT two experiences. We are not

baptized into Christ, only then to need to also be baptized with the spirit of God. No. When we are baptized into Christ we ARE baptized with the spirit of God – because Christ IS the life-giving spirit.

Do we think that Jesus was made to be a life-giving spirit – but that God set Him completely aside and sent down the spirit of God as something different? No. The fact that The Last Adam became a life-giving spirit -- and the fact that we are joined to Him at salvation -- proves that Christ dwells in us BY the spirit of God. We, as human beings, are able to be joined to Him precisely because Christ in His glorified humanity sits at the right hand of God as a life-giving spirit through His resurrection.

These great Truths, if embraced by most believers, would certainly demolish much tradition and false teaching. But that is really not the point. If we would see and embrace these Truths, it would bring us into a greater realization and reverence for Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is Lord – that is the end result of all that God is doing, and has revealed.

### **When Was the Spirit Given?**

We have seen that Jesus said that He must ascend BEFORE the Spirit could be given—BEFORE the Spirit of God could come:

***Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Advocate will not come unto you. (John 16:7)***

But this being the case, can we see that it is a fact that up to that point that the spirit had NOT been given? Sure. You cannot have it both ways. If Jesus said the spirit could not be given until He ascended, then obviously the spirit had not been given BEFORE He ascended.

This might create some confusion for folks because in the OT the spirit of God is clearly mentioned as being at work. But if you investigate, you will find that the spirit was never IN people, but only WITH people or UPON people. And this is exactly what Jesus stated:

***The Spirit of truth...dwells with you, and shall be in you. (John 14:17)***

This tells us what Jesus meant when He said the spirit could not come to them until He ascended: He meant that the spirit could not be given to DWELL IN THEM until after He ascended. Sure. God's spirit had been WITH His people. But it is clear that Jesus is talking about something that would be new – that had never happened before. He was telling them that yes, the spirit of God had been WITH them. But only if He ascended could the spirit of God be IN them. And again – that is because the glorified Son of Man had to take His place as the glorified Lord of all.

This is certain. Do we actually think that Jesus would continually declare that the spirit could not be given UNTIL He ascended if the spirit had already been given throughout the OT? That would make no sense at all. No. Jesus is talking about something NEW – made possible by His

redemptive work: Christ in His people by the means of the spirit of God.

These facts lead us to another clear conclusion: In Acts 2, when the Spirit of God WAS given – this was the FIRST time Jesus Christ by the Spirit ever came to dwell within human beings. That is a certainty – because Jesus said the Spirit could not be given BEFORE He ascended – and He meant that the Spirit would not be given to dwell IN THEM.

So, we need to be absolutely clear about this: Since the spirit of God was NOT GIVEN – since there was NO indwelling of Christ by the Spirit before the ascension – it proves that Acts 2 was the FIRST TIME that Jesus – by the means of the Spirit of God was ever given to dwell within human beings.

This is vital to see because millions of believers are under the impression that the OT saints, as well as the disciples – BEFORE Acts 2 – had the Spirit of God WITHIN – they say that the disciples had Christ in them before Acts 2. Indeed, because millions believe this, they then say that what happened in Acts 2 was a SECOND experience subsequent to receiving Christ within.

This is, of course, the Pentecostal/charismatic doctrine of the baptism with the Holy Spirit as a second experience in addition to salvation. The entire movement is based upon it. But it is error.

Read again what Jesus said to His disciples:

***Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Advocate will not come unto you....And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Advocate, that he may abide with you forever; [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but ye know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you. (John 16:7, 14:16-17)***

You never once read in the NT any doctrine of the second blessing. The doctrine that has been established is pieced together – it is really READ INTO the Bible. In fact, if there were a second blessing, we would certainly expect that the apostle Paul would have continually exhorted believers to go on to seek it. He never does. In fact, he continually tells believers, “You are complete in Christ.” (Col 2:10)

Do we realize that once we claim that we must receive an additional baptism or experience in addition to receiving Christ at salvation – that we are saying that we are NOT complete in Christ? We are actually saying that if we have received, “only Christ,” that we are lacking! We are saying that the One who is called, “The Alpha and the Omega,” is not enough! We are saying that the One Who IS the resurrection and the life leaves us lacking! That the One IN WHOM we are planted and the One we are united in spirit – that this leaves us lacking the fullness of what God for us! Sadly, this is exactly what many are saying outright. It is grave error.

But weren't these disciples SAVED before Acts 2? Weren't the OT saints saved? Yes, on both counts. But they were saved – not by the indwelling of Christ through the Spirit of God – but by faith in the One who was to come. They were saved by the same Savior, and by the same redemptive work, but saved under the Old Covenant. Again -- before Acts 2 – before the ascension -- the Spirit of God dwelt within no one – that is to say – Jesus Christ dwelt within no one via the Spirit.

Some people point to John 20 as proof that the disciples were saved – had the indwelling of the Spirit of God -- BEFORE Jesus ascended, and thus, BEFORE Acts 2. This then is used to prove that Acts 2 was a SECOND and subsequent experience to their salvation.

***Then said Jesus to them again, Peace [be] unto you: as [my] Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on [them], and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost. (John 20:21-22)***

Note that it says Jesus breathed ON them. He does not say He breathed INTO them. That distinction is vital – because breathing ON them, and not INTO them, is exactly the difference between the Spirit being WITH them and the Spirit being WITHIN them.

But again -- Jesus had already told them the Spirit could NOT come to them – could not come to dwell IN THEM – until AFTER He ascended. This event in John 20 happened BEFORE He ascended. The notion that Jesus



would continually say that the spirit would not be given until AFTER He ascended – only to turn right around and give them the spirit BEFORE He ascended is nonsense and a contradiction.

There is no confusion here – the disciples were NOT receiving the Spirit of God WITHIN in John 20. Jesus was breathing ON them. They were receiving the spirit of God in the sense of being WITH them.

Now, there are those, in an attempt to prop up false teachings who have tried to say that Jesus had already secretly ascended to the Father by the time John 20 happened – meaning the disciples were there receiving the Spirit within. But the notion that Jesus had already, “secretly ascended,” only to later, “officially ascend,” in Acts 1 – well, the nonsense of that ought to be obvious. In addition, the sending of the Spirit was not dependent upon Jesus merely ascending – it was fully dependent upon Jesus ascending AND being eternally seated at the right hand of God.

What about John 20:17 where Jesus said to Mary, on the morning of the resurrection, “Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and [*to*] my God, and your God.”? Later, Jesus does allow His disciples to touch Him. Doesn’t this prove He had secretly ascended and returned?

This is easily resolved by looking at the Greek. M.R. Vincent, a great Greek scholar states, “The verb, (touch) primarily, means to

fasten to. Hence it implies here, not a mere momentary touch, but a clinging to. Mary thought that the old relations between her Lord and herself were to be renewed; that the old relationship, by means of sight, sound, and touch, would go on as before. But Christ says, 'the time for this kind of relationship is over. Henceforth your communion with me will be by faith through the Spirit. This communion will become possible through my ascending to the Father.'

