

THE
REVELATION
OF
BIBLICAL
RIGHTEOUSNESS



BY C.M. WRIGHT

THE REVELATION OF BIBLICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Dear Reader, please note that some Scriptures will be used several times as needed to discuss certain points contained herein. ALSO, some topics/subjects will be discussed more than once in different contexts in order to give you more than one opportunity to consider that topic and its importance to you as a person and as a Christian. This REDUNDANCY is ON PURPOSE!)

“RIGHTEOUSNESS” IS THE BIBLICAL TERMINOLOGY THAT IDENTIFIES THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION THAT IS NECESSARY FOR HUMANS TO HAVE IN ORDER TO HAVE A FULL AND FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INFINITE I AM GOD, THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS.

GOD CREATED ALL MEN INNOCENT; AND THEREFORE, THEY ARE LEGALLY AND SPIRITUALLY “RIGHTEOUS.”

EVERY CHILD IS BORN INNOCENT; THEREFORE, EACH OF US WAS CREATED IN AN INITIAL “RIGHTEOUS” (INNOCENT) CONDITION OR STATE OF EXISTENCE.

WHILE THIS INITIAL STATE OF INNOCENCE IS NOT SPECIFICALLY A SPIRITUAL CONDITION AS MUCH AS A POSITION RELATIVE TO THE “LAWS OF GOD,” IT IS THE BEGINNING POINT OF LIFE — FOR ALL HUMANS.

BIBLICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS

versus

RELIGIOUS RIGHTEOUSNESS

No area of Christian Theology is more affected by the differences in Biblical understanding than those found in the contradictory perspectives of the promoters of religion versus the proponents of the priority of having a personal relationship with God than in the subject of the Doctrine of Righteousness.

While the Relationship proponents and the Religion promoters often use similar terminologies, the divergent definitions of those same “theological” terms could not be more contradictory.

Religion views righteousness, as a goal to be obtained by doing good deeds, and not doing bad deeds. Their religious view righteousness as a reward for their “goodness.” While this may be an overly simplified view of what is promoted by the religious, it is in fact, accurate.

In contrast to the views of those who are religious concerning righteousness, those who put having a personal relationship with God as their priority of salvation view righteousness, as a gift that is given to them by God as the foundation upon which any relationship with God must be predicated.

Those who are seeking personal relationship with God over meeting the strictures of religion understand that they have no means to be righteous within themselves. Furthermore, they believe that the scripture teaches that righteousness is a gift of God. Therefore, he is given all the glory/credit for their righteousness and they claim none.

SO, WHAT IS BIBLICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS?

THE PRIMARY GREEK WORD, TRANSLATED *RIGHTEOUS* IS DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

RIGHTEOUS (*Strong's Dictionary*) = g1342. *dikaios*; from 1349; equitable (in character or act); **by implication, innocent**, holy (absolutely or relatively): — just, meet, right(-eous).

AV (81) - righteous 41, just 33, right 5, meet 2;

(*Thayer's Lexicon*) g1342. *dikaios*;

I. righteous, observing divine laws

A. in a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God

1. of those who seem to themselves to be righteous, who pride themselves to be righteous, who pride themselves in their virtues, whether real or imagined

2. **innocent, faultless, guiltless**

3. used of him whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God, and who therefore needs no rectification in the heart or life

a. only Christ truly

4. approved of or acceptable of God

B. in a narrower sense, rendering to each his due and that in a judicial sense, passing just judgment on others, whether expressed in words or shown by the manner of dealing with them

Therefore, by definition, Biblical Righteousness is simply being “innocent,” being “guilt-free” concerning the Word and the Commands of God.

Guilt ALWAYS has to do with my past. I may have “fear” concerning my future, but I cannot “feel” guilt over something that I have yet to do or not do.

So, justification deals with my past and my feelings about myself because of my past actions (doing or not doing); thus, making me “innocent” (“righteous”) in God concerning my past. This gives me “peace” over my past, so that I may live in peace concerning both the present and the future.

IN GOD, BIBLICALLY, JUSTIFICATION IS THE PROCESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE PRODUCT.

JUSTIFY (*Strong's*) = g1344. *dikaioo*; from 1342;

to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent:

— free, justify(-ier), be righteous.

AV (40) - justify 37, be freed 1, be righteous 1, justifier 1;

(*Thayer's*) = g1344. *dikaioo*;

I. to render righteous or such he ought to be

II. to show, exhibit, evince, one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered

III. to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be

**JUST, JUSTIFY, and JUSTIFICATION
ALL COME FROM THE SAME ROOT GREEK WORD AS
RIGHT, RIGHTEOUS, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**Doing right is not the source of righteousness.
Being made Righteous is the source of the ability to do
right.**

**I can only be made righteous by justification.
I will never be righteous because I “do right”!
I can only be made righteous (innocent) by what CHRIST
HAS DONE!**

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

Likewise, sanctification is the ONLY source of true holiness.

I am not “holy” because I am separated.

I am separated as a result of being made holy through sanctification!

Being made Righteous MUST proceed being made Holy; otherwise, my “holiness” is FALSE holiness!

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

The very fact that the Holy Ghost through Paul uses the adjective TRUE before the word holiness in this verse automatically and by definition does more than simply imply that there is also a “false” holiness; IT EMPHATICALLY DECLARES THAT TO BE THE CASE!

NOW, LET'S CONSIDER WHY THERE IS A "NEED" FOR ALL OF US TO BE MADE RIGHTEOUS.

NO ONE IS BORN A "SINNER" — A TRANSGRESSOR OF THE LAWS OF GOD."

NO ONE!

Deuteronomy 24:16 The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

2 Chronicles 25:3-4

3 Now it came to pass, when the kingdom was established to him, that he slew his servants that had killed the king his father.

4 But he slew not their children, but did as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin.

Ezekiel 18:4 **Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.**

Ezekiel 18:19-32

19 Yet say ye, Why? doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, and hath kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live.

20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

21 But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

22 All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.

23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

24 But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

25 Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal?

26 When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.

27 Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.

28 Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

29 Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal?

