

*Christ our
Representative*

“The word that was spoken to Jesus at the Jordan
embraces humanity.

God spoke to Jesus as our representative.

With all our sins and weaknesses,
we are not cast aside as worthless.

‘He hath made us accepted in the beloved’
The glory that rested upon Christ is a pledge
of the love of God for us.”

In Heavenly Places p26.

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*Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the
commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.
Revelation 14:12*

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A Representative ‘in Adam’

In the beginning, Adam was created a perfect human being, formed in the likeness of His Creator.

Christ breathed into his nostrils His own divine life, and it radiated from his body as a garment of light. The first man had the mind of Christ, with no bias toward sin.

“Obedience, perfect and perpetual, was the condition of eternal happiness. On this condition he was to have access to the tree of life.”¹

So long as Adam obeyed the law of God, he would remain united spiritually with his Creator, the union of the human with the divine.

Adam was made the representative of the human race -- if he proved faithful, all his descendants would receive the benefits. If he failed, they would suffer the consequences.

It might seem unfair in our present condition of suffering and death that we are judged by the actions of our first father, but if our representative had chosen to *reject* the forbidden fruit, not one of us would blame him for the happiness we were experiencing.

Representation is a valid principle. Our modern society chooses representatives for government, clubs, churches, and their job is to speak on behalf of those they represent. Even in families or any group of people, the request is – ‘you go for us’. Whatever the outcome, those who delegated or elected the representative, receive either the benefits or the consequences.

As the legitimate representative of the human race, Adam was tested for us all. Sadly, he failed the test.

When Adam failed, we failed.

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

This text is not primarily speaking about the personal sins of every man, for death had come upon us long before we understood the meaning of the word.

But when Adam sinned, we sinned, for we were ‘in Adam’

In his weakness, our first father could only pass on a fallen nature and a death sentence.

We receive these as the consequence of his sin, not as a punishment for it. And having a leaning towards sin as our inheritance, we fail and die like he did.

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

No man or woman will ever sin in the same way as Adam, for no human being is a representative of another. We all stand for ourselves alone. Ezekiel 14:20.

The fact that Adam ate from the forbidden tree is a secondary application; the spiritual significance of representation is of vital importance.

The only Person who had any similarity to Adam was Christ, as both represented the human race.

As there are two aspects to Adam’s sin, there are two aspects to the death penalty.

Spiritually, we all sinned ‘in Adam’. But this is God’s view of humanity, it is not a *literal* fact because we were not involved. When we personally choose to sin, only then do we come under the penalty that relates to the forfeited eternal life, and having chosen to sin, we place ourselves under the penalty of being ‘in Adam’. The punishment is *eternal* death, for which there will be a judgment.

Literally, we receive the *consequences* of sin. When our first parents sinned, the Spirit of Christ departed and the robe of light disappeared, leaving our first parents naked in body and

soul. The only life they could pass on to their children was mortality, a short probationary time permitted by God; a life of weakened physical strength, mental power and moral worth. Then they would die.

“Fallen man, because of his guilt, could no longer come directly before God with his supplications; for his transgression of the divine law had placed an impassable barrier between the holy God and the transgressor.”²

The following illustration will appear many times in this study, as it is a continual reminder of the difference between the *spiritual* and the *literal*.

These terms have been chosen because they make an obvious distinction between what God sees and does, and what man did and does. God’s activities are spiritual because He is a spiritual Being, however, it does not mean they are not literal to Him. The literal, material world pertains to sinful man without spirituality.

The *spiritual* involves the legal, heavenly decree, based on what Adam, as the representative of all men, *literally* did or failed to do. The *spiritual* is always above the line; the *literal* below it. It is vital the two are kept distinct and separate.

GOD’S VIEW

SPIRITUAL

All humanity ‘in Adam’
All humanity sinned ‘in Adam’
All humanity condemned ‘in Adam’
All humanity under death sentence ‘in Adam’.

MAN’S VIEW

LITERAL

Adam ate the fruit and sinned
Adam lost the indwelling presence of Christ
Adam could only pass on a mortal life subject to death
Adam now had a leaning towards sin; his nature was sinful and fallen.

The Scriptures clearly state the principle of representation, “through the offence of one many be dead”; “the judgment was by one to condemnation”; “by one man’s offence death reigned by one”; “by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation”; “by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners”. Romans 5:15-19.

The term ‘in Adam’ in this text is referring to both the *spiritual* and the *literal*. The message is that ‘in Adam’ all *have died spiritually*, for God saw Adam’s sin and spiritual death as *representative* of all mankind. When Adam lost the divine Spirit, he became spiritually dead. In the *literal* sense, we are all ‘in Adam’s family’, and subject to mortal death because of that fact.

So ‘in Adam’ *all die*. 1 Corinthians 15:22.

On another occasion, the term ‘in Abraham’ is used to include certain members of his posterity. You will recall that Abraham rescued Lot from the kings in the vale of Siddim, and later gave Melchisedec “tithes of all.” Genesis 14:18-20.

When this took place, God saw a group of people ‘in Abraham’ who had not been born. “And as I may say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.” Hebrews 7:1.2.5.9.10.

This is a clear example of God seeing a future generation ‘in’ another person. Years after Abraham had given the tithe to Melchisedec he bore Isaac, Isaac bore Jacob, and Jacob bore

Levi, the great grandson who was 'credited' with having paid tithes 'in Abraham'. *Literally* Levi was not *in* Abraham, but God saw it as so.

This is a spiritual truth.

Instead of bemoaning the unfairness of this principle, let us praise God for the *fact* of representation. It is by this means that God was able to provide us with a second chance, for He could elect a new representative. He did not choose a created being from another world. He did not choose an angel. He chose His own dear Son, and Christ willingly volunteered to become Head of the human family.

“And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.... the first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.” 1 Corinthians 15:45,47.

The Son of God was tested far more than Adam, but He was determined not to fail.

A Representative ‘in Christ’

The Prince of heaven willingly volunteered to become the second Representative of the human race, but He did not come in the physical perfection of Adam before the fall. Instead, He “accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity.”³

As the Prince of heaven and Commander of the angels,
Christ set aside His royal robe and crown,
and willingly
stepped
down



below the line

into our sinful world.

Christ took on man’s physical human nature in its weakened,
fallen and sinful condition.

“In assuming humanity, Christ took the part of every human being. He was the Head of humanity. A Being divine and human, with His long human arm He could encircle humanity, while with His divine arm He could lay hold of the throne of the infinite.”⁴

God had begun a new family ‘in Christ’. It would be a divine-human family in which the Spirit of Christ would again be part of the nature of man. This is a vital part in the plan of redemption – humanity and divinity must be combined for man to be once more a member of God’s household.

Although Christ came into this world of sin (below the line), His mind was lifted up to the spiritual realities. He hated sin with a perfect hatred, for He had seen its deceiving power upon the holy angels. His spotless righteousness was a constant reproach upon sin, angering sinful men to follow the dictates of Satan in eradicating Him from the earth.⁵

But Satan was only able to inflict his anger upon the flesh of Christ; he could not touch His mind. “Could Satan in the least particular have tempted Christ to sin, he would have bruised the Saviour’s head... Had the head of Christ been touched, the hope of the human race would have perished.”⁶

Christ, the “last Adam”, and legitimate Representative of the human race, had passed over the same ground where Adam fell, enduring every test in man’s behalf. He “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”^{Hebrews 4:15.}

When Christ was victorious, we were victorious.

As God had seen all humanity disobedient ‘in Adam’, so He saw every man obedient ‘in Christ’. This was the means by which God could restore the race to its Edenic glory. “All that was lost by the first Adam, was restored by the second”.⁷

Notice how beautifully God’s plan is recorded in Ephesians.

God the Father has “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 (Son)*, *in whom* we have redemption *through His blood*, the forgiveness of sin,

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 worketh all things after the counsel of His own will..." Ephesians 1:3-11.

Christ did not yield up His life until He had completed His work of righteousness in humanity. In His last prayer, Jesus prayed, "I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do", and with His last breath exclaimed, "It is finished." John 17:4. 19:30.

The battle had been won.

As our Representative, Jesus was victorious *for us*, but more than that, we were victorious 'in Him'.

"What Jesus Christ in the flesh did, we did in Him. And this is the most glorious truth in Christianity. It is Christianity itself, it is the very core and life and heart of Christianity. He took our flesh, and our humanity was found in Him, and what He did, humanity did in Him." 8

The Scriptures clearly state the principle: "the gift of grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, 'abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ', 'by the righteousness of one the free gift upon all men unto justification of life', 'so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.'" Romans 5:15-19.