That explanation is fully in harmony with all of the other events, and with all of the other scripture on his matter. So, NO, Jesus did not ascend twice. He did not ascend before Acts 1. And the disciples did not have Christ within before Acts 2.

But as noted -- that does not mean they were not saved. The disciples, as well as the OT saints, were saved by faith in Christ. But their actual experience of salvation in this life was not as was only possible once the Spirit was given. Can we see that despite the fact that people under the Old Covenant were saved by faith in the One who was to come -- can we see that their actual experiencing of Christ, in this life, was not what it would be for those who would later have CHRIST IN THEM?

The Old Covenant was a type and shadow of Christ. The New Covenant is Christ Himself in His people. The experience in this life for those who were IN CHRIST was far beyond what was possible under the Old Covenant -- and was always intended to be.

So we need to get this settled: Acts 2 was the first time Jesus Christ ever came to dwell within His people via the Spirit of God – because none of this was possible BEFORE Jesus ascended. Thus, Acts 2 began the New Covenant. Acts 2 began the church. Acts 2 was the first time anyone was born from above in Christ. Acts 2 fulfilled the promise of the Father that Jesus gave to His disciples -- that if He ascended, then the Spirit would be given.

The meaning of Christianity is CHRIST IN US – or if you prefer – believers in Christ. This is resurrection union – it is human beings being joined in spirit with The Son of Man glorified. That could not happen while Jesus was on this earth. It could only happen once He ascended – carrying His glorified humanity to God – and was seated at the right hand of the Father. This is the Truth behind all of these words, promises, and events.

There are many who have had experiences when they received what they call, “the baptism with the Holy Spirit as a second experience.” They use those experiences as proof that there IS an experience that we must have in addition to Christ. But experience is never proof. For experiences – even if they are in reaction to something God is doing -- can be misinterpreted according to preset expectations. Experiences can also be of the soul realm. They can be emotionalism. And the fact is, all of the usual experiences, including speaking in tongues, have happened in cults, and even in the occult. The point is, we must interpret using scripture alone.

## **Chapter 14**

### **The New Covenant**

It is amazing how many people, who, on the one hand, demand that Acts 2 was a subsequent experience to receiving Christ for salvation, and yet, on the other hand, believe that the church began in Acts 2, and that the New Covenant began in Acts 2. Most do not realize that what they believe is a contradiction.

Why do these beliefs create a contradiction? Because CHRIST IN US is the church; CHRIST IN US is the New Covenant. Thus, if Acts 2 began the church and began the New Covenant then it proves that Acts 2 was the first time anyone received Christ WITHIN for salvation by the spirit of God.

The New Covenant began in Acts 2 because the New Covenant is Christ – it is Jesus Christ IN His people. The church also began in Acts 2 because the church was birthed when Christ came to dwell in God's people.

Yes, there were OT counterparts. But to draw a contrast, the Old Covenant was a type and shadow of Christ. Everything about the Old Covenant spoke of Christ in type and shadow. But the New Covenant is Christ Himself in His people.

The New Covenant is CHRIST IN US. Thus, the New Covenant could not begin until Jesus Christ ascended and was seated. It was only then, just as Jesus said, that God could pour out His spirit –

not separate from Christ – but as the means of uniting us with Christ.

It was in Acts 2, when the ascended Christ came back down through the means of the Spirit of God, that the New Covenant began – it was then that for the first time in the history of humanity that Jesus Christ dwelt in His people.

***But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. [Whereof] the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This [is] the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (Heb. 10:12-18)***

You will note the emphasis upon Jesus Christ as a MAN. We have seen that the humanity of Jesus Christ is both essential to our redemption, but likewise to our fellowship with God as believers. Hebrews is stating outright that the finished redemption by The Son of Man – climaxed by His being seated at the right hand of God – is what made possible the New Covenant; is what made possible the sending of the Spirit by which Jesus would dwell in His people.

Note also that instead of a law given in stone, as was the case under the OT – God promises that

under the New Covenant He would put His laws INTO the hearts and minds of His people. This is prophetic language – quoted from Jeremiah 31 – which is promising that the One who was the fulfillment of all law and righteousness would come to dwell in God’s people. That would be the New Covenant.

### **Relationship to Pentecost**

Let’s return to what we saw earlier. In reading the NT, most especially the words of Jesus from the gospel of John, it is clear that there was a direct relationship between the ascension of Jesus Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. Again, Jesus said, “Unless I ascend to the Father, the Spirit of God cannot be given.”

***Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Advocate will not come unto you. (John 16:7)***

What this means is that believers could not be IN CHRIST until He was resurrected and then ascended as the life-giving spirit. He had to ascend and be exalted in the heavenlies as Lord of all. Then believers could be united with Him in spirit. This spiritual union took place for the first time when His spirit was given in Acts 2.

You will also note that Jesus Christ AS Lord of all is directly related to His ascension as the glorified Son of Man.

***Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:6-11)***

None of this subtracts from the divinity of Christ. He was always the Son of God become man. But it is though His eternal victory as a man – and His ascension as a man – that He became Lord of all.

This goes back to the fact that God created Adam to have dominion over all of His creation. Adam failed. But The Last Adam did not fail. He came through as a human being to God's glory and in doing so, because Lord of all of God's creation.

But there is more. Jesus had to finish His redemptive work and be seated as Lord of all before He could undertake a work IN US to make Himself our personal Lord. The one is dependent upon another. And His work IN US is only possible because we are joined to Him spiritually.

Paul describes this great work of bringing all under Jesus as Lord:

***For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy [that] shall be destroyed [is] death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under [him, it is] manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. (I Cor. 15:25-28)***

Herein we see the purpose of God being worked out in His people – by the presence of Christ within by the means of the Spirit – Jesus is putting all under His feet. He is being made Lord of all. He already IS Lord of all in fact – He IS seated as Lord in the heavenlies -- but now He must be made Lord of all in practice. This is the work of God through His Spirit.



## **Chapter 15**

### **Christ Within Through the Spirit of God**

***One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all. (Eph. 4:5-6)***

There are NOT two baptisms, but ONE. There are NOT two indwellings, but ONE. Many speak as if we are indwelt by Christ -- but also indwelt by the Holy Spirit. No. The Truth is, we are indwelt by Jesus Christ by the means of the Spirit of God.

We saw this resolved in that Jesus was made to be the life-giving spirit through His resurrection. This speaks of His glorified humanity, and provided a living means by which human believers could be united with Him by His spirit.

Note again carefully what Jesus said:

***And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Advocate, that he may abide with you forever; [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I [am] in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you...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 14:16-23)***

Jesus makes synonymous the giving of the Spirit with HIMSELF coming to dwell in His people. And isn't CHRIST IN YOU – or, the believer IN CHRIST -- the continual theme of the New Testament? Sure.