30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

**WHETHER OR NOT ANY OF US IS A “SINNER” IS
STRICTLY A MATTER OF OUR OWN CHOICES/DECISIONS
AND NO ONE ELSE!**

**NEITHER YOU NOR I WAS BORN A “SINNER”!
WE WERE BORN “INNOCENT”!**

**“TRANSGRESSION OF GOD’S LAW” IS A
DELIBERATE ACT,
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT IT IS
DONE IN IGNORANCE,
AND WHETHER OR NOT THE DECISION IS
A CONSCIOUS ONE OR A SUBCONSCIOUS
ONE.**

**TO BECOME A SINNER (A TRANSGRESSOR), I MUST
CHOOSE OF MY OWN FREE WILL TO ACT CONTRARY TO
BOTH MY CONSCIENCE AND THE WORD OF GOD.**

**ONCE I HAVE BECOME A SINNER, I MUST BE SAVED BY SOMEONE
OTHER THAN MYSELF OR I WILL BE LOST FOREVER!**

**BUT, TO BE SAVED, I MUST OBEY THE SAME WORD OF GOD THAT I
HAVE VIOLATED (WHETHER I “SINNED” KNOWINGLY OR
UNKNOWNLY).**

**WHEN I OBEY THE GOSPEL BY FAITH IN GOD’S GOODNESS WHILE
ACKNOWLEDGING MY GUILT, THE LORD WILL FORGIVE (PARDON) ME
AND JUSTIFY (DECLARE ME INNOCENT) ME SO THAT I CAN BE MADE
RIGHTEOUS/INNOCENT IN HIM, THROUGH HIM, AND BY HIM — ALONE!**

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING FORGIVEN/PARDONED Versus BEING JUSTIFIED?

BEING FORGIVEN IS BEING PARDONED.

BEING PARDONED IS **NOT THE SAME THING AS BEING
JUSTIFIED!**

**The antidote for guilt/shame was revealed in the process
of Adam and Eve's guilt/shame being covered by the
coats of skins made by the Lord God.**

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, FOR HE WILL ABUNDANTLY PARDON.

PARDON (*Strong's*) = h5545 *calach*; a primitive root; **to forgive**: KJV-- forgive, pardon, spare.

Webster's Dictionary definition of *PARDON* is:

= to release (a person) from further punishment for a crime

= to cancel or not exact penalty for (an offense); forgive

Webster's Dictionary definition of *FORGIVE* is:

= to give up resentment against or the desire to punish; stop being angry with; pardon

= to give up all claim to punish or exact penalty for (an offense) as well as any resentment or vengeful feelings

= to cancel or remit (a debt)

Romans 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? IT IS GOD THAT JUSTIFIETH.

LAY CHARGE (*Strong's*) = g1458 egkaleo from 1722 and 2564; **to call in (as a debt or demand), i.e. bring to account (charge, criminate, etc.):**

KJV-- accuse, call in question, lay to the charge.

ACCUSATION, ACCUSE (LAY CHARGE) (*Vine's*) = *enkaleo* 1458^, **"to bring a charge against, or to come forward as an accuser against," lit. denotes "to call in" (en, "in," kaleo, "to call"), i. e., "to call (something) in or against (someone)"; hence, "to call to account, to accuse,"**

JUSTIFY / BE RIGHTEOUS (*Strong's*) = g1344 *dikaioo*; from 1342;

to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent:

KJV-- free, justify (-ier), be righteous.

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING GREEK WORDS ARE ETYMOLOGICALLY RELATED:

RIGHT/JUST (*Strong's*) = g1342 *dikaioo*; from g1349; equitable (in character or act); by implication, innocent, holy (absolutely or relatively):

KJV - just, meet, right (-eous).

RIGHTEOUSNESS (*Strong's*) = g1343 *dikaiosis*; from g1342; equity (of character or act); specially (Christian) justification:

KJV - righteousness.

JUSTLY/RIGHTEOUSLY (*Strong's*) = g1346 *dikaioo*; adverb from g1342; equitably:

KJV - justly, (to) righteously (-ness).

JUSTIFICATION (*Strong's*) = g1347 *dikaiosis*; from g1344; acquittal (for Christ's sake):

KJV - justification.

FROM THE GREEK WORDS INCLUDED ABOVE WE CAN COME TO THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

**JUSTIFICATION IS THE PROCESS;
RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE PRODUCT!**

Since righteousness is actually defined as “innocence” and to be made righteous is to be “declared innocent” or to receive “imputed innocence”; then, it follows that the solution to guilt/shame is the process of justification or God “making or declaring someone innocent.”

Since all of us are guilty because we have all committed sin, it is also accurate to say that none can be made righteous (declared innocent) by anything that they do of their own accord; such as, “good works” defined as “man-originated” works or efforts.

WHEN I AM PARDONED, I AM RELEASED FROM THE PENALTY THAT I DESERVE TO PAY BECAUSE I AM GUILTY OF SIN.

However, **the record remains unchanged:** I did wrong, but someone has graciously canceled my obligation to pay my own debt.

WHEN I AM "JUSTIFIED," I AM DECLARED INNOCENT!

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

**BEING JUSTIFIED IS GREATER THAN BEING
“PARDONED” (“FORGIVEN”)!**

It is "just as if" I had never done anything wrong.

**The record is made clear, blank;
there is no mark against me!**

I AM INNOCENT; I AM RIGHTEOUS IN HIM!

WE ALL STARTED OUT INNOCENT!

**GOD, BEING A JUST GOD AND
RIGHTEOUS JUDGE, GIVES TO EVERY
HUMAN BEING A CONSCIENCE FROM
BIRTH.**

CONSCIENCE (*Strong's*) = g4893. *syneidesis*; from a prolonged form of 4894;
co-perception, i.e. moral consciousness: — conscience.
AV (32) - conscience 32;

(Thayer's) = g4893. *syneidesis*;
I. the consciousness of anything
II. the soul as distinguishing between what is morally good and bad, prompting to do the former and shun the latter, commending one, condemning the other
 A. the conscience

1 Peter 3:21 (TPT)

**The [Greek] word often translated “conscience” (*syneidesis*)
actually means “a joint knowing,” “a virtuous co-knowledge,” or
“co-perception.”**

Romans 2:12-16

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

13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

15 Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.)