The message is very plain. "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 Corinthians 15:21,22.

When Christ died, all died, for "if one died for all, then were all dead." 2 Corinthians 5:14.

Spiritually, we all obeyed 'in Christ'.

But this is God's view of humanity, it is not a *literal* fact because we were not involved.

When we personally choose Christ, only then do we receive justification as individuals. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...." Romans 8:1.

Literally, we remain weak human beings with a bent to sin. Of ourselves, we can do nothing. We cannot stop sinning. Our natures are carnal, "sold under sin." Romans 7:14.

SPIRITUAL

PENALTY PAID

'In Adam'
All mankind sinned
Man has guilt of sin
Man has death penalty
Lost

RIGHTEOUSNESS IMPUTED

'In Christ'
All mankind obeyed
Man has righteousness
Man has eternal life
Saved

LITERAL

Adam sinned personally

I have also sinned
I have personally repented
I have confessed my sins and am forgiven

Once we make that genuine surrender, God imputes His righteousness through Christ to our account. This cancels the spiritual debt we incurred 'in Adam', and the sentence of eternal

death is removed. But it is all by faith, and we must look above the line to see this wonderful exchange.

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom also we have access by faith into this grace....” Romans 5:1.2.

Beware – Danger Lurks

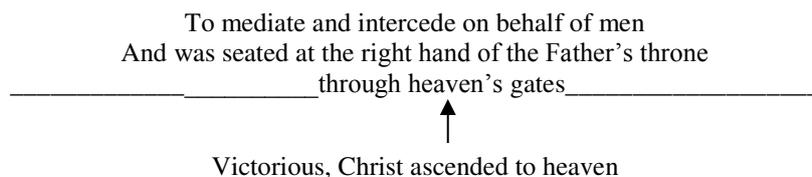
What we have been studying is a wonderful truth, however, unless we are alert, we can fall into error. Some brethren have studied the subject with joy, but have come to different conclusions on certain points. Others have read their material, seen those differences, and thrown out the whole subject. Still others have seen the differences, but after consideration, have decided the problem may be semantics.

There are certain aspects that can be said more than one way, and when they are read, they say one thing to one person, and something else to another. It can depend on the mindset of the reader. It can depend on the angle from which they are read.

However, the differences may not be simply words, they may be subtle error. This chapter is an attempt to point out the difficulties, and to show where the confusion or error arises.

After His rest in the tomb, Christ ascended to heaven to make certain His sacrifice was acceptable to His Father, then after a period of time on earth with His followers, He returned to heaven with the firstfruits of the race. There He was enthroned amid the songs of millions of angels.

Let us go back to our chart. This time read from the bottom up.



It is important at this point to understand that although Christ *literally* worked out our salvation on this earth, His work was *spiritual*. He lived and obeyed in our flesh, but He worked in humanity a spiritual life. That is why everything Christ did must be seen *above* the line. The reason for this is because mankind was not literally ‘in Christ’. It is the legal means by which the Father could redeem sinful mankind from eternal death.

Were it not for representation, Christ would need to die for every individual who desired salvation! “This man, after he had offered *one sacrifice for sins for ever*, sat down on the right hand of God.” Hebrews 10:2.

By his death, Christ became the possessor of the keys of the grave and of death. Satan could no longer reign without a rival, and be revered as a god. “The emancipation papers of the race have been signed by the blood of the Son of God. A way has been opened for the message of hope and mercy to be carried to the ends of the earth.” 9

What is that “message of hope”?

Some brethren would state it as ‘All men **are saved** in Christ’. They speak of it as God’s ‘unconditional good news’. Others do not accept the term *unconditional* and say it is *provisional* – ‘All men **can be saved** in Christ’.

Is it just semantics?

An illustration in the United States will help to show the difference between the two statements. It involves the signing of the Document of Emancipation under Abraham Lincoln.

When the President placed his signature on the anti-slavery bill, his pronouncement may have been ‘All slaves are free’, and legally this was true. The emancipation papers freed the slaves. Using this as our example, we could say ‘All men are saved’ when Christ died upon the cross. Legally it was true.

But the President’s signature did not *literally* free any slave. It could well have been that due to a lack of communication or a hard task master, many did not find out until months later, so in actual fact, although the papers were signed, these slaves continued to work for their masters in conditions no better than before the legislation took place.

Thus the *vision* of the emancipation papers could not take place in the literal sense until they were believed and accepted. The President could have announced, ‘All slaves are free to go’, and this would also have been correct. In our subject under discussion, those brethren who see the truth from this angle, will say, ‘All men can be saved’.

Both statements are correct in their sphere. Legally all men are saved in Christ, but literally, only those who respond will be saved in actual fact. In our discussion with other Christians, we must know from which angle they are speaking. Some men prefer to emphasize the legal fact to show that Christ has defeated Satan. It can give assurance to weak mortals. Others feel it is far more important to speak of acceptance, for unless the gift is accepted, there is no salvation. Both may understand the truth, but each seeing one angle above the other.

However, it may well be that some Christians have confused what Christ did legally with what He does literally, and we need to be careful we are not deceived.

Another illustration that can help us understand the subject is to realise that humanity has been born in death row. As a result of the sacrifice of Christ, the doors are not locked, nor the power connected to the electric chair. Every person could walk out of that prison if they chose to do so, but the majority do not believe.

Not only that, but when anyone shows signs of believing the doors might not be locked, the devil puts his foot against it and says, ‘**Look, it doesn’t open**’. Men and women sink back into disbelief, a prisoner for no reason.

All are free – if they will believe and act upon it.

The chart helps to keep the facts in focus. The legal declaration is above the line; it is what God has done ‘in Christ’. But nothing of it can go below the line unless men and women choose salvation, and then it can only be claimed *by faith*.

**SPIRITUAL
(LEGAL DECLARATION)**

‘In Adam’	‘In Christ’
All mankind sinned	All mankind obeyed
Man is guilty of sin	Man is righteous
Man has the death penalty	Man has eternal life

LITERAL

Adam sinned personally	All have sinned personally
We must all choose whether we want to be ‘in Adam’ or ‘in Christ’	

Our choice will decide our destiny

If the two areas are confused, and the *spiritual* and *literal* blended together, then ‘all men **are** saved’ literally. In other words, mankind is actually *outside* the prison walls. But this is not correct.

Legally, God sees every human as saved; this is the *vision* of the act of Calvary. It was also the vision of Lincoln when he signed the anti-slavery bill, but just as each slave must be literally released to fulfil the President's dream, so every man must believe and accept God's work of salvation, to actually become free.

The Bible is clear, "He that *believeth* on him (Christ) *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 3:18. Matthew 13:44-46.

In other words, everyone is in a *state* of condemnation prior to accepting Christ, rather than in a state of grace. The death penalty has certainly been paid, making all men legally free, but men and women are not yet out of the clutches of the enemy in their personal experience.

"When Satan was triumphing as the prince of this world... God sent His messenger from heaven, even His only-begotten Son, to proclaim to all the inhabitants of the world: 'I have found a ransom. I have made a way of escape for all the perishing. I have your emancipation papers provided for you, sealed by the Lord of heaven and earth. You may have freedom *upon the condition of faith in Him* who is able to save unto the uttermost all who come unto God by Him.

A ransom has been provided at infinite cost, and it is not because there is any flaw in the title which has been purchased for lost souls that they *do not accept it...*

It will be because they *will not come unto Christ* that they might have life." 10

If a person does nothing at all, they are in effect rejecting salvation, refusing something they do not *personally* possess, but which does 'in Christ' belong to them, if only they will accept it.

Note the following example. "If for some crime that you had committed you were incarcerated within prison walls, with the sentence of death passed upon you, and a friend should come to you and say, 'I will take your place, and you may go free', would not your heart be filled with gratitude for such unselfish love?" 11

And what if that friend actually went to the gallows and died the death penalty for you? Would it not be a disgrace to remain within the prison walls, instead of living in freedom, rejoicing in what your friend had done?

"Christ has done infinitely more than this for us. We were lost; the sentence of death had been passed upon us, and Christ died for us, and thus set us free. He said, 'I will take upon Myself the guilt of the sinner, that he may have another trial...'" 12

E.J. Waggoner puts it, "God has wrought out salvation for every man, and *has given it to him*, but the majority spurn it and throw it away. The judgment will reveal the fact that full salvation was given to every man and that the lost have deliberately thrown away their birthright possession." 13

Unfortunately, many brethren become confused with the words 'full salvation was given to every man', and think Brother Waggoner is saying everyone has received salvation in a literal sense. No, this is the signing of the emancipation papers. The gift of freedom was *given to every slave* by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, but only those who accepted and claimed it personally were literally free. It is the same with the gospel.