Let's expand what Paul said about there being ONE baptism:

***There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all. (Eph. 4:4-6)***

It is possible that Paul would state outright that there is ONE baptism if there are TWO? If we are baptized into Christ, only then to still need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit – how could Paul make such a misleading statement as to say that there is ONE baptism? He would never make such a statement. And yet today millions believe there are two, or even three baptisms necessary – in order to receive all that God has to give.

The Truth is: There is ONE baptism INTO the Person of Christ at salvation. It is then that we receive ALL that God has – within the Person of His Son. The Christian life is then a matter of progressively discovering Christ. But at salvation we receive all that God has to give IN HIS SON. To say otherwise opens the door for great error – which is exactly what has happened.

Notice again what we saw earlier -- how the apostle Paul considers the Spirit within equal to CHRIST WITHIN:

***But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ [be] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin; but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness. 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. (Rom. 8:9-11)***

And of course, there are other verses that affirm these:

***For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body. (I Cor. 12:13)***

***Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (Rom. 6:3)***

We are baptized INTO CHRIST – BY one Spirit. Therefore, it is conclusive that Christ dwells in His people, that is, His people are baptized INTO Christ, by the means of the Spirit of God.

### **The Body of Christ**

As we have noted, the ascended Son of Man made it possible for human beings to be united with Him, indeed, seated in Him. This made it possible

for God's purpose for humanity to be undertaken out from the ascended Christ. But union with Christ through the Spirit of God is likewise what created the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ consists of many believers who are united with – baptized into – Christ.

Paul says that Christians are MEMBERS of Christ – he says that we function spiritually just like a physical body functions under the Head. This means that ultimately believers are to be EXTENSIONS of Christ – extensions of Him as our Head. That is only possible if we are made ONE with Him through resurrection union. Only if we are baptized INTO Christ and are united with Him in death and resurrection can we manifest Him or be extensions of Him. And this begins at salvation. Thus, it is nonsense to say that we are united with Christ at salvation but must go on to receive ANOTHER experience which will ADD to Christ, or give us power to serve. No. If we are united with Christ in resurrection union there is NOTHING left to receive from God – there is only Christ to discover, grow to know, and experience.

Obviously, God has a purpose behind uniting human beings with Himself through Christ. Jesus did not save human beings simply to save them – we are saved UNTO a great purpose. And that purpose for individuals is found in His purpose for His body. Paul tells us much about this purpose in Ephesians:

***...and gave him [to be] the head over all [things] to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that fills all in all. (Eph. 1:22)***

The purpose of God for the Body of Christ is that the Body of Christ be, "the fullness of Christ" – that is – that the Body of Christ be, "the fullness of Him that fills all in all." But again – these are not just passive facts. This is a purposeful and living Truth. In short, the Body of Christ is to be a living extension of Jesus Christ.

Isn't this what a BODY is? – as it relates to the HEAD? Sure. Christ is the Head. Believers comprise the Body. The Body is an extension of the Head, that is, the Body acts in accordance with the Head – with the mind of Christ.

Jesus Christ does not need any of us. He can do what He pleases without any of us. But God has chosen to ultimately work through the Body of Christ. This is for our benefit. Jesus Christ wants to reign and rule – exercise His Lordship – through His Body.

Now, can we see that it is impossible for Christ to be Lord through His people unless He is first Lord IN His people? Again – this is possible only through the work of the Cross. Christ cannot use us as an extension of Himself unless our own interests and strength are crucified. We have to live in and out from Him in order for His life – which is His power – to manifest through us.

This begins NOW. The emphasis NOW, is, of course, upon the work of Christ IN His people – with some of His authority being worked through His people. But it is all unto the greater release and manifestation of Christ in the eternal ages.

## **God's Purpose for Humanity**

God's purpose for human beings, right from the creation of Adam, was for humans to have DOMINION over God's creation. But it was not to be dominion apart from God, or simply dominion as a "thing" given, or an office given – but God created humanity to have dominion over all UNDER HIMSELF. This was represented when God forbade Adam to eat of the forbidden tree, but gave him of the tree of life to eat freely.

Once Adam sinned, he forfeited all dominion over to Satan, who was then, "God of this world." Yet God was nevertheless going to have His will through a human being – and ultimately through a RACE of humanity. For this to be possible, the original Adam race had to die – just as God said would happen if Adam ate of the forbidden tree. A new race needed to be born.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, through human birth became the SON OF MAN. Paul calls Him, "The Last Adam." This is because Jesus, through His sinless life, became the fullness of what God wanted in humanity – He became the consummate Adam. Therefore, there was no need for another Adam. But Jesus was also The Last Adam because IN HIM at the Cross the Adam race ended. Jesus bore the entirety of the Adam race in His body down unto death. Through the resurrection there was ushered in a new race of humanity – in Jesus Christ.

Note: The new creation in Christ Jesus is a NEW humanity – but only IN Christ Jesus. From out of the death and resurrection of Christ the only

human race that is spiritually alive is the one that is spiritually joined to the Lord. Human beings can be joined to Christ ONLY because Christ became a human being and lived, died, and is ascended. Thus, all the purpose of God is on that basis – on the basis of union with Christ Jesus. There is no purpose of God or life that is outside of union with Christ. And all of this was made possible only because Christ was the SON OF MAN.

## **Chapter 16**

### **The Savior of All**

Jesus Christ is The Last Adam – The Son of Man. It ought to be obvious by the name itself that the entire human race is included within all that He accomplished. This is what the Bible teaches.

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ died for every human being who has ever lived, or will live. The entire human race was crucified in Christ. But the Bible also teaches that it is only those who, by faith, take their place in His death that are raised with Him unto newness of life. In short, Jesus died for ALL – but only those whose believe – as the Bible defines faith – are saved.

But of course, there have always been heresies that have denied this in one way or another. Universalism denies it. Universalism teaches that all will be saved – and that many will be saved by a means other than Jesus Christ. There is also a universalist heresy that says that all will be saved by Jesus – that God will ultimately see to it. Universalism is not Christianity.

Then we have the TULIP heresy of Calvinism. Calvinism teaches LIMITED atonement. It teaches that Jesus did NOT die for all, never intended to die for all, but that Jesus died only for, “the elect.” It teaches that from before the foundation of the world, God elected specific human beings by name unto salvation, and left the others in damnation – which means that He actually elected to damnation. Calvinists try to soften this horrible picture of God by saying that God is simply giving justice to the non-elect but mercy



to the elect. They say Jesus died for ONLY the elect, and that all of the rest of humanity is given the justice they deserve as members of the fallen Adam race.

The goal here is not to review all of the horrible errors of Calvinism. But we do need to ask this question: Are you and I accountable before God for being born into the Adam race? Are the little children you see around you to blame for being born into this world with a sin nature? Add to that the fact that Calvinism teaches that there is nothing we can do to escape the sin nature of the Adam race – that only the elect can escape it through Christ – and the question remains: Are human beings to blame for what they did not choose, and for what they cannot choose to escape?