16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

**THE CONSCIENCE IN MAN IS THE VOICE
OF GOD SPEAKING INTO THE SPIRIT OF
EVERY HUMAN
— JUDGING RIGHT AND WRONG.**

EVERYONE IS BORN WITH A CONSCIENCE. EVERYONE!

**THIS FACT ALONE IS ENOUGH TO PROVE GOD'S
MOTIVE, LOVE, AND DESIGN.**

**AND, IT PROVES HIS BEING WILLING TO SAVE EVERY
HUMAN BEING.**

**2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward,
not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

Romans 11:32 **For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.**

1 Timothy 2:3-6

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE TO SO REJECT THE CONSCIENCE THAT IT CEASES TO WORK ANY MORE.

1 Timothy 4:1-3

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

1 Timothy 4:2 (*AMPC*)

2 **Through the hypocrisy and pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared (cauterized),**

1 Timothy 4:2 (*TPT*)

2 **Hypocritical liars will deceive many, and their consciences won't bother them at all!**

1 Timothy 4:2 (*GNT*)

2 **Such teachings are spread by deceitful liars, whose consciences are dead, as if burnt with a hot iron.**

Ephesians 4:17-19

17 **This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,**

18 **Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:**

19 **WHO BEING PAST FEELING** have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Romans 1:16-32

16 **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

17 **For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith.**

18 **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;**

19 **Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them [CONSCIENCE].**

20 **For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE:**

21 **Because that, when they knew God [conscience], they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

22 **Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,**

23 **And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.**

24 **Wherefore God also gave them up [GOD GAVE THEM UP] to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:**

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up [GOD GAVE THEM UP] unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Romans 1:28 (Wuest An Expanded Translation)

28 And even as after putting God to the test for the purpose of approving Him should He meet their specifications, and finding that He did not, they disapproved of holding Him in their full and precise knowledge, God gave them up to a mind that would not meet the test for that which a mind was meant, to practice those things which were not becoming or fitting;

THE UNDENIABLE, UNCHANGABLE, AND INVIOLEABLE PRINCIPLE OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

**OFFENDING IN ONE POINT OF THE LAW
MAKES ONE GUILTY OF "ALL OF THE
LAW"**

— FROM A PENALTY STANDPOINT.

James 2:10 **For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.**

Galatians 3:10-12

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in ALL THINGS which are written in the book of the law to do them.

11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 **For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.**

Romans 3:9-31

9 What then? Are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

10 As it is written, THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable;

THERE IS NONE THAT DOETH GOOD, NO, NOT ONE.

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit;
the poison of asps is under their lips:

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

17 And the way of peace have they not known:

18 THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.

**19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith,
it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth
may be stopped, and ALL THE WORLD MAY BECOME
GUILTY BEFORE GOD.**

**20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified
in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being
witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and
upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

**23 FOR ALL HAVE SINNED, AND COME SHORT OF THE
GLORY OF GOD;**

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ
Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to
declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the
forbearance of God;

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the
justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by
the law of faith.

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

29 Is he the God of the Jews only? Is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the
Gentiles also:

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

31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the
law.

ADAM AND EVE WERE CREATED “INNOCENT”/“RIGHTEOUS.”

IN ORDER FOR MAN TO HAVE A “CHOICE” SO THAT HE MAY EXPRESS HIS CHOICE TO KNOW, SERVE, AND LOVE GOD, THE LORD GOD GAVE MAN **ONE COMMAND IN THE GARDEN — DO NOT EAT OF THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.**

Genesis 2:15-17

15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for IN THE DAY that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

THIS WORD FROM GOD TO THE NEWLY CREATED MAN BECAME THE INITIAL EXPRESSION OF THE LAW OF GOD TO MANKIND.

**CONSIDER THIS IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE
OF RIGHTEOUSNESS:
EVIL DID NOT EXIST IN GOD'S UNIVERSE
UNTIL LUCIFER'S SIN!**

Genesis 3:22-24

22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and **EVIL**:

and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

**THERE WAS NO EVIL CREATED BY GOD IN THE
BEGINNING. THE WHOLE UNIVERSE WAS "SINLESS."**

**THEREFORE, THIS EVIL HAD TO COME INTO BEING
BEFORE MAN WAS CREATED, BUT **AFTER** THE
UNIVERSE WAS CREATED.**

**THE ONLY EVIL THAT EXISTED IN GOD'S CREATION
AFTER THE BEGINNING BUT BEFORE MAN CAME TO BE
HAD TO BE THE ACT OF THE ARCHANGEL LUCIFER
DECIDING TO TRY TO BE "LIKE GOD."**

Isaiah 14:12-15

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Lucifer's decision to "be like God" was the beginning of iniquity.

Ezekiel 28:14-15

14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

15 THOU WAST PERFECT IN THY WAYS FROM THE DAY THAT THOU WAST CREATED, TILL INIQUITY WAS FOUND IN THEE.

IN MANY CONTEXTS IN THE BIBLE, THE WORDS INIQUITY AND UNRIGHTEOUSNESS ARE USED INTERCHANGEABLY.

Knowing good and evil would make one "like" or "as God" was the appeal that the serpent made to Eve.

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and YE SHALL BE AS GODS, knowing good and evil.

INIQUITY IS NOT SUBMITTING TO THE WILL OF GOD.

Matthew 7:21-23

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work INIQUITY.

IT IS THE DESIRE TO “MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS” TO “BE IN CHARGE OF OUR LIVES.”

IT IS THIS DESIRE THAT IS THE FOUNDATION AND MOTIVATOR OF EVERY DECISION TO VIOLATE THE WORD/WILL OF GOD, WHETHER CONSCIOUSLY OR SUBCONSCIOUSLY.

THE WORD MAKES IT DEFINITELY CLEAR THAT ADAM AND EVE WERE CREATED INNOCENT (RIGHTEOUS).