It has been stated just as forcefully by another, but in different words. "He (Christ) arose from the tomb enshrouded with a cloud of angels in wondrous power and glory – the Deity and humanity combined. He took in His grasp the world over which Satan claimed to preside as his lawful territory, and by His wonderful work in giving His life, *He restored the whole race of men to favor with God...*" 14

Did Christ restore the whole race to favour with God?

If you look below the line, you will think the statement is gross error, but if you look above the line, you will see what God has done in Christ.

“Every member of the human family is given wholly into the hands of Christ.... Every gift is stamped with the cross and bears the image and superscription of Jesus Christ.”
15

If we can grasp the glory of what the Father has done through His beloved Son, we will rejoice in sharing the good news with men and women everywhere – ‘You are free in Christ, take hold of your possession’.

Our Hopeless Condition

When we are born, we receive the *consequences* of Adam’s sin in our humanity. (The result of being *literally* related to Adam and Eve, below the line) This means we do not have a spiritual or divine nature, nor do we have eternal life.

When our time of probation has ended, we will die as a *consequence* of being literally related to Adam and Eve, not as a *punishment* for sin, but certainly a death sentence.

On the other hand, because God saw us ‘in Adam’, both before and after he sinned, God sees us as guilty and under the sentence of eternal death. However, this guilt and death sentence is not personally imputed to us until we choose to sin ourselves. By choosing to sin, we align ourselves with Adam’s guilt, and come under the same sentence of the second death. 16

According to the Bible, “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23. This refers not only to our inheritance in Adam, but also how we live, for everything we do is corrupt.

“There is none righteous, no, not one, there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.” Romans 3:10-12.

Every person over the age of understanding is personally responsible for breaking the Law of God, and is under the penalty of eternal death. No one can say, ‘I have not sinned’. “If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” 1 John 1:10.

Of ourselves, we do not fully understand our condition. However, if we are willing for the Spirit of God to show us our true state, we will acknowledge, “O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death.” Romans 7:24.

We will be like the leper who came to Jesus with the plea, “Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.” Matthew 8:2.

We will be like the publican who stood afar off, and would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast saying, “God be merciful to be a sinner.” Luke 18:13.

We will be like the prodigal who came to himself in the pig sty and said, “I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants.” Luke 15:18,19.

We will be like the woman who spent her livelihood on physicians, and came to Jesus with a desire just to touch the hem of His garment. “If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.” Mark 5:28.

We will acknowledge being like Israel when Isaiah cried, “Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters... from the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it, but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores; they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.” Isaiah 1:4.6.

We will recognise that we are like the Ethiopian who cannot change his skin, like the leopard who cannot change his spots, and will know that it is impossible for us to “do good that are accustomed to (doing) evil.” Jeremiah 13:23.

We will believe God when He says our “sins are as scarlet... and red like crimson.” Isaiah 1:18.

And we will believe Jesus when He says we are “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” Revelation 3:17.

Not an encouraging picture, but according to the Word of God, it is the truth. Human nature does not like to accept it, and that is why the Laodicean boasts, “I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.” Revelation 3:17.

The human being is *literally* in a destitute condition, but of himself he does not know it. Ask the average person what they think of themselves. Usually they will say, ‘I am okay. I am not perfect, but I live a good life.’ Many believe they deserve to enter heaven!

When the Spirit of God left Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, man was without the divine nature. His descendants are therefore destitute of spiritual eyesight, and cannot see their true condition. “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14.

“By sin we have been severed from the life of God. Our souls are palsied. Of ourselves we are no more capable of living a holy life than was the impotent man capable of walking.” 17

So by sin, man lost his connection with God. Of himself he has no means of salvation.

Remember, we are speaking of man *literally*, below the line.

SPIRITUAL

‘In Adam’
All mankind sinned
Man has guilt of sin
Man has death penalty
Lost

LITERAL

All have sinned personally
All are without God or spirituality
All are deceived as to their true condition
No hope in himself

In this dreadful condition it appears we are without hope, and of ourselves it is true.

We live in a sinful world. We are sinful, and we lean towards sin. We have bodies that are aging every day, and when the time comes, we will die and turn to dust.

What God saw ‘in Adam’ before we were born is now a true picture of each one of us. God was right in judging us all as sinners. We have proved Him correct.

What can we do?

There is an impenetrable gap between this material, sinful, wicked world, and the pure, heavenly, spiritual world above.

SPIRITUAL WORLD

SINFUL WORLD

No man is able to ascend into heaven. The distance is too great and the difference between the two worlds so immense, it is an utter impossibility. Thus, not one human being can enter the heavenly paradise.

But God so loved, He gave His Son.....

And “the Son of God volunteered to bear the punishment of disobedience. Only by the humiliation of the Prince of heaven could the dishonor be removed, justice be satisfied, and man be restored to that which he had forfeited by disobedience. There was no other way....

No one less holy than the Only Begotten of the Father, could have offered a sacrifice that would be efficacious to cleanse all – even the most sinful and degraded – who accept the Saviour as their atonement and become obedient to Heaven’s law.

Nothing less could have reinstated man in God’s favor.... On the cross of Calvary (Christ) paid the redemption price of the race. And thus He gained the right to take the captives from the grasp of the great deceiver...”¹⁸

By Christ becoming the second Representative of mankind, He legally won back everything lost by the first Adam. This victory was full and complete, and it is as secure as the throne of God.

However, for man to be able to reach up from his sinfulness to the abundant provision ‘in Christ’, God has to perform a supernatural act.

This He wants to do for every man, woman, and child.

“And I will put enmity between thee (Satan) and the woman, and between thy seed, and her seed; it shall bruise thy (Satan’s) head, and thou shalt bruise His (Christ’s) heel.”
Genesis 3:15.

This text was fulfilled in Christ as the ‘Seed of the woman’, but a secondary application relates to all mankind as the human ‘seed’ of Eve, the ‘mother of all living’.

“The enmity referred to in the prophecy in Eden was not to be confined merely to Satan and the Prince of life. It was to be universal. Satan and his angels were to feel the enmity of all mankind...”¹⁹

This enmity is not automatic at birth. It is performed on the heart of man in response to the working of the Spirit of God. If it were not for this converting and renewing power, man would remain the captive of Satan. Jesus Christ is continually drawing men and women to repentance. He does this by His Spirit, by the work of the holy angels, His Word, influences, impressions, questions, the atmosphere of grace surrounding the earth. God has a thousand ways to speak to us, but if we persist in ignoring His call to repentance, the conscience will be “seared as with a hot iron”, and the voice of God silenced. ¹ Timothy 4:2.

Paul tells us that “God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Romans 12:3. This gift is for the Christian – the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control. Galatians 5:22,23. As we exercise the gift of faith, it is multiplied.

Therefore, let us respond in penitence, and LOOK UP.

“God would not have us remain pressed down by dumb sorrow, with sore and breaking hearts. He would have us *look up* and behold His dear face of love. The blessed Saviour stands by many whose eyes are so blinded by tears that they do not discern Him. He longs to clasp our hands, to have us *look to Him* in simple faith... His heart is open to our griefs, our sorrows, and our trials...

We may keep the heart stayed upon Him and meditate upon His loving-kindness all the day. He will *lift the soul above* the daily sorrow and perplexity, into a realm of peace.”²⁰

Praise God He has changed our hopeless condition into one of hope and peace. We can keep our eyes on the problems and heartaches of the world, or we can choose to look to Jesus.

“Many make a serious mistake in their religious life by keeping the attention fixed upon their feelings and thus judging of their advancement or decline. Feelings are not a safe criterion. We are not to look within for evidence of our acceptance with God. We shall find there nothing but that which will discourage us. Our only hope is in ‘looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith’...

Those who look within for comfort will become weary and disappointed. A sense of our weakness and unworthiness should lead us with humility of heart to plead the atoning sacrifice of Christ. As we rely upon His merits we shall find rest and peace and joy.”²¹

So let us ‘remember’ to look by faith above the line.

When we study the Scriptures, read good books, pray, meditate, listen to messages of inspiration, claim the promises, sing hymns of praise, play sacred music, write words of encouragement, paint scenes of glory, share our faith with others, our faith can ascend to the heights of glory.

“Look unto Me, and be ye saved”, is the gracious invitation.