The Bible never says that God blames anyone for being born in Adam. But we are to blame once God brings the light of Christ – for it is then that we are able to choose to believe or not believe. Light is not yet regeneration – the Calvinist teaching that we must be regenerated BEFORE we can believe is error. No. Light means we have had our eyes opened – and that God has now made it possible, before regeneration, for us to choose. It is then that we are accountable.

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

***but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. (John 3:16-21)***

Calvinism is heresy, yes, because it distorts the clear teaching of scripture, but more than that, because it paints a horrible picture of God. And of course, in teaching LIMITED atonement for only the elect, Calvinism denies the Truth of Jesus Christ as The Last Adam.

Obvious, Calvinism has had almost two thousand years, going back to Augustine, to get all of its answers to scripture in place. All systems of error have similar cut and paste answers to defend their errors. But it is amazing how educated and presumably sincere people can have their minds corrupted by such teaching in a way that blinds them to the clear words of scripture. This is spiritual deception, and it is everywhere.

Every error that is the product of spiritual deception finds a place in human hearts because of the error that is in those human hearts. I embrace error because of something in me. This may be true ignorance, but it may also be the product of unbelief, the hardness of pride, or the need to defend my ministry, life walk, or position.

Regardless, the only solution is to come into a true knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Calvinism takes the Redemption of Jesus Christ and the plan of God and applies it to only a limited number of human beings called, "the elect." And once this is established as a foundational doctrine, then passages in the Bible that state clearly that Jesus died for ALL men are twisted and made to mean that Jesus died for ALL KINDS of men. But limiting God's plan and purpose through His Son to only SOME is not unique to Calvinism. Most cult-like groups do the same. To be, "the elect," or, "the special ones," or to be, "the faithful few," – to the exclusion of everyone else – is a characteristic of most cults.

### **Jesus Died for All**

The Bible could not be clearer that Jesus died for ALL. This is why He is called The Last Adam. It is why He is called The Son of Man. To say that the first Adam was the head of the entire human race, but that The Last Adam was the head of only a few cuts across all that the Bible teaches:

***Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also [is] the free gift. For if through the offence***

***of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, [which is] by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as [it was] by one that sinned, [so is] the gift: for the judgment [was] by one to condemnation, but the free gift [is] of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one [judgment came] upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [the free gift came] upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom. 5:12-21)***

Adam's sin was passed on to ALL. But God's salvation through Christ is received by MANY. You will note – not ALL. Why? Because not all will believe.

Yet even though that is the case, Paul clearly states, "Therefore as by the offence of one [judgment came] upon **all** men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [the free gift came] upon **all** men unto justification of life."

Again we see that Jesus died for ALL – even though only those who believe will be saved.

Calvinists object to the Truth that Jesus could die for anyone who would not then be saved. They say this makes God a failure. That is nonsense. It makes the people who refuse Christ a failure. God is absolutely sovereign. But WITHIN His sovereignty, He has ordained that human beings have the choice to reject His sovereignty and grace. This is the basis for condemnation.

Calvinists likewise say that if the saved are not solely by the election of God that this leaves salvation up to humans, rather than up to God – and they say that denies the sovereignty of God. Again – nonsense. The fact is, in the final analysis, God DOES leave the salvation of the individual up to the individual. But this does not deny the sovereignty of God. It is within the sovereignty of God. It is the means by which God will fulfill His ultimate purpose for humanity through Christ

### **Reconciliation in Place for All**

***The love of Christ constrains us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And [that] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we [him] no more. Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: 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, and  
hath given to us the ministry of  
reconciliation; To wit, that God was in  
Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,  
not imputing their trespasses unto them;  
and hath committed unto us the word of  
reconciliation. Now then we are  
ambassadors for Christ, as though God did  
beseech [you] by us: we pray [you] in  
Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For  
he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who  
knew no sin; that we might be made the  
righteousness of God in him. (II Cor. 5:14-  
21)***

First of all, note the phrase: "One died for all, then were all dead." Does that indicate universal salvation? Or -- in order to combat that notion -- must we tweak the verse to mean, "One died for the all of the elect?," as do the Calvinists?

Neither universalism or Calvinism provides the correct answer to this verse. The verse states the Truth exactly: Jesus Christ died for ALL, and IN HIM were ALL dead.

Note that it does not say that all were made alive or saved. Rather, it says that all are DEAD. That is the Truth of Christ as The Last Adam. He bore the entirety of the Adam race in His death. There is no other interpretation that is the Truth.

Herein we see the Truth: That in Christ the Adam race was ended – the entire Adam race died in Christ. But ONLY those who embrace His death are raised to newness of life in them. That was

God's intention of offer in the Redemption. That is the gospel. It is the ONLY good news.

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

Note that it is not ONLY the death of Christ that saves us. No. His death makes it possible, if we will embrace Him, to be raised unto LIFE in Him. Salvation is not death – it is LIFE. We are saved by HIS LIFE.

Paul then goes on to show that for those who do embrace their death in Christ there is a birth from above as a new creature IN CHRIST. But notice that Paul immediately launches into the Truth of reconciliation in Christ being offered to the entire world. Of course – for this goes hand in hand with ALL being dead because Christ died for the entire Adam race. Paul says:

***God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.***

Notice the word, "US," in this passage – as it is contrasted to the term, "the world." In doing so, you cannot fail to see that Christ died for BOTH. Paul says, "God has reconciled US to Himself by Jesus Christ." But then he adds, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself." What

could be more clear? One died for ALL and consequently ALL died in Him. There is no confusion here. There is no room to try to make this passage say otherwise.

In Jesus Christ God made provision for universal salvation so that WHOSOEVER would believe will be saved. Through the death of Christ RECONCILIATION unto God has been made possible for all. But that does not mean that all ARE saved – no – only those who DO believe are saved.

That is likewise crystal clear. Again -- Paul says, "God has reconciled US to Himself by Jesus Christ." He then adds, "God was in Christ reconciling the WORLD unto Himself." But then he goes further. He says of the WORLD: "Not imputing their trespasses unto them."

Paul is revealing the great Truth of God's grace in Jesus Christ. He is telling us that because all have died in Christ – because ADAM has died in Christ – both us and the world – that the slate has been wiped clean. Sin is not imputed because we are DEAD. And that also means that reconciliation is in place for the entire Adam race – yet only IN CHRIST.

Note the phrase, "reconciliation is in place." This means that through the death of Christ the entire Adam race is dead – and therefore the sin of the Adam race is paid for. There is nothing standing between God and any person. But we MUST believe and embrace Christ in order to be raised in Him and saved. THIS is the ministry or word of reconciliation that needs to be at the heart of the



good news – that Jesus died for all and that WHOSOEVER will believe will be saved.

Can we see that the issue that determines a person's eternal destiny is FAITH or UNBELIEF? We are saved by grace through faith. But we are condemned if we see this Truth – if we see that Jesus has died for us – and refuse. That is unbelief.

Thus, we see two things. First, we see that God holds NO ONE responsible for being born in Adam. No one chose that. No one is condemned for that – despite the fact that the Calvinist doctrine of unconditional election teaches that those who are not elected by God are justly condemned because they are members of a fallen race – they are condemned by God's own election and choice. No. The Bible does teach that in Adam death is certain. But Jesus did die for all so that all might believe and be saved.