Genesis 2:21-25

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

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

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

WHILE ADAM AND EVE WERE CREATED AND LIVED “NAKED” FROM THEIR BEGINNING, THEY WERE NOT ASHAMED.

WHY? BECAUSE THEY WERE “INNOCENT.”

THE WORD SAYS THAT THEY WERE NOT ASHAMED. THIS MEANS THAT IN THEIR INNOCENCE, THEY WERE NOT AWARE THAT THEY WERE NAKED.

BUT IN GOD’S SIGHT, THEY WERE NOT NAKED. WHY? BECAUSE THEY WERE **CLOTHED BY HIM WITH THE INNOCENCE THAT HE GAVE THEM AS A GIFT FROM HIM FROM THE BEGINNING.**

THEREFORE, IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, BECAUSE THEY WERE INNOCENT, THEY WERE “RIGHTEOUS.”

THE ADVERSARY IS THE ENEMY OF OUR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

AS HE DID FROM THE BEGINNING WITH ADAM AND EVE, THE ADVERSARY FOCUSES ALL OF HIS EFFORTS IN REGARDS TO MAN ON TARGETING MAN'S INNOCENCE/RIGHTEOUSNESS AND UNDERMINING IT, IN ORDER TO SEPARATE GOD AND MAN'S FELLOWSHIP.

Isaiah 59:1-2

1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Isaiah 64:4-8

4 For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.

5 Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.

6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

7 And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

FROM HIS FIRST INTERACTIONS WITH MANKIND, THE ADVERSARY'S MOST IMPORTANT "TARGET" HAS BEEN THE INNOCENCE (RIGHTEOUSNESS) OF MAN.

HE KNOWS THAT BOTH MAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD DURING TEMPORAL TIME AND MANKIND'S ETERNAL DESTINY ARE TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON MAN'S RIGHTEOUSNESS (INNOCENCE) IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.

2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with

unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?

for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

**WE MUST CHOOSE TO BE EITHER SEPARATED FROM
GOD,
OR SEPARATED FROM THOSE THINGS THAT SEPARATE
US FROM GOD,
SO THAT WE MAY BE JOINED WITH HIM IN
RELATIONSHIP, COMMUNION, AND FELLOWSHIP.**

**THE ADVERSARY KNOWS THAT US
HAVING A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR
PARTICIPATION WITH GOD'S PLAN,
PURPOSE, AND KINGDOM.**

**THEREFORE, IF THE ENEMY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO
THE UNDERMINING OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD,
WHICH IS BASED ON THE LORD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS BEING
IMPARTED TO US,
THEN THE ENEMY CAN NEUTRALIZE OUR SPIRITUAL
INVOLVEMENT,
WHICH ULTIMATELY ELIMINATES US AS A THREAT TO
HIS PURPOSES.**

**WITHOUT A GENUINE, PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH
GOD, WE ARE LEFT WITH A PSEUDO-SPIRITUAL FOCUS
OF ATTEMPTING TO "LIVE FOR GOD" AND "WORK FOR
GOD" THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF OUR FLESH!**

**WHEN WE ATTEMPT TO BE RIGHTEOUS BY THE
WORKS/DEEDS OF FLESH TO “DO RIGHT THINGS,”
THE ADVERSARY KNOWS THAT GOD WILL NOT WORK
IN AND THROUGH OUR “SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.”**

**REMEMBER, CAIN EXPECTED GOD TO ACCEPT, APPROVE OF,
AND “BLESS” HIS EFFORTS! GOD DID NOT!**

**AGAIN, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF OUR EFFORTS TO BE
RIGHTEOUS THROUGH OUR FLESH,
OUR SUPPOSEDLY “SPIRITUAL” EFFORTS/WORKS WILL HAVE
TO BE PRODUCED BY OUR FLESH (OUR TALENTS, INTELLECT,
STRENGTH, ETC.);**

**THEREFORE, AGAIN AS GOD DID WITH CAIN,
THE LORD WILL ALWAYS REJECT, DISAVOW, AND
DISOWN ALL FLESH PRODUCED WORKS.**

PERVERTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

Acts 13:8-11

8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of ALL righteousness,

WILT THOU NOT CEASE TO PERVERT THE RIGHT WAYS OF THE LORD?

11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

PERVERT (Strong's) = g1294. diastrephō; from 1223 and 4762; **to distort, i.e. (figuratively) misinterpret, or (morally) corrupt:** — perverse(-rt), turn away. AV (7) - perverse 4, pervert 2, turn away 1;

(Thayer's) = g1294. diastrephō;

I. **to distort, turn aside**

A. to oppose, plot against the saving purposes and plans of God

II. **to turn aside from the right path, to pervert, corrupt**

PERVERT (DICTIONARY) = **alter (something) from its original course, meaning, or state to a distortion or corruption of what was first intended.**

BY DEFINITION, MAN'S ATTEMPT TO COVER HIS OWN "NAKEDNESS" (LOSS OF "INNOCENCE") IS A "PERVERSION" OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Genesis 3:1-11

1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

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

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

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

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

7 AND THE EYES OF THEM BOTH WERE OPENED, AND THEY KNEW THAT THEY WERE NAKED; AND THEY SEWED FIG LEAVES TOGETHER, AND MADE THEMSELVES APRONS.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

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

11 And he said, **WHO TOLD THE THAT THOU WAS NAKED?** Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

IN THE GARDEN, MAN'S IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THE ADVERSARY POINTING OUT THAT THEY WERE NO LONGER INNOCENT BECAUSE THEIR EYES WERE "OPENED" TO THEIR NAKEDNESS WAS TO ATTEMPT TO COVER UP THE FACT THAT THEY WERE NO LONGER "INNOCENT" AND TO "HIDE" FROM GOD!