Our Glorious Representative

When Christ was born into humanity, He took our flesh, and in taking our flesh, He became us.

When Adam was formed, all the members of the human family were created in him, so also when the second man was formed, all the members of the human family were created *in Him*.

The divine Son of God gave Himself to the human family, not only *for* the human family, but *to* the human family. Thus humanity and divinity were forever united in Christ. “That is to say, Jesus Christ joined Himself to humanity and identified Himself with humanity and became humanity; he became we and we were there in Him.... Jesus Christ in Himself, joined humanity and divinity for all eternity.”²²

It was necessary that Christ be manifest in the flesh, as divinity needed a human side for obedience, for suffering, and for death.

- Divinity is righteous of itself, but to be efficacious *for* humanity, righteousness must be wrought *in* humanity.
- Divinity cannot be tempted, therefore to be a true representative of humanity, there must be a test, at least to the extent of the first representative *in* humanity. James 1:13.

- Divinity cannot die and for the “suffering of death”, the divine sufferer must be clothed with a body “that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.” Hebrews 2:9.14.

“For verily He (Christ) 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 has suffered being tempted, he is able to succour those that are tempted.” Hebrews 2:16-18.

Notice that Christ took upon Him the seed of Abraham, not the seed of Adam. The message is two-fold.

1. Christ took upon Himself human flesh like Adam, but not the seeds of sin, sown by Adam. His mind was pure and free from the taint of evil. 23
2. Although the flesh of both Adam and Abraham was weakened through sin, the promise came through Abraham, not Adam.

Jesus Christ was not born ‘in Adam’. He is our sinless Saviour, the Lamb without blemish.

It is beyond human comprehension, but it “is the most glorious truth of Christianity.

It is Christianity itself; it is the very core and life and heart of Christianity. He took our flesh, and our family was found in Him. What He did, humanity did in Him.” 24

It is the mystery of godliness, “God was manifest in the flesh...” 1 Timothy 3:16.

“The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God... Christ was a real man; He gave proof of His humility in becoming a man. Yet He was God in the flesh.

When we approach this subject, we would do well to heed the words spoken by Christ to Moses at the burning bush, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place where on thou standest is holy ground." We should come to this study with the humility of a learner, with a contrite heart.” 25

Are you willing to acknowledge the core of Christianity – that God, through His beloved Son, willingly entered the human race as your Representative, the father of the human race?

And are you willing to accept Jesus as your brother?

“He who is “holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners’, is not ashamed to call us brethren. In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love.” 26

Has Christ redeemed *you*?

Is He *your* Saviour?

If your answer to these question is in the affirmative, then everything Christ did in humanity belongs to you – righteousness, heaven, eternal life.

“But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets, *even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:* for there is no difference, for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:21.22.23.

God said to Abraham, ““Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them... So shall thy seed be’.

And he believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness.” Genesis 15:56. Romans 4:3. Galatians 3:6.

This experience of Abraham was written that we might understand righteousness is the gift of God. “Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him, but for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead.” Romans 4:23,24.

“Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour now? You can answer that in one moment, you know that you do. Then this moment thank the Lord that His righteousness is manifested unto you and upon you. He not only says it but He gives you witnesses to the fact – it is witnessed by the law and the prophets. That law which you have transgressed, that law that has shown you guilty before God, that very law ‘now’ in view of the manifestation of the righteousness of God, witnesses that you have a just claim to this righteousness and that you are thereby justified through the faith of Jesus Christ.” 27

The law and the prophets testify to this fact.

The moment the sinner surrenders to Christ, he stands in the sight of God uncondemned; for the righteousness of Christ is his: Christ's perfect obedience is imputed to him.

It is our privilege to go to Jesus and be cleansed, and to stand before the law without shame or remorse.

When we receive righteousness, we receive life, for it is impossible to separate the life of God from His righteousness. As certainly as righteousness is imputed, so is eternal life. “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” 1 John 5:11.

It is important at this point to be reminded that when we are speaking of being ‘in Christ’, it is always above the line. It is not *literal* for us, however, *it is ours* by faith.

This is a *spiritual* fact.

You and I were not *literally* ‘in Christ’ and therefore, the righteousness ‘we did in Him’ was not *literally* ours. The righteousness He wrought was through His obedience to the Law of God.

But when we accept Christ as our Saviour, God imputes to us the righteousness He saw us doing ‘in Christ’. When He looks at us, He sees us as perfect as His Son.

This is Justification, received by faith.

SPIRITUAL

All humanity obeyed ‘in Christ’
All humanity is righteous ‘in Christ’
All humanity is perfect ‘in Christ’
God sees His children as He sees His Son.

Are you willing to believe it?

The great principle of Christianity is “The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:16. Every gift is received by faith, “for by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8,9.

If God said it
Believe it

If you have failed God, the Scriptures require you to come before the Lord and confess your sins. If you are willing to do this, with true repentance – with a genuine desire to never repeat the sin – then God’s promise is, “He is faithful and just to forgive your sins, and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9.

All God asks is that you believe Him.

When you do, God sees you in the same way He sees His Son -- spotless, without a taint of sin.

“The word of God is self-fulfilling. This is the great truth presented everywhere in the Bible. This is the difference between the word of God and the word of men....

When the word is spoken by the Lord, there is at that moment in that word the living power to accomplish what the word expresses. It is not needed that the Lord employ any shadow of any other means than that word itself to accomplish what the words says.....” 28

“For He spake, and it was done.” Psalm 33:9.

“When God made His promise to Abraham, ‘because He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself’. This was an oath for the confirmation of the promise, which was in itself immutable. Moreover, the promise was confirmed in Christ.... The oath is really a pledge of His own existence. He swore by Himself. He has thereby declared that His life would be forfeited if His promise should fail. His promises are as enduring as Himself....

Upon the existence of God depends the existence of the heavens and the earth. But He has pledged His own existence to the fulfilment of His promises. Therefore the existence of the heavens, yea, of the entire universe, depends upon the fulfilment of the promises of God to the believing sinner. If a single sinner, no matter how unworthy, or insignificant, or obscure, should come to the Lord sincerely asking for pardon and holiness, and should fail to receive it, that instant the whole universe would become chaos, and vanish out of existence. But the sun, moon and stars still hold their places in the heavens, as a proof that God has never failed a single soul that put his trust in Him, and as a pledge that His mercies fail not.” 29

When Christ was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane and taken to the high priest, we were ‘in Him’. When He was interrogated through-out the night, we suffered with Him. At the dawn, when He was re-tried and taken to Pilate, you and I were there. When Pilate sent Him to the scourge, all the human race received those stripes ‘in Christ’.

They led Him to the place of the skull, and there they crucified Him. When they drove the nails through His sinless hands, you and I were secured to the tree ‘in Him’.

“He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities.... The Lord laid upon Him the iniquity of us all...” Isaiah 53:5.

In this *spiritual* reality of Representation, all humanity died the penalty for sin. Our debt is paid. When we accept Christ as our Saviour, God can justly credit us with having satisfied His justice, and ‘in Christ’ we are *spiritually* free.

No one can claim that He has *literally* died sin’s penalty, however, when our faith ascends to God, He is legally able to absolve us of the full penalty, for He saw us ‘in Christ’ on the cross of Calvary. We will never suffer the second death. Revelation 2:11.

Keep your eyes above the line, for that which is above is a declaration of an accomplished fact ‘in Christ’. You can say with confidence, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...” Galatians 2:20.

It is not something that might have happened; nor is it something you hope will take place in the future, but something that has taken place two thousand years ago ‘in Christ’.

“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead.” 2 Corinthians 5:14.

Everything has been met in Christ.

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (substitute or mercy seat) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God, to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness, that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” Romans 3:24-26.

The apostle Paul says, ‘If we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.’ Romans 6:8.

This is also a *spiritual* fact, for when God raised Christ from the dead, we rose with Him. In the resurrection of His Son, the Father saw all humanity ‘in Him’.

But even more than that – when Christ ascended to heaven, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty on high, we sat down with Him, for “God hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ.” Ephesians 2:6. The Syriac version of this verse states, “God hath raised us up together and seated us with Him in Jesus the Messiah”.

From the slopes of the Mount of Olives, Jesus Christ ascended a glorified human being. The flesh, now made immortal, still had the nail prints in His hands and feet. When He sat down at the right hand of His Father, humanity sat down ‘in Him’.

If you are one of God’s sons or daughters, you are seated with Christ upon the throne of the universe.

Life eternal is a gift of incomprehensible love.