The second thing we see is the meaning of, "the sin that has no forgiveness." The sin that God cannot forgive is not that a person was born in Adam. Rather, it is that they have been given LIGHT enough to turn to Christ and be delivered from out of the Adam race into eternal life in Christ – but have refused. Thus, we are not to blame for being born in Adam. But we are to blame if we refuse deliverance out of Adam into the new birth in Christ.

***And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth***

***evil hates the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.<sup>3</sup> 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. (John 3:19-21)***

"The sin that has no forgiveness," is the sin of refusing Christ. God cannot forgive the refusal of His forgiveness. Jesus did not die for the refusal of His death.

Jesus Christ died for every sin ever committed by every human being except the sin of refusing His death. Thus, if a person is condemned for the sin of refusing Christ, they are not condemned for a sin for which Jesus died – it is not, "double jeopardy." This is cut and dry and as clear as can be.

As we can see, the Truth of Jesus as The Last Adam – if we simply believe the Bible – leads us into the great Truth of the good news that Jesus Christ died for all, so that whosoever will believe will be saved in Him.

### **Propitiation for ALL Sins**

***My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)***

Again we see the contrast given between, "our sins," and, "the sins of the whole world." BOTH

are gathered up and satisfied by the death of Christ – by the death of the Adam race IN CHRIST.

It takes a lot of work and twisting of scripture to develop a religious system of error – and then to read it into the Bible -- and then to spend centuries defending it. But Satan has done that on many levels. The enemy desire to distort, corrupt, or completely deny the Truth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Son of Man, and The Last Adam.

## **Chapter 17**

### **The Body of Christ**

***For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also [is] Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. (I Cor. 12:12-14)***

How is it possible for human beings to be baptized into – made one in spirit with -- Jesus Christ? It is only possible because Jesus became a human being, and then through His resurrection, became – in His humanity – a life-giving spirit.

But again, don't think of this in terms of Jesus becoming a disembodied spirit. Despite the fact that our thinking tends to go there, we have seen that this is not what happened. Jesus became a, "life-giving spirit," in the sense that He His body was raised from the dead and He had a glorified humanity – a glorified body. Thus, rather than be a disembodied spirit, Jesus had a spiritual body, that is, a body that was glorified through death and resurrection – through total victory over death.

#### **Members of a Spiritual Body**

***For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. (Eph. 5:30)***

This is an interesting verse. It is interesting because believers are obviously not joined to the Lord and made one flesh with Him. Our physical bodies are not joined to His resurrected physical body. But the verse IS here. So what does it mean?

The answer is found once we discover that Jesus did indeed have a glorified, spiritual human body after His resurrection. Remember how He showed His disciples his wounds, and how He assured them that He was not a disembodied spirit, but that He had flesh and bones? He even ate with them.

***Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them [his] hands and [his] feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took [it], and did eat before them. (Luke 24:39-43)***

It is possible for believers who are indwelt by the spirit of Christ to be united in spirit to Christ Himself – because the nature of Christ AFTER His resurrection made it possible. He had a glorified spiritual human body – He was made to be a life-giving spirit -- which is OTHER THAN anything that had ever existed – and it is this which makes it possible to be joined to Him and made one spirit with Him.

Can we see that this was NOT possible before Christ became a human being, died, and was raised? It was not possible because there was no basis for spiritual union between God and humanity. That had been lost with the sin of Adam. In The Son of Man it was restored. In the resurrected Christ – the resurrection Son of Man – there was now a dimension whereby human beings could be baptized INTO Him; made spiritually ONE with Him.

This also tells us why Jesus said that they could not receive the spirit – receive HIM by the means of the spirit – which was a matter of being made one with Him – unless He ascended. There would have been no basis for union with Christ unless Jesus was raised as a life-giving spirit – unless He was raised in this glorified human body – and then ascended. All of that had to happen. And once it did, believers could be made one with Him.

Thus, when Paul says, “We are members of His flesh and of His bones,” he is referring to the spiritual body of Christ – the glorified body of Christ. By His spirit in us we are planted into the fullness of the resurrection Christ and become one with Him in every way. But the total release of this can only happen once we are raised with glorified bodies at the Second Coming. But it is there in spirit right now. THEN we will be fully one with Him – and literally flesh of His flesh and bone of His bones. This is obviously something that is, “other than,” anything we presently know.

## **Extensions of Christ**

When we think of believers as, "members of Christ," it is easy for our thinking to shift over into the idea of being a member of a church. But this is not what God means by the phrase, "members of Christ." To be, "a member of Christ," means to be ONE with Him in spirit. It means to be fully immersed into Him – baptized into Him. In effect, believers are to be expressions and extensions of Him.

Isn't that what a part of a body IS – every part of our human body is an expression and extension of the HEAD. So it is in Christ.

There is ONE body – it is HIS personal, glorified humanity. This is the resurrected body of the risen Son of Man. But if we are baptized INTO Christ, we are made ONE with Him – and are made to be MEMBERS of Him. We are made one with Him, yes, in spirit, but made one with Him in His resurrected body. As we have noted, that was impossible before He was raised – for before He was raised His body was physical. But after He was raised it was possible because that resurrection as a human being made it possible for Him to be made one with all who would receive Him.

We are here talking about a, "mode of existence," if we can say it that way, that is OTHER THAN what ever existed before. That is why Paul says, "If any man be IN CHRIST he is a NEW creature." (II Cor. 5:17) This really is something NEW. It is a creature whose very life is out from the ONE with Whom it is united in spirit.

The very nature of the body of Christ is that human beings are baptized into the body of THE human being who is the Son of God become human. We are made ONE with God through Him because He became human, lived as a human, died as a human, was raised as a human, and ascended as a human – all the while remaining divine. Jesus Christ as the Son of Man makes the body of Christ possible.

### **The Fullness of Christ**

***Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set [him] at his own right hand in the heavenly [places], Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all [things] under his feet, and gave him [to be] the head over all [things] to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that fills all in all. (Eph. 1:20-23)***

The body of Christ is to be, “the fullness of Him that fills all in all.” That is quite amazing. This certainly reveals that our common and religious ideas about the church, and our corresponding theology, does not do justice to the great purposes of God through Christ.

God wants a people who are not only ONE with His Son in theory; in doctrine – but who are ONE with His Son to the extent that we move with Him and are actually extensions of Him. Because He is our personal Lord, we are able to minister His



Lordship. Because He is our life, we are able to minister His life. This is the outcome of being a member of Christ – ministering Christ, manifesting Christ, being an extension of Christ.

### **In Him**

Jesus Christ is The Last Adam – He is THE MAN of God. He is THE ELECT of God. He is THE SEED of Abraham. He is THE SON of God. But IN HIM – and here we see this primary Truth again – believers become partakers of everything these Truths mean. IN HIM we are one new man. IN HIM we become God's elect. IN HIM we are the seed of Abraham. IN HIM we are sons and daughters of God. God has given everything He has to give in the Person of His Son. Thus, it is only IN HIM that we receive what God has given. And if we are indeed IN CHRIST – we are a member of His very Person – and have access to all.