**CONSEQUENTLY, BY THESE ACTS THEY
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY KNEW THAT THEY WERE
NO LONGER “RIGHTEOUS.”**

**THUS, BEGAN THE FIRST EXPRESSION OF MAN’S OWN ATTEMPTS TO
RESTORE WHAT WAS LOST BY HIS TRANSGRESSION
— HIS INNOCENCE IN GOD,
I.E., THE LORD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS IN MAN AND THE COVERING OF
HIS NAKEDNESS.**

**AS WITH ADAM, THIS TENDENCY OF MAN TO ADDRESS HIS OWN
NAKEDNESS/LOSS OF INNOCENCE/HIS UNRIGHTEOUSNESS
THROUGH WHATEVER MEANS THAT SEEMS GOOD TO THE MAN IS THE
PRIMARY SOURCE OF ALL ONGOING DIVISION BETWEEN GOD AND
MAN.**

**MAN’S EFFORTS TO BE RIGHTEOUS BY “GOOD DEEDS” IS NOT A
“HARMLESS,” “WELL-INTENDED” RELIGIOUS EFFORT.**

IT IS A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO GOD’S WORD, PLAN, AND PURPOSE!

**FURTHERMORE, IT IS A DIRECT AFFRONT TO THE BLOOD OF JESUS
CHRIST AND A DENIAL OF THE NECESSITY OF THE SACRIFICE OF HIS
LIFE/THE SHEDDING OF HIS BLOOD FOR OUR SALVATION!**

**THE ADVERSARY’S INVOLVEMENT IN SUBTLY OR EVEN
OVERTLY ENCOURAGING MAN AND HIS ATTEMPTS TO
PRODUCE RIGHTEOUSNESS IN AND FOR HIMSELF IS
THE GREATEST FOCUS OF THE ENEMY OF OUR SOULS
IN REGARDS TO HIS DEALINGS WITH MANKIND.**

GOD'S PLAN TO DEAL WITH MAN'S LOSS OF INNOCENCE/RIGHTEOUSNESS PRE-EXISTED EVERYTHING — INCLUDING MANKIND.

FROM BEFORE THE BEGINNING, GOD ALWAYS HAD AND ALWAYS WILL HAVE A PLAN FOR HOW TO DEAL WITH MAN'S LOSS OF INNOCENCE/LOSS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

THE SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH OF THE SON OF GOD, THE CHRIST, IN THE MIND OF GOD **FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD PROVES THAT GOD KNEW WHAT WAS COMING, AND, BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE, PROVIDED THE MEANS WHEREBY MAN COULD BE RESTORED TO INNOCENCE (RIGHTEOUSNESS) THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT ONE.**

Revelation 13:7-8

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written **IN THE BOOK OF LIFE OF THE LAMB SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.**

1 Peter 1:13-25

13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

18 FORASMUCH AS YE KNOW THAT YE WERE NOT REDEEMED WITH CORRUPTIBLE THINGS, AS SILVER AND GOLD, FROM YOUR VAIN CONVERSATION RECEIVED BY TRADITION FROM YOUR FATHERS;

19 BUT WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, AS OF A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH AND WITHOUT SPOT:

20 WHO VERILY WAS FOREORDAINED BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, BUT WAS MANIFEST IN THESE LAST TIMES FOR YOU,

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

25 But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Hebrews 9:11-14

11 But Christ being come a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, **which he hath purchased with his own blood.**

Revelation 1:4-6

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth.

Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:5-6

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders,

stood a Lamb as it had been slain,

having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Revelation 7:13-14

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation,

and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 5:8-14

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, **Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;**

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, **Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.**

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth forever and ever.

Revelation 12:10-12

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb,** and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

The wrath of God in the Book of Revelation, which is specifically the wrath of the Lamb, frequently utilizes “blood“ as a part of the punishments of that wrath. Therefore, the Book of Revelation is a “bloody” book, whether it is speaking of the blood of the Lamb or the blood of His wrath.

The Book of Revelation makes it specifically AND definitively clear that the ONE who is the One opening all of the seals of wrath is “the Lamb.” He is the only one found worthy of opening those seals. So, EVERYTHING that happens in the Book of Revelation that is considered wrath occurs because the Lamb opened the “seals of wrath.”

Please note that everything that occurs after the opening of the “7th seal“ is directly a part of the Seventh Seal and proceeds from it. **THE SEVENTH SEAL WAS OPENED BY THE LAMB!**

Revelation 5:1-14

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And ONE OF THE ELDERS SAITH UNTO ME, WEEP NOT: BEHOLD, THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, THE ROOT OF DAVID, HATH PREVAILED TO OPEN THE BOOK, AND TO LOOSE THE SEVEN SEALS THEREOF.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth forever and ever.

THE OPENING OF THE SEALS OF WRATH

Revelation 6:1 And I saw when **THE LAMB OPENED ONE OF THE SEALS**, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

Revelation 6:3 And **when HE had opened the second seal**, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

Revelation 6:5 **And when HE had opened the third seal**, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

Revelation 6:7 **And when HE had opened the fourth seal**, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

Revelation 6:9 **And when HE had opened the fifth seal**, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

Revelation 6:12 **And I beheld when HE had opened the sixth seal**, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

Revelation 8:1 **And when HE had opened the seventh seal**, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

Grammatically and Biblically, since THE LAMB opened the first seal, then the “HE” who opened the next six Seals has to be THE LAMB also.

“He” is a relative pronoun which MUST refer back to the last proper noun mentioned in the context. Irrefutably, that “HE” is THE LAMB!