“The gift is ours to keep. If anyone has not this blessing, it is because he has not recognized the gift, or has deliberately thrown it away.”³⁰

If you look by faith above the line, you can claim everything your Representative did. It is all yours, because you were ‘in Him’ when He did it. And through the simple means of genuine faith, God is able to impute or credit the merit of Christ to your account.

It is yours *by faith*, yet it remains His *in fact*.

If you continue *to look up*, all will remain yours *by faith*. This is why it is called righteousness by faith.

“I am not ashamed of the gospel (good news) of Christ.... for therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’.” Romans 1:16.17

“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.” Philippians 3:9.

“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.” Galatians 5:5. Hebrews 11:7. Romans 4:3-5.

The righteousness that is received by faith contains the hope of eternal life, and if we continue in simple faith to cling to the promises, they will be fulfilled to us

Therefore, in every situation look above the line – read your Bible, study it, meditate on it. Feed upon its spiritual blessings. Claim the promises, learn them, recite them, make them personal, sing them, pray them.

Enjoy their beauty and value their counsel. Read them again and again. Love God’s law, appreciate its simplicity, its wisdom, and the revelation of its divine Author. Pray without ceasing.

Keep your thoughts upon heavenly things.

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

The Old Man

Many new Christians become discouraged when they discover evil desires still within their hearts. They thought the ‘old man’ was dead and expected their lives to be free from these inner struggles. Now they find a conflict raging within. Am I not a Christian, they ask. Have I not been born again?

Paul wrote of this experience. “I delight in the law of God after the inward man, but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.” Romans 7:18-23.

What is the law of sin in my flesh?

It is the sinful nature inherited from Adam as a consequence of his sin. It is the evil propensities and the desire for sin; this is the power that controls our lives. In Scripture, this bent to sin is called the old man, the sinful nature, the carnal mind, the law of sin, the body of death, the flesh. Romans 6:6. 7:14.18.23.24. 8:3.7.8. John 3:3-6. Colossians 3:9.

God does not impute guilt for being born in this sinful state, but it cannot go to heaven. When Christ died on the cross, “our old man (was) crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” Romans 6:6.

However, as we were not personally on the cross when Christ died, our carnal nature (or the old man) did not *literally* die. It is still very much alive.

When we accept Christ as our Saviour, the Christian life becomes a battle ground between the ‘law’ of the mind, and the ‘law’ of the flesh, and it will remain so until this corruptible shall put on incorruption at the second coming of Christ.

God’s plan for the believer is to build a character willing to choose to serve the Master, in spite of the fact that there is ‘another voice’ crying for the mastery.

“To be carnally-minded is death... because the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.... But to be spiritually-minded is life and peace.” Romans 8:6.7.6.

“Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him, knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him, for in that he died, he died unto sin once, but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead* indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:8-11.

The key thought is ‘reckon ye also’. If we were *literally* dead, there would be no need to reckon it so, but we are admonished to *reckon ourselves to be dead* to sin, but alive unto God.

This must be acknowledged for the rest of our lives.

When the old man cries out to be satisfied, we are to believe ‘he’ died on Calvary two thousand years ago. And if he is dead, it is impossible for ‘him’ to cry out, for the Bible says “the dead know not any thing” and “have no portion for ever of anything that is done under the sun”. Ecclesiastes 9:5.6.10.

The Christian walk is by faith all the way -- “the just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:17.

If we listen to the carnal nature, we will 'hear' the cry for sensual and pleasurable things, or hateful and cruel things. The old man will desire unhealthful activities, junk food, everything the flesh desires. 'I want to have it. I really feel like it. I want it. I must have it. And I want it NOW.'

As Christians, we are to "make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." Romans 13:14. Knowing that our old man has been crucified with Christ, we choose "not (to) serve sin." Romans 6:6.

Instead, we "walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit... that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us...." Romans 8:1.4.

The apostle admonishes us, "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...." Romans 6:12-14.

Unfortunately, most of us have learned falsely that it will take a lifetime to remove sin from our lives, and so we struggle on making promise after promise.

We cry, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Romans 7:24.

A graphic picture is painted of our predicament. "Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You can not control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God can not accept you; but you need not despair." 31

We must ask ourselves -- Am I willing to *never sin again*?

This is a serious question, perhaps not considered before, but it is a decision every Christian must make at the time they choose Christ as their Saviour. If it was not made, the question still awaits an answer: Will I accept that 'in Christ' I have died to sin?

Christ died *once* to sin, and being 'in Him', sin was finished for us upon Calvary. "For in that he died, he died unto sin once.... Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin...." Romans 6:10.11.

"He that is dead is freed from sin." Romans 6:7.

If we claim to be Christians, we must acknowledge the truth of God's Word -- Christians do not sin. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin.

"Whoso committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law, and ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not; whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

Little children, let no man deceive you, he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. *He that committeth sin is of the devil*, for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Whosoever is *born of God doth not commit sin*, for his seed remaineth in him, and *he cannot sin*, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil; whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." 1 John 3:4-10.

The Scriptures are clear, Christians are commandment-keepers.

It is true, "He who has not sufficient faith in Christ to believe that He can keep him from sinning, has not the faith that will give him an entrance into the kingdom of God." 32

All who claim to be Christians and yet continue in sin, are liars in God's sight. Their sinful course is counter-working the work of God. They are leading others into sin.

This statement is confirmed by John, "He that said I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4.

How is it possible for Christians not to sin?

"Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You can not change your heart, you can not of yourself give to God its affections... but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will..." 33

How can this be achieved?

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you..." James 4:7.8.

Look to your heavenly Father above the line, and pray in the name of Christ,

'Father, I choose to believe I died with Christ on the cross of Calvary, and have no right to this temptation. I put my will on the side of Christ and choose not to sin.'

"The will is not the taste or the inclination, but it is the deciding power which works in the children of men unto obedience to God or unto disobedience.... You will be in constant peril until you understand the true force of the will. You may believe and promise all things, but your promises or your faith are of no value until you put your will on the side of faith and action.... Your feelings, your impressions, your emotions, are not to be trusted, for they are not reliable... and the knowledge of your broken promises and your forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in yourself..." 34

But having submitted the will to God, it must be followed in resisting the devil. It is no use standing in front of the temptation and saying, 'I resist. I resist. I resist'. Sooner or later, the resolve will be broken, and Satan will gain the victory.

If it is possible to *literally* flee the temptation, do it. If it is not possible, keep looking up. Keep submitting to God. Keep giving Him your will.

If the temptation is in the mind, begin to sing the songs of Zion. Read the promises of God. Pray without ceasing. This is fighting the fight of faith. 1 Timothy 6:12.

If instead of submitting to God, we begin to parley with Satan regarding the desires of the carnal nature, we have already committed sin in the mind. But if we will immediately dismiss the cravings of the flesh, there is no guilt to the soul.

"There are thoughts and feelings suggested by Satan that annoy the best of men; but if they are not cherished, if they are repulsed as hateful, the soul is not contaminated with guilt, and no other is defiled by their influence." 35

Praise God for His mercy.

"Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers... and through constant surrender to God, you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith." 36

As you walk by faith, the Father looks upon you just as if you never sinned. Yes, He sees the Christian, not in the polluted garments of sin, but through His beloved Son – absolutely perfect and spotless, free from sin.

What joy and rejoicing there is for the surrendered Christian!

GOD THE FATHER



JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON



SUBMISSIVE CHRISTIAN

If along the way, you stumble and fall, God is merciful and does not condemn His blood-bought child. The apostle John says, “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.” 1 John 2:1.

“We shall often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes; but we are not to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by the enemy, we are not cast off, not forsaken and rejected of God. No; Christ is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” 37

Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery, “Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more”. John 8:11. Eventually the Saviour won her heart’s affections and she became a victorious Christian.

We are not to let little mishaps trouble us. “Small mistakes may be ordered by the Lord to save you from making larger mistakes.... Instead of bemoaning your weakness, and talking unbelief.... Begin to sing. Talk of the mercy and love of God.... Believe that your Saviour is full of compassion, tender pity and love.” 38

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.... He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities, for as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him, for he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.” Psalm 103:8,10-14.

“The master judges by the result, but our Father judges by the effort. Failure does not always mean fault. He knows how much things cost, and weighs them where others only measure.” 39

Another word by which the sinful nature is referred to is ‘self’, and for the Christian, this is the greatest burden we have to bear, as self is ever ready to strive for the mastery.

The only way we can walk safely is by constant renunciation of self. Constant war against the carnal mind must be maintained.