## **Chapter 18**

### **The Only Begotten Son of God**

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

***No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared [him]. (John 1:18)***

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

***18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:16-18)***

***In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. (I John 4:9)***

These four passages call Jesus, “the only begotten Son of God.” Within that term is great Truth – Truth that gathers together much of what has been discussed in this book.

First of all, Jesus was the ONLY begotten Son of God in the sense of being the ONLY Son of His

kind – in other words, the only Son of God who is has divine nature, that is, is a divine being. Those words don't do justice to Him – but are to simply to convey the fact that there are no other sons or daughters of God who are divine beings – but all other sons and daughters of God are redeemed and glorified humanity -- who are partakers of the divine nature of Christ.

Secondly, because Jesus is the ONLY begotten Son of God become human – and we are united with Him through resurrection union – it means that human beings can become sons and daughters of God IN HIM. In other words, believers are not, "little gods." Believers are not Xerox copies of Christ – little sons of God as opposed to Him being the big Son of God. No. There is only ONE SON OF GOD. But we are sons and daughters of God one hundred percent because we are IN HIM – and He is IN US.

Thus, we see God's family and inheritance pattern: There is the Father, then His only begotten Son, but then sons and daughters IN the Son.

### **The First Born**

Jesus Christ is called the first born out from the dead. What does this mean?

***For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Rom. 8:29)***

***And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence. (Col. 1:18)***

Other human beings had been raised from the dead – but all of them simply returned to the same human life or existence, as before. Not so with Jesus Christ. To be born from out of the dead demands LIFE from out of death. But it cannot be a return to the same life – or we could not call it a BIRTH. Thus, Jesus was raised to a NEW KIND of life – resurrection life.

Now, that may seem strange to some folks – and there are false teachers who try to say that Jesus died, went to hell, and was born again. None of that is true.

This is resolved if we once again go back to the fact that The Son of God became FULLY human. Now, let's make sure that we understand that this does not negate the fact that Jesus maintained His divine nature. He was still The Son of God; still the Word who was God – He was still that SAME PERSON as to identity that had been with the Father from eternity. But in order to work His redemption for humanity, He had to lay aside His divinity as far as functionality. Thus, it was right to say that, yes, Jesus was God. He was divine. But for 33 years He laid that aside and functioned as a human being, sinless, as The Son of Man.

Jesus was fully human and did DIE as a human being. Can we see that it would have been impossible for Jesus to die if He had not laid aside His divinity?

Well, that being said, Jesus was fully human and He fully died as a human – tasting the fullness of death for all. And then He was raised from out of that death. But if we read the passages about Jesus after His resurrection, it is clear that in His humanity something had drastically changed. He still had a physical body – but it was glorified. He showed His body to His disciples. He was taken bodily to heaven. Stephen saw Him bodily standing at the right hand of God. Yet because He was raised from out of death – His humanity; His body -- had been transformed.

We get a clue from what Paul says in Colossians:

***For in him dwelt all the fullness of Deity  
bodily. (Col. 2:10)***

By living a sinless life and then going down into death – His resurrection was victory over death. Thus, before His resurrection, all of the fullness of God dwelt in Him. But after the resurrection God shined THROUGH HIM. That is the definition of a glorified body: God manifested through a person.

So, when we read these verses, and when we read the description of Jesus after His resurrection, don't think of it as just Him being God. No. He was God – He was Divine. But the resurrected Christ was glorified humanity because He was raised up – birthed – out from the dead.

Because we are united with Christ in HIS death and in HIS resurrection, we will be raised up from out of death IN HIM. Again – in Him. And we

will likewise have glorified bodies at the resurrection of the dead.

***For it became him, for whom [are] all things, and by whom [are] all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 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, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. (Heb. 2:10-13)***

Note that we are sons and daughters IN THE SON. We are not sons and daughters in addition to Christ. We are IN HIM, and because we are, we can experience all He has done, and all that HE IS. Being IN HIM was made possible because He became human.

All of this goes back to the fact that the Word became flesh. The Son of God became The Son of Man – became a human being -- and through His redemptive work as a human being, became One IN WHOM all of the rest of humanity could be planted. All of the human race is planted into His death. But only those who believe and embrace His death as theirs are planted into His resurrection. And all of the resurrected are planted into Christ ascended.

It is upon this reality that all that God is doing, or intends to do, is based. The only begotten Son of

God become a human being and winning an eternal victory over sin and death.

## **Chapter 19**

### **Eternal Inheritance in Christ**

God is NOT a family. But God has a family. God's family is The Father, the only begotten Son, and all who are IN the Son. That phrase, "in the Son," is especially important to grasp. It means that there are no sons or daughters of God except human beings that are IN the Son – that is – one with Christ in spiritual union. It also means that God has given all things freely IN Christ – and nothing outside of Him. It means that God has nothing to give apart from Christ, alongside of Christ, or because of Christ. God has given all He has to give solely in Christ.

These are Truths that is not often preached. We hear about all of the things God has to give to us because of Jesus. No. God does not give us THINGS. He gives us Jesus – IN WHOM all things are given.

Or, to put it another way, everything God has for us is OUT FROM CHRIST – out from His life. Do you want to possess or experience the things of God? You must experience Christ.

Christ must govern all that God has for us. Do we want wisdom and knowledge? Paul said, "All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid in Him." (Col. 2:3) In short, in order to experience anything that is of God, we must experience Christ – as we discover and experience Christ all that is IN HIM can come into our experience. We cannot experience anything that is of God otherwise.



We must hold to this Truth when we talk about the inheritance of God for the saints, and the inheritance of God in the saints. The inheritance of God FOR the saints is Christ – and then all that is in Him. The inheritance of God IN the saints is the Person of Christ – and then it is all that is realized in the saints that is out from Him.

This Truth is why Paul was able to write:

***Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [places] in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [even] in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first***

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

The entire plan of God is based on the reality of, "CHRIST IN YOU, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27) Everything God has for the believer is IN CHRIST – and can be received and experienced only OUT FROM HIM as our life. It is IN CHRIST – and OUT FROM Him that all spiritual blessings flow. We are elected and predestined by God – not unto salvation – but AS those who are already saved and IN CHRIST. We are elect because He is the ONE elect and we are IN HIM. Likewise, IN HIM we have obtained an inheritance because He has inherited ALL things. Or, to go back to what was stated earlier, He is the only begotten SON OF GOD, but believers are sons and daughters IN THE SON – and therefore co-heirs with Him. In short, if Christ is in us, then all that is given to Him is in us.