**AFTER THE MAN AND WOMAN SINNED,
THEY COVERED THEIR NAKEDNESS WITH
“APRONS” MADE OF “FIG LEAVES”
AND THEN THEY “HID FROM GOD.”**

**THIS WAS MAN’S RESPONSE TO HIS
OFFENSE AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD
AND HIS EFFORT TO MAKE UP FOR
HIS LOSS OF INNOCENCE?**

**THIS WAS THE “BEST” THAT MAN COULD
DO? **YES!**
AND, NOTHING THAT WE DO TODAY IS
ANY MORE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD!**

Genesis 3:1-24

1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

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

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

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

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

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

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

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

11 And he said, WHO TOLD THE THAT THOU WAS NAKED? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done?

And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

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

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

17 And unto Adam he said, **BECAUSE THOU HAST HEARKENED UNTO THE VOICE OF THY WIFE**, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

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

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

21 UNTO ADAM ALSO AND TO HIS WIFE DID THE LORD GOD MAKE COATS OF SKINS, AND CLOTHED THEM.

22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

**MAN TRIED TO USE “FIG LEAVES” AS A
“COVERING” TO HIDE HIS NAKEDNESS
FROM GOD.**

**BUT, ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD,
SOMEONE HAD TO DIE THAT DAY!**

**THEREFORE, GOD MADE “COATS OF
SKIN.”**

**IT IS THROUGH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD’S WORD
THAT WE KNOW THAT TO THIS POINT IN TIME **DEATH**
DID NOT EXIST IN THE EARTH.**

**DEATH ONLY CAME INTO EXISTENCE AS THE CURSE
ON SIN AND ON THE SINNER.**

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

Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

THEREFORE, THERE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ANY DEAD ANIMALS LAYING AROUND FROM WHICH GOD COULD HAVE MADE THESE “COATS OF SKINS.”

**BECAUSE GOD SAID,
DEATH HAD TO FOLLOW SIN ON THE DAY
OF THE SIN,
IN ORDER FOR GOD TO SPARE THE LIFE
OF ADAM AND EVE,
AN INNOCENT SUBSTITUTE HAD TO DIE
IN MAN’S PLACE!**

**IN ORDER TO FULFILL HIS WORD,
GOD SUBSTITUTED INNOCENT ANIMALS
AS THE “VICTIMS OF THE CURSE OF SIN”
AS THE ONES WHO HAD TO DIE THAT DAY.**

**CHRIST SUBMITTED HIMSELF TO BE THE VICTIM OF
THE CURSE OF SIN SO THAT WE COULD BE SAVED!**

Galatians 3:10-13

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, **BEING MADE A CURSE FOR US:** for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

**IN THE ECONOMY OF GOD, IN THE GARDEN,
THE SKINS OF THESE INNOCENT ANIMALS
REPRESENTED THE REPLACEMENT FOR MAN'S LOST
INNOCENCE,
WHICH WAS MANIFESTED THROUGH HIS NAKEDNESS.**

**GOD PROVIDING ADAM AND EVE WITH
“COATS OF SIN” TO CLOTHE THEIR
NAKEDNESS DEMONSTRATED AND
PROVED THAT HE WOULD NEVER
ACCEPT MAN'S EFFORTS TO “COVER HIS
NAKEDNESS” THROUGH HIS OWN MEANS
AND EFFORTS!**

**FROM THE MOMENT OF ADAM AND EVE'S SIN,
THE GUILTY CAN NEVER BECOME INNOCENT AGAIN
WITHIN THEMSELVES, AND THROUGH THEIR OWN
EFFORTS,
NO MATTER HOW “GOOD AND NOBLE” THEY MAY BE
PERCEIVED TO BE BY OTHER HUMANS, AND NO
MATTER HOW SEEMINGLY RIGHT OR PROPER TO MAN
THOSE EFFORTS ARE JUDGED BY HUMANS TO BE.**

**THEREFORE, FOR MEN TO BE ABLE TO BE “COVERED,”
I.E., NO LONGER NAKED,
SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE ONE WHO IS GUILTY
HAS TO PROVIDE “INNOCENCE” TO BE PUT ON
AS A “COVERING” OF MAN’S NAKEDNESS,
WHICH IS THE PROOF OF HIS GUILT.**

**FOR MAN TO BE INNOCENT/RIGHTEOUS
HIS GUILT/NAKEDNESS HAS TO BE
COVERED BY INNOCENCE.**

**THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION WAS
LIVED LITERALLY BY THE INNOCENT
ONE, CHRIST.**

**BUT, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS
MINISTRY HAS NOW BEEN TRANSFERRED
TO THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE
SACRIFICE OF THE ONE WHO IS THE
“RECONCILER.**

THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN “MADE INNOCENT” THROUGH HIS TAKING OF OUR GUILT UPON HIMSELF AND PAYING THE PENALTY FOR IT ARE NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXERCISING OF THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION AND THE PROPAGATING OF THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and HATH GIVEN TO US THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and HATH COMMITTED UNTO US THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

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

(NOTE: PARTS OF THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF RECONCILIATION HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE USED AGAIN. THIS IS ON PURPOSE! REPETITION IS THE ESSENCE OF TEACHING!)

RECONCILIATION NEEDS TO BE EXAMINED IN MORE DEPTH IN REGARDS TO THE SUBJECT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

ARE WE MADE RIGHT OR “SAVED” BY “DOING RIGHT” IN ORDER TO EARN OUR SALVATION?

FROM MAN’S PERSPECTIVE, SALVATION IS A “RESCUE MISSION.”

WE HUMANS SEE SALVATION AS GOD SPARING US FROM HELL.

**RARELY DO WHAT WE SEE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SALVATION
BEYOND THAT.**

BUT, IS THIS GOD’S PRIMARY PURPOSE FOR SAVING MAN?

**THE RESULTS OF THIS VIEWPOINT IS THAT THE “SAVED CONDITION“
IS EXPRESSED IN “DOING THE DO’S AND NOT DOING THE DON’TS,”
FAITHFULLY ATTENDING CHURCH SERVICES, ETC.**

**IF WE HUMANS DO THESE AND OTHER “RELIGIOUS THINGS,”
WE BELIEVE THAT WE ARE “SAVED.”**

**AGAIN, DO THESE THINGS MEET GOD’S EXPECTATIONS OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS AND OF SALVATION WHEN EXPRESSED/EXERCISED
BY MANKIND?**

**LET'S CONSIDER THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS,
BECAUSE IN FACT, THE ANSWER TO THESE TWO
QUESTIONS IS ACTUALLY ONE ANSWER.**

WHAT IS RECONCILIATION FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE?

GOD IS HOLY, PURE, AND RIGHTEOUS.

FURTHERMORE, HE CANNOT CHANGE.