Overcoming self must be done day by day and year by year, as long as Satan is able to tempt Christians to sin.

Paul said, “I die daily.” 1 Corinthians 15:31.

Self must be buried with Christ. In other words, dying to self is accepting by faith that we have been crucified with Christ, and have no right to anything self demands.

We must “resist unto blood”. Hebrews 12:4.

However, dying to self does not mean we are of little worth. “Self-negation is not a part of humility or holiness or sanctification. Self-surrender does not mean the downgrading of self.”⁴⁰

“Self is not to be consulted. Pride, self-love, selfishness, avarice, covetousness, love of the world, hatred, suspicion, jealousy, evil surmisings, must all be subdued and sacrificed forever. When Christ shall appear, it will not be to correct these evils and then give a moral fitness for His coming....

When tempted to murmur, censure, and indulge in fretfulness, wounding those around you, and in so doing wounding your own soul, oh! let the deep, earnest, anxious inquiry come from your soul -- Shall I stand without fault before the throne of God? Only the faultless will be there.

None will be translated to heaven while their hearts are filled with the rubbish of earth. Every defect in the moral character must first be remedied, every stain removed by the cleansing blood of Christ, and all the unlovely, unlovable traits of character overcome.”⁴¹

When Jesus comes, He will not cleanse us of our sins. He will not remove the defects in our characters, or cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time. When the Lord comes, those who are holy will be holy still. Revelation 22:11.

“Let no one say, I can not remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not, then you can not overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God.”⁴²

“Unless the body of sin is destroyed, we will serve sin. Unless the old man is crucified, the body of sin is not destroyed. Then the way to be kept from sinning is the way of crucifixion and destruction.

The only question then for us each to settle is – Would I rather be crucified and destroyed than to sin? If with you it is everlastingly settled that you would rather be crucified and rather meet destruction this moment than to sin, you will never sin.”⁴³

This victory in its fulness is free to every soul in Christ Jesus. It is received by faith in Jesus. This is “the victory which overcometh the world, even our faith.” 1 John 5:4.

“The secret of the whole matter is to acknowledge that in us dwells no good thing; and that God alone is good; that we are nothing, but that He is everything; that we are weakness, but that power belongs to God.... Exaltation comes only through self-abasement. Christian activity comes only through passive submission to God, as the clay is passive in the hands of the potter.”⁴⁴

Justification by faith is “the laying of the glory of man in the dust, and the doing for man what he cannot do for himself.”⁴⁵

This is our decision.

Let us be as willing to die to self as the blind song writer George Matheson wrote in his darkest hour. ‘O Love That Will Not Let Me Go’.

O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee,
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

The New Man

When we studied the 'old man', we discovered that 'he' had been crucified on the cross of Calvary. We believe this by faith. It is also by faith we believe in the 'new man', for as Christ was raised from the dead, so are we raised with Him.

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4.

Christians are new people who serve in "newness of the Spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter". Romans 7:6. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Paul counsels believers to be renewed in the spirit of the mind and to "put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Ephesians 4:23,24.

As they have "put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man", they are renewed "in knowledge after the image of him that created him." Colossians 3:9,10.

Putting on the 'new man' means surrender to Christ, and being obedient to the Word of God. It means living as He did in thought, word and deed. Christ is sitting for His portrait in every disciple.

"Jesus took upon Himself man's nature, that He might leave a pattern for humanity, complete, perfect. He proposes to make us like Himself, true in every purpose, feeling and thought – true in heart, soul and life. This is Christianity. Our fallen nature must be purified, ennobled, consecrated by obedience to the truth." 46

Although the fallen nature is to be 'purified, ennobled, consecrated', it is not simply re-educated as one would learn better habits and a more pleasing lifestyle. Men and women have *by their own willpower* changed their way of living.

Instead, we must acknowledge by faith that the 'old man' is dead, and believe that Christ supplies the power to live a new life. "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...." Galatians 2:20.

However, the Saviour must use the faculties of the fallen nature to build the 'new man'. There is no new brain. The temperament is still the same – out-going, adventurous, reserved, studious, analytical, creative, a leader, whatever -- but instead of relying on our own strength, the Christian may say, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 1:13.

"We fail many times because we do not realize that Christ is with us by His Spirit as truly as when, in the days of His humiliation, He moved visibly upon the earth.

The lapse of time has wrought no change in His parting promise to His apostles as He was taken up from them into heaven: 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world'." 47

Through the Spirit, Christ was to abide continually in the hearts of His children. Their union with Him was closer than when He was personally with them.

As we commit ourselves to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory, and *He knows how much Spirit is needed to live a righteous life in fallen flesh!*

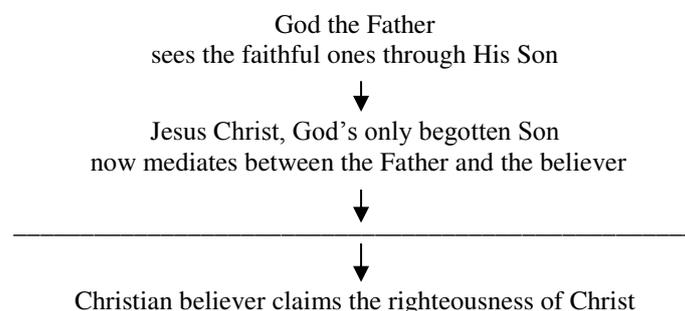
As Christians, we will perform good and obedient deeds, but in themselves, they are not righteous. It is the merit of Christ that will avail in our behalf. Through faith in Him, Christ will make all our imperfect efforts acceptable to God.

Faith enables the believer to claim the merit of Christ by which his polluted works are made acceptable to God.

"The religious services, the prayers, the praise, the penitent confession of sin ascend from true believers as incense to the heavenly sanctuary, but passing through the corrupt channels of humanity, they are so defiled that unless purified by blood, they can never be of value with God. They ascend not in spotless purity, and unless the Intercessor, who is at God's right hand, presents and purifies all by His righteousness, it is not acceptable to God.

All incense from earthly tabernacles must be moist with the cleansing drops of the blood of Christ. He holds before the Father the censer of His own merits, in which there is no taint of earthly corruption. He gathers into this censer the prayers, the praise, and the confessions of His people and with these He puts His own spotless righteousness. Then, perfumed with the merits of Christ's propitiation, the incense comes up before God wholly and entirely acceptable... The fragrance of this righteousness ascends like a cloud around the mercy seat." 48

Everything relating to the Father and the Son above the line is absolute perfection, but below the line, everything relating to the human race is sinful. When Christians claim the righteousness of Christ, they are seen by the Father, *through Christ*, as righteous and without spot or wrinkle.



Christ is the fragrance, the holy incense which makes (our) petitions acceptable to God. "All must be laid upon the fire of Christ's righteousness to cleanse it from its earthly odor before it rises in a cloud of fragrant incense." 49

"Christ's righteousness alone can avail for (man's) salvation, and this is the gift of God. This is the wedding garment in which you may appear as a welcome guest at the marriage supper of the Lamb." 50

“And to her (the bride of Christ) was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.” Revelation 19:7.8.

When a man or woman surrenders to Christ, their sins are pardoned, the “filthy garments” are removed and transferred to Jesus, the sinner’s representative, substitute and surety. Zechariah 3:3.4.

At the same moment, the Lord imputes the righteousness of Christ to the believer’s account and pronounces him righteous before the universe. This is justification by faith.

“In ourselves we are sinners, but in Christ we are righteous. Having *made* us righteous through the imputed righteousness of Christ, God pronounces us just, and treats us as just.” 51

Many Christians speak of justification as a declaration of righteousness, a forensic imputation only, but to “be pardoned in the way that Christ pardons, is not only to be forgiven, but to be renewed in the spirit of the mind. The Lord says, ‘A new heart will I give thee’. The image of Christ is to be stamped upon the very mind, heart and soul.... we have the mind of Christ.” 52

“And we find that when Christ covers us with the robe of His own righteousness, He does not furnish a cloak for sin, but takes the sin away. And this shows that the forgiveness of sins is something more than a mere form, something more than a mere entry in the books of record in heaven, to the effect that the sin has been cancelled.