## **The Inheritance**

What is the inheritance of the saints? It is Christ and all that is IN HIM. We are given that clue when Paul writes that it is Christ in us -- by the means of the spirit of God – that He is the down payment of our inheritance. The down payment is not different than the fullness, but a foretaste of it. Christ is in us during this age by the means of the spirit of God. At the resurrection, we will be

changed and have glorified bodies that are able to experience all that Christ is, all that He has done, and will be able to be manifestations and extensions of Him. As noted earlier, not only is this the inheritance of the saints from God, but it is the inheritance of God IN the saints – for it will bring to pass His purposes in Christ.

### **Inheritance Only Possible for Humanity**

When God created Adam, He made it clear that Adam was to have dominion UNDER GOD but over all of the rest of creation. This was always a large part of God's purpose in creating human beings. But once Adam got out from under God and declared independence the entire purpose collapsed. Adam had not only disobeyed God, but had become a different kind of human being than the one God had created -- right down to the core of his being. Adam was now corrupt and spiritually dead; at enmity with God.

But God never abandoned His purpose for humanity. God has always had an inheritance and a relationship He wanted with humanity. In fact, in the aftermath of the sin, God promised that there would come a SEED of the woman who would make redemption a reality. (see Gen. 3:15) Indeed, this is the same seed who later would be called, "the seed of Abraham."

Jesus Christ – the SON OF GOD would be THE MAN – THE SEED of woman – the seed of Abraham -- the human being – who would be the Redeemer.

At the end of the day, redemption is more than just making a way for people to go to heaven. Redemption involves an eternal inheritance – for human beings from God Himself, and an inheritance for God in human beings.

Inheritance, especially in biblical times, was always passed down within the family. Jesus Christ was already the Son of God – but in becoming a human being, took on the human dimension and through His eternal redemptive work, because THE MAN, THE SON, if you will, that has inherited ALL THINGS. And this brings us back to what we saw earlier – God’s family: The Father, the SON, and sons and daughters IN THE SON.

### **The Seed of Abraham**

***And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou [art] cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Gen. 3:14-15)***

These words of the Lord, after the sin of Adam, are addressed to the serpent -- which was the instrument through which Satan had tempted Eve. It is the first promise of Redemption given in the Word of God. That being said, God promises a Redeemer Whom He refers to as, “the seed of the woman.” This shows that right from the beginning

that Redeemer would be, "the Word become flesh."

Of course, the full revelation of the Son of God, who would become the Son of Man, is not given at this point. But the seed of the woman would not be born OF the Adam race. Rather, He would be born INTO the Adam race from the outside – God would be His Father.

### **Abraham**

If we fast forward to Genesis 15, we find that the Truth of THE SEED is brought forward. God promises Abram a SEED – God promises Him a son:

***In that same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "Unto thy seed have I given this land." (Genesis 15:18)***

Now, what WAS that covenant? The Old Covenant was, first, God's promise to Abraham -- of a son. But through that son, God said:

***I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curse thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. (Genesis 12:1-3)***

The words, "IN THEE (referring to the SEED that was IN Abram, but Who was yet to be born) shall all families of the earth be blessed" – that promise is a reference to the Redeemer. Here we see that, "the seed of Abraham," is more than

just Isaac. Rather, it is the SAME SEED that God promised in the garden – it was the Redeemer Who would be the means by which ALL the world – not just Israel – would be blessed.

What is a SEED? A seed is that which comes from a living entity – but which is used to produce more living entities after the same kind. In a very real sense, a single seed contains all that will eventually come out from it. Thus, “the seed of the woman” -- Who is likewise, “the seed of Abraham” -- is One Who is born human – but is ONE Who carries within Himself all of redeemed humanity – sons and daughters of God -- and all of the fulfillment of God’s purposes. In short, He would carry within Himself all who would be born of Him; of His life.

Note that the OLD Covenant was the promise, not primarily of a nation, but the promise of the SEED. The nation of Israel was birthed from out of Abraham to be a light to the nations – but a light that was to point to the Redeemer. The Old Covenant was ALWAYS Jesus Christ in type and shadow, and Israel was to be the means by which Christ was revealed to the rest of the world – at that time in type and shadow. That is why they received the promises and the Old Covenant. But they were to eventually be part of the New Covenant – which is Christ Himself in His people.

There is no need to insist upon the future of Israel according to the flesh. For it is certain that they must come to Christ in order to become part of the NEW Israel – in order to be engrafted into the purpose of God. And for those who do come to Christ:

***There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Gal. 3:28-29)***

### **Abraham's Seed is Christ**

***Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He says not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. (Gal. 3:16)***

When God said to Abraham, "And in thy seed will all the nations of the earth be blessed," God was talking about Jesus Christ – not Isaac. Isaac would be the son of Abraham, but in Isaac would be Jesus Christ. HE was THE ONE SEED of Abraham, in and through Whom all of the nations of the world would be blessed.

Once we see that Christ is THE SEED, the NT teaching on this becomes clear. The teaching of the New Testament is that if you have your faith in Jesus Christ, you ARE a child of Abraham. You are a child of Abraham because, by faith, you are "in Christ" – who is THE SEED, or child, of Abraham.

***Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.....And if you be Christ's, then are you Abraham's seed, and heirs according to promise. (Gal. 3:7, 29)***

So just as believers are sons and daughters of God IN THE SON – and ONLY in the Son – so are believers Abraham's seed IN THE SEED, who is Christ. All that the believer is, and all that the believer receives, is because we are IN HIM – joined to Him in resurrection union. That is a fact whether we are Jew or Gentile.

The great Truth here is that Jesus Christ is the SEED of Abraham -- and inherits ALL things. But if we are IN Christ, then we are partakers of His inheritance because we are partakers of HIM – we are one with Him. The inheritance is Christ – and then because it is Christ, it includes all that is given in Christ.

Jesus Christ is also the SEED of the woman. This proves that it was a human being who would be the Redeemer, and it was the Son of God become the Son of Man who would inherit all things. And as Paul wrote, "we have an inheritance IN HIM." Only because Jesus Christ became a human being can human beings be one with Him, and inherit with Him all things.



## **Chapter 20**

### **One Mediator**

***For there is ONE Mediator between God and man, that man, Christ Jesus. (I Tim. 2:5)***

Let's ask: What is a "mediator?" Generally, a mediator is "one who brings two parties together." He is a "go-between;" one who acts as a "conduit" between two parties. If someone is my mediator, I have to "go through them" to get to the party I really want to reach.

Jesus Christ is the ONE Mediator between God and man. This means that to reach God I have to "go through" (or "be in") Jesus Christ. There is no other name under heaven by which we can be saved. In Christ alone do we stand in the presence of God.

Note this great Truth: Jesus is our Mediator unto God – but not merely because of what He did. That is certainly included. But Jesus is our Mediator unto God by His very presence IN US. Jesus is one with the Father, and we are one with Christ – that makes us one with the Father through Him.

So again we see the essential of understanding that Christianity is CHRIST IN US. And we see the essential of Jesus as the glorified Son of Man – Jesus as a human being – as the One with Whom we are joined in spirit -- and therefore the One through Whom we can be joined to the Father. Everything comes back to this reality. This Truth defines all, governs all, and if we grasp it, will expose much error.