HE CANNOT AND DOES NOT FELLOWSHIP WITH UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

**ACCORDING TO GOD, IN REFERRING TO HIMSELF,
HE IS LOVE.**

**HIS PRIMARY PURPOSE IN CREATING THE UNIVERSE WAS FOR THERE TO BE
A "DWELLING PLACE" FOR HUMANS.**

WHY? BECAUSE ONLY HUMANS ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.

**SO, HIS PURPOSE IN CREATING HUMANS IS TO HAVE A BEING TO
BOTH LOVE AND RECEIVE LOVE FROM.**

**THEREFORE, GOD'S ULTIMATE PURPOSE FOR CREATION WAS TO
HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BEINGS THAT HE CREATED "IN HIS
OWN IMAGE."**

IN THE GARDEN, THE LORD GOD FELLOWSHIPED WITH MAN DAILY.

The nature and expressions of this specific fellowship are not directly described in Scripture — only implied.

HOWEVER, THIS FELLOWSHIP WAS POSSIBLE ONLY BECAUSE MANKIND HAD NOT YET SINNED.

HOWEVER, AFTER SIN, GOD’S FELLOWSHIP WITH HUMANS WAS GREATLY RESTRICTED AND REDUCED IN BOTH SCOPE AND DEGREE BECAUSE OF THAT SIN.

It can be reasonably assumed by interpolation that the man and woman’s fellowship with God in the garden before sin more closely resembles the fellowship that we will participate in with God for eternity, rather than the fellowship that even saved souls can experience here and now.

HOWEVER, EVEN WITH THAT SIN-INDUCED CAVEAT, VERY FEW HUMANS HAVE EVER EXPERIENCED THE SIGNIFICANT DEPTHS OF RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO US IN THIS TEMPORAL LIFE.

The most notable “heroes of faith” in the Scripture are chronicled NOT for their “exploits,” but for their relationship with God: David, Enoch, Paul, etc.

**Of the Disciples/Apostles themselves,
the Jewish leaders said the following:**

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and **THEY TOOK KNOWLEDGE OF THEM, THAT THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS.**

**YET, AS ADAM AND EVE SORELY DISCOVERED, SIN
CHANGES EVERYTHING.**

Isaiah 59:1-2

1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

**THANKFULLY, GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE TO BE
ABLE TO DEAL WITH MAN'S SIN, AND ITS EFFECT UPON
THEIR RELATIONSHIP.**

THE LORD GOD HAD A PLAN!

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of **THE LAMB SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.**

1 John 1:8 - 2:2

1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2:1 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:
2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

**ACCORDING TO GOD'S FOREKNOWLEDGE,
THE LORD KNEW BEFORE HE CREATED MANKIND AND
GAVE THEM FREE-WILL THAT HUMANS WOULD SIN.**

**Yet, because God is love,
He made provisions to be able to restore His relationship
with man from before the foundation of the world.**

**THEREFORE, THE SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE OF
CHRIST ON THE CROSS WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL
TO THE INSTITUTING OF HIS PLAN OF REDEMPTION
UNTO RECONCILIATION.**

**CHRIST'S DEATH ENABLED GOD TO FORGIVE MAN, REMOVING THE
IMPEDIMENT OF SIN, AND THUS ENABLING GOD TO RESTORE
MANKIND'S FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM.**

**AGAIN, THIS RESTORATION OF A MAN'S RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD IS CALLED RECONCILIATION.**

**WE ARE NOT ONLY SAVED BY
RECONCILIATION,
WE ARE THEN EXPECTED TO FREELY
GIVE WHAT WE HAVE FREELY RECEIVED.**

Matthew 10:7-8

7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:
freely ye have received, freely give.

**THEREFORE, THE LORD GOD HAS COMMITTED TO US
BOTH THE WORD AND MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION
THAT WAS FIRST GIVEN TO THE MAN CHRIST JESUS (2
Corinthians 5:18-21).**

**THIS IS NOW OUR MINISTRY AND MISSION IN THE
EARTH TODAY.**

**ARE WE FAITHFULLY FULFILLING THIS CALL AND
COMMISSION OF GOD AS OUR FIRST PRIORITY?**

**THIS CALL AND COMMISSION IS EQUIVALENT TO SAYING
“PARTICIPATING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD WITH HIM”!**

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

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

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

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

THE MINISTRY AND WORD OF RECONCILIATION DOES NOT RECONCILE GOD TO MAN.

It is so that man can be reconciled to God.

This is the “good news” of the Gospel.

THE CHURCH (THE BODY OF CHRIST) IN GENERAL, AND ITS DISCIPLED-MEMBERS SPECIFICALLY ARE GOD'S AGENTS FOR THE WORK (MINISTRY) OF RECONCILIATION.

As such, we do not reconcile people to God, God does the reconciliation.

BUT, HE HAS INVESTED IN US THE WORK OF COMMUNICATING THE WORDS THAT WILL BRING PEOPLE TO RECONCILIATION WITH HIM.

THUS, THE WORK OF RECONCILIATION IS PUBLISHING TO MANKIND THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION.

(NKJV Study Bible - Notes) 2 Corinthians 5:18

Reconciled us to Himself:

Because of Christ's propitiation, His satisfaction of God's righteous demands, God is now able to turn toward us. God has made us new creatures in Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, a word meaning “a change of relation from enmity to peace.” We who have been reconciled to God have the privilege of telling others that they can be reconciled to Him as well.

(NKJV Study Bible - Notes) 2 Corinthians 5:19

God could change His relationship toward us because our sins have been imputed (reckoned) to Christ, instead of to us. In other words, God placed our sins on Christ, who knew no sin. His death was in our place and for our sins. If we believe in Jesus, God counts Jesus' righteousness as our righteousness (see v. 21). The word of reconciliation that has been entrusted to us is to tell all people that God wants to restore them to a relationship with Himself (see Rom 5:8). This is the Good News that everyone needs to hear.

(TPT Notes) 2 Corinthians 5:20

To be ambassadors for Christ means that we are his diplomatic agents of the highest rank sent to represent King Jesus and authorized to speak on his behalf. We are the voice of heaven to the earth, invested with royal power through the name of Jesus and authority of his blood.