The forgiveness of sins is a reality; it is something tangible, something that vitally affects the individual. It actually clears him from guilt; and if he is cleared from guilt, is justified, made righteous, he has certainly undergone a radical change. He is, indeed, another person, for he obtained this righteousness for the remission of sins in Christ... the full and free forgiveness of sins carries with it that wonderful and miraculous change known as the new birth, for a man cannot become a new creature except by a new birth. This is the same as having a new, or a clean, heart.” 53

So, not only is the righteousness of Christ imputed to the penitent believer, it is also imparted, even as part of the work of justification. “It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour.” 54

The impartation of the righteousness of Christ is the blending of Christ’s Spirit with humanity; it is the union of the human and the divine; it is the wedding garment. “This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us.” 55

The costly, spotless robe.... has been provided for the repenting, believing sinner, and he may say: “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord.... for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness....” Isaiah 61:10.

To retain this blood-bought robe, we must remain submitted to Christ, for it is by continual surrender of the will, by continual obedience, that the blessing of justification is retained.

“No one can believe with the heart unto righteousness, and obtain justification by faith, while continuing the practice of those things which the Word of God forbids, or while neglecting any known duty... It is an evidence that a man is not justified by faith when his works do not correspond to his profession... The faith that does not produce good works does not justify the soul.” 56

Our works show if our faith is genuine.

He who becomes a partaker of the divine nature will be in harmony with God’s great standard of righteousness, His holy law. This is the rule by which God measures the actions of men. This will be the test of character in the judgment.

However, we can do nothing, absolutely nothing, to commend ourselves to divine favor. We must not trust at all to ourselves or to our good works; but when as erring, sinful beings we come to Christ, we may find rest in His love.

The provision for a holy character is all in God's dear Son, for the "soul who sees Jesus by faith, repudiates his own righteousness. He sees himself as incomplete, his repentance insufficient, his strongest faith but feebleness, his most costly sacrifice as meager, and he sinks in humility at the foot of the cross.

But a voice speaks to him from the oracles of God's Word. In amazement he hears the messages, *'Ye are complete in Him'*. Now all is at rest in his soul. No longer must he strive to find some worthiness in himself, some meritorious deed by which to gain the favor of God.

Beholding the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world, he finds the peace of Christ; for pardon is written against his name, and he accepts the Word of God, *'Ye are complete in Him'*." 57

"When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him, to live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness." 58

Thus it is that the 'new man' lives by faith in the Son of God, not a stagnant life, but advancing from faith to faith, from character to character, and from glory to glory, all the while trusting Christ to complete the work He has begun in him. "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me..." Psalm 138:8. Philippians 1:6.

But we must cooperate with God in the work of overcoming, for self will continue to fight for the mastery. We are to strive, wrestle, agonize, watch, pray, lest we shall be overcome by the wily foe. This work of sanctification is the work of a lifetime; it must go on continually. Those who strive to look for goodness in themselves, will strive in vain, but all who strive in self-surrender and study of the Word will be overcomers.

The human agent must co-operate with God. "The heart is to be worked, subdued, plowed, harrowed, seeded, to bring forth its harvest to God in good works. 'Ye are God's building'. You cannot build yourself. There is a Power outside of yourself that must do the building of the church, putting brick upon brick, always co-operating with the faculties and powers given of God to man. The soul temple is to be sacred, holy, pure, and undefiled. There must be a co-partnership in which all the power is of God and all the glory belongs to God. The responsibility rests with us....

The law of the human and the divine action makes the receiver a laborer together with God. It brings man where he can, united with divinity, work the works of God. Humanity touches humanity. Divine power and the human agency combined will be a complete success, for Christ's righteousness accomplishes everything." 59

Genuine Christianity is unlike every other religion, for instead of obtaining its righteousness by works, it is purely by faith, a true faith that works by love and purifies the soul.

"Justification is wholly of grace and not procured by any works that fallen man can do... we possess nothing, can offer nothing in value, in work, in faith, which we have not first received of God... If you would gather together everything that is good and holy and noble and lovely in man and then present the subject to the angels of God as acting a part in the salvation of the human soul or in merit, the proposition would be rejected as treason." 60

There will be no point where we can rest in a satisfied condition, saying, 'I am sanctified', or 'I am saved'.

“No sanctified tongue will be found uttering these words till Christ shall come, and we enter in through the gates into the city of God. Then, with the utmost propriety, we may give glory to God and to the Lamb for eternal deliverance. As long as man is full of weakness – for of himself he cannot save his soul – he should never dare to say, ‘I am saved’.”⁶¹

“By grace are ye saved.... it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8.9.

Every Christian may say, “I am guilty before God; but Jesus is my Advocate. I have transgressed His law. I cannot save myself; but I make the precious blood that was shed on Calvary all my plea. I am lost in Adam, but restored in Christ.

God, who so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son to die, will not leave me to perish while repentant and in contrition of soul. He will not look upon me, for I am unworthy; but He will look upon the face of His Anointed, He will look upon my Substitute and Surety, and listen to the plea of my Advocate, who died for my sin, that I might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

By beholding Him I shall be changed into His image. I cannot change my own character, save by partaking of the grace of Him who is all goodness, righteousness, mercy and truth. But by beholding Him, I shall catch His spirit, and be transformed into His likeness...”⁶²

Not only will we become like Jesus through beholding Him, but by the indwelling of His own divine Spirit, our characters will become purified, elevated, ennobled and glorified. Praise God, for to have a connection with God and to be a partaker of His divine nature is of priceless value.

Never let us forget that we need the Spirit of God within us in order to reach heaven, and the work of Christ without us in order to give us a title to the immortal inheritance.

Dear Reader, God *has provided* salvation ‘in His Son’. It is a legal *fact*, a *spiritual* reality, but is it a *literal* experience for you?

Will you make certain it is a reality right now?

Christ in You

Let us go back to the beginning.

You will remember at the creation that Christ breathed into Adam’s nostrils the breath of life and “man became a living soul.” Genesis 2:7.

When Adam sinned, he lost the presence of Christ, and in this loss, the light that covered him disappeared. No longer was man a blending of humanity with divinity; the human race was only human.

However if humanity was to be redeemed, there *must be* a union of the human with the divine, for “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.” John 3:5. Therefore Christ united His divinity with humanity, not in exchanging His divine nature for a human one, but in clothing His divinity with humanity.

In this act, divinity “was manifested” in human flesh, uniting for ever the human and the divine. 1 John 1:2.

“That is to say, Jesus Christ joined himself to humanity, and identified himself with humanity and became humanity; and he became we, and we were there in him. It means that Jesus Christ in himself joined humanity and divinity to all eternity, and is today our representative in heaven, still bearing our human nature, and there is a divine-human man in heaven today – Jesus Christ.”⁶³

Even for one soul to be saved, the union of the human and the divine was necessary. No other being in the universe could fulfil this miracle except the Son of the living God; angels could not achieve it, nor holy beings from other worlds. Christ alone was able to represent the Deity.

“He who had been in the presence of the Father from the beginning, He who was the express image of the invisible God, was alone sufficient to accomplish this work. No verbal description could reveal God to the world. Through a life of purity, a life of perfect trust and submission to the will of God, a life of humiliation such as even the highest seraph in heaven would have shrunk from, God Himself must be revealed to humanity.”⁶⁴

At the conception through Mary, the divine life of the Son of God blended with humanity, and at Bethlehem He was manifested in human flesh.

Later in His life, the glory could not be contained, and at times divinity flashed through humanity, putting to silence those who refused to acknowledge Him as the Son of the Most High. Christ’s own personal glory escaped through the guise of the flesh.

“The truth, obscured as it was by a veil of humiliation, spoke to every heart with unmistakable evidence. This led to the words of Christ, ‘Ye know who I am’. Men and devils were compelled, by the shining forth of His glory, to confess, ‘Truly, this is the Son of God’. Thus God was revealed; thus Christ was glorified.”⁶⁵

During His life on earth, the divine-human Son kept His Father’s commandments, not by His own power, but by the Spirit of His Father, for “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself...”^{2 Corinthians 5:19.}

Jesus said, “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you, I speak not of myself, but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.”^{John 14:10. 5:19. 10:37.38.}

“Jesus rested upon the wisdom and strength of His heavenly Father. He declares, ‘The Lord God will help Me; therefore shall I not be confounded... Behold the Lord God will help Me.’ Christ’s humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature.”⁶⁶

Our Saviour never trusted in Himself. “I can of mine own self do nothing”, he said.^{John 5:30.} His trust was always in His Father. His dependence was upon the grace of God, and not upon His own divine nature.