## **No Other Mediators**

It is important that we stop right here and ask a simple but vital question: If Jesus is the one and only Mediator between God and man, then how many other mediators, in addition to Christ, exist for the Christian? The answer is, of course, more than obvious: There are NO other mediators between God and man. There are NO other mediators for the Christian. Christ alone is Lord, Savior, and Mediator.

Do we realize what this means? It means that I don't have to "go through" any man, church, or group to reach God -- because I am already in the presence of God through Jesus Christ. No leader, no church, and no spiritual or civil authority can take the place of Jesus Christ as sole Mediator for EACH Christian.

Jesus Christ as the one Mediator between God and man is the foundational Truth of Christianity – because it is based upon the very definition of Christianity of CHRIST in us. If we are joined to the Lord and one spirit with Him – and one with the Father through Him – then there is nothing and no one needed to enhance this. It is finished. The Christian life is not a matter of making this happen, but rather, a matter of living out from Him by faith.

The great news of Jesus as the one Mediator between God and man means that every one of us can have a personal, individual, one-on-one relationship with God through His Son. This is

basic Christianity. But that is exactly why it is a primary goal of the enemy to hide, corrupt, and distort this great Truth.

### **That MAN, Christ Jesus**

Once again we find that the humanity of the Son of God is brought front and center. Paul says that our ONLY Mediator is that MAN, Christ Jesus. This agrees with everything we have been seeing. It is our resurrection union with the glorified humanity of The Son of Man that not only constitutes the new creature in Christ, but this union is the means by which that MAN – that glorified Son of Man, Jesus Christ – is our ONLY Mediator.

Again, Jesus is our one Mediator, not only because of what He did, but because of Who He is in us – He is our Mediator by virtue of the fact that we are made one with Him in spirit. Christ is one with God. We are one with Christ. Thus, we are one with God through Him. That is Christ as Mediator.

### **Mediator of the New Covenant**

***Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant. (Heb. 12:24)***

Numerous times Jesus is declared to be the Mediator of the New Covenant because the New Covenant is, in fact, the presence of Christ in His people.

The Old Covenant was a type and a shadow of Jesus Christ. The New Covenant is Christ Himself

– for IN HIM is all that God has to give – and He dwells within His people by His spirit.

As we saw in an earlier chapter, in the epistle to the Hebrews it is emphasized that the New Covenant was not only different, but eternally superior to the Old Covenant. But how? We are told:

***But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first [covenant] had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers... For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new [covenant], he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old [is] ready to vanish away.***

This is a quote of the OT prophecy from Jeremiah 31, and so we need to keep in mind that it is given in OT prophetic language. But all of the Truth is there about the New Covenant in Christ. The New Covenant is eternally superior; the New Covenant is INWARD and renews the MIND and HEART; the New Covenant is PERSONAL – individuals are brought into a one-on-one relationship with God; the New Covenant provides forgiveness and redemption. Gather all of this up and it is CHRIST IN US – His presence in His people are all of those Truths. That is why He is Mediator.

### **Christ is All in Us**

Paul says:

***Christ is our life.” (Col. 3:4)***

***All of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid in Him.” (Col. 2:3)***

***But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glories, let him glory in the Lord. (I Cor. 1:30-31)***

Can we see that Christ in us – that He is ALL in the believer? This is the result of our being joined to Him in spirit. And that was made possible by Jesus becoming a human being glorified so that we could be joined to Him. The MAN Jesus Christ is the one Mediator between God and man because we have fellowship with the Father in and through Him.

## Chapter 21

### Our High Priest

If there is one emphasis which the Bible puts upon the high priest – in both the OT and the NT – it is the humanity of the high priest. The high priest -- in all of His humanity -- stood as the representative for all of the rest of the people.

***For verily he took not on [him the nature of] angels; but he took on [him] the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto [his] brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things [pertaining] to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted. (Heb. 2:16-18)***

In the OT, the Levitical priesthood, with the High Priest as the central figure, stood as mediators between Israel and the Lord. Jesus fulfilled that type and shadow with His own Person and redemptive work. He is the one Mediator for believers and our only High Priest.

An important Truth that we must see about Jesus as our High Priest is that, yes, He is our High Priest because of what He has done. But He is likewise our High Priest because of Who He is – right now within His people. We are one with Christ and Christ is one with the Father – therefore we are one with the Father IN HIM. It is a living reality – not merely a legal standing.

Central to this fact of Christ as High Priest and only Mediator is the Truth we have been seeing all along – that it is because Christ continues to carry His humanity that human beings can be united with Him, and thus, with the Father through Him. The redemptive work of Christ in becoming THE MAN God was after has made it possible for those who human beings who receive Him to experience God through Him.

### **The Sum of All**

***Now of the things which we have spoken  
[this is] the sum: We have such a high  
priest, who is set on the right hand of the  
throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A  
minister of the sanctuary, and of the true  
tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not  
man. (Heb 8:1-2)***

It is easy to miss, but the writer of Hebrews states that THE SUM of everything he is discussing is that Jesus Christ is our High Priest – He is our High Priest as He sits at the right hand of the Father in the heavenlies. That, and that alone is why believers are seated IN HIM in His throne.

Of course it is the SUM of all – the ascended Christ carried a finished redemption for all to the Father. The ascended Christ has authority over all. And through His finished redemption we have full, personal, and individual access to God that can never be reversed.

***Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:14-16)***

The High Priest of the OT offered sacrifices to God for both himself and for the people. But Christ did not need to offer a sacrifice FOR Himself. Rather, He offered HIMSELF. In short, Christ was both the One who offered the sacrifice, and He was the sacrifice.

***But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption [for us]. (Heb. 9:11-12)***

### **Through the Veil**

***Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And [having] an high priest over the house of God; 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. Let us hold fast the profession of [our] faith without wavering; (for he [is] faithful that promised;) (Heb. 10:19-23)***

The veil of the tabernacle separated the Holy of Holies – which represented the presence of God – from the rest of the tabernacle. Only the High Priest could enter into the Holy of Holies – and this was allowed only once a year, on the Day of Atonement. Once within the Holy of Holies, the High Priest offered the blood for his own sins and those of the people.

In type and shadow, the veil represented that which separated human beings from God – which would be yes, the sin nature, but by extension, the old man in Adam. This is why Hebrews says that the veil represents the flesh or body of Christ – for He was bearing our sin – He was bearing our old man – in His body. When His body was broken and He died, then all that separated us from God was rent. We see this happening in the gospels.

The redemptive results are eternal. Since Christ, as our High Priest is IN the Holy of Holies – IN an eternal fellowship with the Father -- then we have the same because we are IN HIM. We are exhorted to enter into all that Christ is – we have full individual access to the Father in Him. This is finished.

All of this was made possible because the Son of God became the Son of Man – and today and forever continues to carry His humanity. Without this incredible reality redemption was impossible – but because of the incarnation and redemption

by the Son of God those who come to Christ by faith are saved to the uttermost.