“Though He (Christ) ... placed Himself entirely at the same disadvantage as are all mankind – made in all points like us and so ‘in all points tempted like as we are’ – yet not a single tendency or inclination of the flesh was ever allowed the slightest recognition, even in thought; every one of them was effectually killed at the root by the power of God, which through divine faith, He brought to humanity.”⁶⁷

In this glorious victory, Christ truly became the last Adam, the second Representative of the human race. On every point in which our first father failed, Christ succeeded. By faith in God, He received the power to resist the temptation to sin.

By this our Saviour condemned sin in human flesh.

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

Sadly, sinful men could only tolerate this perfect life a few short years, and in their endeavour to hide their own sins, the Jewish leaders condemned Jesus to die. Little did they realise that the Son of God came to this earth for the purpose of laying down His life, and so while carrying out their evil devices, the Pharisees unwittingly fulfilled God’s plans.

(Jesus not only condemned sin in the flesh by refusing to participate in it, but He also condemned it in the flesh by destroying that flesh on the cross. We are not judged morally guilty for being born with a fallen nature, but salvation would never be available had Jesus not condemned sin in the flesh through both obedience *and* death of that flesh)

Upon Calvary, Jesus Christ surrendered His life, and made it possible for every soul to say, in full assurance of Christian faith, ‘He loved me’, ‘He gave himself for me’, ‘I am crucified with Christ’. Galatians 2:20.

“Thus this verse is a beautiful and solid foundation of Christian faith for every soul in the world.... For any soul to say, ‘I am crucified with Christ’, is not speaking at a venture. It is not believing something on a guess. It is not saying a thing of which there is no certainty.

Every soul in this world can say in all truth and all sincerity, ‘I am crucified with Christ.’ It is but the acceptance of a fact, the acceptance of a thing that is already done, for this word is the statement of a fact.

It is a fact that Jesus Christ was crucified. And when He was crucified we also were crucified, for He was one of us. His name is Immanuel, which is “God with us”, not God with Him, but “God with us”... And when He was crucified, then who was it but “us” that was crucified?

This is the mighty truth announced in this text. Jesus Christ was “us”. He was of the same flesh and blood with us. He was of our very nature. He was in all points like us. “It behoved him to be made in all points like unto his brethren”. He emptied Himself, and was made in the likeness of men. He was “the last Adam”, and precisely as the first Adam was ourselves, so Christ, the last Adam, was ourselves...

As the first Adam was in himself the whole human race, so the last Adam was in himself the whole human race, and so when the last Adam was crucified, the whole human race – the old, sinful human race – was crucified with Him. And so it is written, “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....

In this blessed fact of the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, which was accomplished for every human soul, there is not only laid the foundation of faith for every soul, but in it there is given the gift of faith to every soul. And thus the cross of Christ is not only the wisdom of God displayed from God to us, but it is the very power of God manifested to deliver us from all sin and bring us to God.

O sinner, brother, sister, believe it. Oh, receive it. Surrender to this mighty truth. Say it: say it in full assurance of faith and say it forever. “I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Say it, for it is the truth, the very truth and wisdom and power of God, which saves the soul from all sin.” 68

Praise God for this wonderful truth.

Let us consider our chart again.

Everything that took place for our salvation is outside of us, and shown to be above the line. What God did for us 'in Christ' is our salvation, however it is not the sum total of our salvation. We can claim the righteous life lived by Christ as our own, but this in itself does not make us fit for heaven.

'In Adam' **DEATH** 'In Christ'



Perfect obedience – Holy Life
 Perfect sacrifice -- Satisfied Justice
 We 'lived and died' in Christ

All humanity is without power to obey
 and is unfit for heaven

“The Bible does not teach us that God calls us righteous simply because Jesus of Nazareth was righteous eighteen hundred years ago. It says that by His obedience we are made righteous.... He is alive today, as much as when He was in Judea..... “He ever liveth”.... And He lives in the hearts of those who believe on Him. Therefore, it is Christ’s present obedience in believers that makes them righteous. They can of themselves do nothing, and so God in His love does it *in them*. He is the whole story: ‘I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*.....” 69

This means that when we accept Christ as our Saviour, the One who lived the perfect life indwells us by His Spirit, and just as in Adam we were made partakers of a sinful nature, even so in Christ we shall be made partakers of the divine nature.

“When a man believes in Jesus as his personal Saviour, and accepts of his righteousness by faith, he becomes a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust; and he escapes from corruption through the indwelling of the holy Spirit.

Without divine nature, without the influence of the Spirit of God, man cannot work out his own salvation. Said Christ, ‘Without me ye can do nothing’.” 70

The Father and Jesus Christ accept the faith of the believer,
 and in response the Father gives His Spirit *through Christ* to dwell within.



When faith ascends, the human being becomes a partaker of the divine nature.

When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself.

“Genuine faith appropriates the righteousness of Christ, and the sinner is made an overcomer with Christ; for he is made a partaker of the divine nature, and thus divinity and humanity are combined.” 71

As a branch is grafted onto a tree, so the Christian in becoming a partaker of the divine nature, he absorbs the elements of the life of Christ.

“Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service. As the vine branch constantly draws the sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus and receive from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character....” 72

When a sinner accepts Jesus Christ as His Saviour, the Redeemer once again breathes into his nostrils the breath of life, and spiritual life begins to flow forth; the dead soul now lives by the power of the Creator.

Christ demonstrated this truth before He returned to heaven. He said to His disciples, “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.

This He will do for every one of His children.

And it is because of the actual presence of the divine power of Christ’s Spirit that we can have victory over sin.

“It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we can not change them.... There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ. His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God, to holiness.” 73

When assailed by temptation, the Bible clearly reveals that we must submit to God, giving Him our will, but unless He gives us His divine power, we cannot flee the devil. It is not human willpower that resists the temptation. It is *divine power* that gives us the victory, and that victory is God’s Spirit, given to us through Christ.

In other words, God dwelt in human flesh almost two thousand years ago, gaining the victory over sin. This victory that Christ wrought out in human flesh is for everyone in human flesh who today believes in Jesus.

“For by the Holy Spirit, the very presence of Christ Himself comes to the believer, for it is His constant desire to ‘grant you, according the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith’...

Thus the deliverance from the guilt of sin and from the power of sin which holds the believer in triumph over all the desires, the tendencies and inclinations of his sinful flesh, through the power of the Spirit of God – this is wrought today by the personal presence of Christ Jesus in human flesh in the believer, precisely as it was wrought by the personal presence of Christ in human flesh eighteen hundred and seventy years ago.

Christ is ever the same – ‘the same yesterday and today and forever’.... The gospel of Christ today is the same that it was eighteen hundred and seventy years ago. (Written 1901) Then it was ‘God manifest in the flesh’, and today it is the same, “God manifest in the same flesh, the flesh of sinful men, human flesh, just as human nature is.

That gospel is 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' – Christ in you just as you are, sins, sinfulness, and all; for He gave Himself for our sins and for our sinfulness. And you, just as you are, Christ has bought and God "hath made us accepted" in Him. He has received you just as you are and the gospel, 'Christ in you, the hope of glory', brings you under the reign of the grace of God, and through the Spirit of God makes you so subject to the power of Christ and of God, that 'the fruit of the Spirit' appears in you instead of 'the works of the flesh'." 74

"The Holy Spirit, which proceeds from the only-begotten Son of God, binds the human agent, body, soul, and spirit, to the perfect, divine-human nature of Christ.... Through faith human nature is assimilated with Christ's nature." 75

We are "changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:17.18.

"Christ abides in the heart, the whole nature is transformed. Christ's Spirit, His love, softens the heart, subdues the soul, and raises the thoughts and desires toward God and heaven." 76

If our works do not display the fruits of the divine Spirit, we must be warned that we are being motivated by a *false spirit* -- the spirit of the great deceiver.

Today is the day of decision, for we are living in the days when the mystery of God is to be finished – 'Christ in you, the hope of glory', 'God manifest in the flesh'.

"To what heights of holiness he (the Christian) may attain! No matter how much Satan may war against him, assaulting him where the flesh is weakest, he may abide under the shadow of the Almighty, and be filled with the fullness of God's strength. The One stronger than Satan may dwell in his heart continually; and so, looking at Satan's assaults as from a strong fortress, he may say, 'Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us'." 77

God's work in human flesh, or God manifested in human flesh, in you and me, is to be finished. We are to be perfected in Jesus Christ. By the Spirit we are to come "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Ephesians 4:13.

"It is by virtue of this union that we are to come forth from the grave – not merely as a manifestation of the power of Christ, but because, through faith, His life has become ours.

Those who see Christ in His true character, and receive Him into the heart, have everlasting life. It is through the Spirit that Christ dwells in us; and the Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of eternal life." 78

Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus.

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