(TPT Notes) 2 Corinthians 5:17

This would include our old identity, our life of sin, the power of Satan, the religious works of trying to please God, our old relationship with the world, and our old mind-sets. We are not reformed or simply refurbished, we are made completely new by our union with Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

WE CANNOT POSSIBLY COMPREHEND ALL OF THE CONSEQUENCES AND RAMIFICATIONS OF THE INFINITE GOD TAKING ON THE FORM OF A MAN AND BECOMING THE PROPITIATION FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE SIN-DEBT, FOR ALL OF LOST MANKIND.

Romans 8:31-32

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

**NEITHER CAN WE POSSIBLY COMPREHEND
THE WEIGHT OF THE RESPONSIBILITY
THAT GOD HAS PLACED UPON MANKIND
WHO HAS BECOME A PART OF HIS CHURCH AND KINGDOM
AND BEING HIS DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES
TO CARRY THE MESSAGE OF HIS LOVE TO LOST MANKIND.**

YET, WE MUST!

**WE ARE GOD'S SPECIFIC PLAN TO FULFILLED HIS WILL, HIS
PURPOSE, AND HIS KINGDOM IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE CHURCH
AGE.**

WILL WE HEED THE CALL AND BE FAITHFUL TO IT?

**TO FURTHER UNDERSTAND THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR
JUSTIFICATION TO
RIGHTEOUSNESS, WE NEED TO
UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING:**

**MAN WAS NOT REMOVED FROM THE
GARDEN BECAUSE OF SIN.**

**THE LORD “REDEEMED” MAN BY SLAYING THE
SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE,
SHEDDING THE BLOOD OF INNOCENT ANIMALS,
TAKING THEIR SKINS
AND MAKING COATS TO COVER THE NAKEDNESS OF
MANKIND;
THUS, LITERALLY MAKING THE MAN AND WOMAN
“RIGHTEOUS” (“INNOCENT”) AGAIN IN THE SIGHT OF
GOD.**

Genesis 3:21-24

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

**22 AND THE LORD GOD SAID, BEHOLD, THE MAN IS BECOME AS ONE OF US,
TO KNOW GOOD AND EVIL: AND NOW, LEST HE PUT FORTH HIS HAND, AND
TAKE ALSO OF THE TREE OF LIFE, AND EAT, AND LIVE FOREVER:**

23 THEREFORE the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

IN THIS TEXT, THE LORD GOD SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT MAN WAS REMOVED FROM THE GARDEN BECAUSE HE NOW KNEW GOOD AND EVIL AND GOD WANTED HIS ACCESS TO THE TREE OF LIFE DENIED.

**FROM THIS POINT FORWARD FOR THE
REST OF TIME,
ACCESS TO ETERNAL LIFE CAN ONLY
COME THROUGH THE SHED BLOOD OF
THE INNOCENT ONE!**

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

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

Matthew 26:28 FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.

“THE PASSOVER”

Exodus 12:1-14

**1 And the LORD spoke unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,
2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.**

3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month THEY SHALL TAKE TO THEM EVERY MAN A LAMB, ACCORDING TO THE HOUSE OF THEIR FATHERS, A LAMB FOR A HOUSE:

4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

7 AND THEY SHALL TAKE OF THE BLOOD, AND STRIKE IT ON THE TWO SIDE POSTS AND ON THE UPPER DOOR POST OF THE HOUSES, WHEREIN THEY SHALL EAT IT.

8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover.

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

13 AND THE BLOOD SHALL BE TO YOU FOR A TOKEN UPON THE HOUSES WHERE YE ARE: AND **WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD, I WILL PASS OVER YOU, AND THE PLAGUE SHALL NOT BE UPON YOU TO DESTROY YOU, WHEN I SMITE THE LAND OF EGYPT.**

14 AND THIS DAY SHALL BE UNTO YOU FOR A MEMORIAL; AND YE SHALL KEEP IT A FEAST TO THE LORD THROUGHOUT YOUR GENERATIONS; YE SHALL KEEP IT A FEAST BY AN ORDINANCE FOREVER.

THEREFORE, MAN WAS NOT REMOVED FROM THE GARDEN AS A PUNISHMENT FOR HIS SIN.

HE WAS REMOVED FROM THE GARDEN BECAUSE HE NOW KNEW *EVIL*.

MAN NOW KNEW EVIL BOTH BECAUSE OF CONSUMING THE FRUIT OF THE “KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL,”

BUT ALSO, BECAUSE THE “ACT OF EATING” THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT WAS AN EVIL ACT.

THE GOD-PROVIDED COVERING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS/INNOCENCE?

**AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE GARDEN,
FOR OUR SPIRITUAL NAKEDNESS/GUILT TO BE
COVERED,
A COVERING OF INNOCENCE/RIGHTEOUSNESS MUST
BE PROVIDED,
AND WE MUST PUT IT ON!**

Psalms 32:1-2

1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, WHO SIN IS COVERED.
2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Romans 4:1-21

1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?
2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.
3 **For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**
4 **Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.**
5 **BUT TO HIM THAT WORKETH NOT, BUT BELIEVETH ON HIM THAT JUSTIFIETH THE UNGODLY, HIS FAITH IS COUNTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**
6 **Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,**
7 **Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, AND WHO SINS ARE COVERED.**
8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.
9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

10 How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

11 And he received the SIGN OF CIRCUMCISION, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

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

16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

22 AND THEREFORE IT WAS IMPUTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my soul shall be joyful in my God;

for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation,

HE HATH COVERED ME WITH THE ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments,
and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

ONE OF THE PRIMARY MEANS OF IDENTIFYING THE BRIDE OF CHRIST IN HEAVEN IS THE ROBE (WHITE GARMENT) OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT SHE WILL BE WEARING.

Revelation 19:7-9

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: **for the fine linen is THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF SAINTS.**

9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

NOTE, it is true that everyone who is a part of the First Resurrection will be wearing white raiment, whether they are a part of the Bride of Christ or not.

However, this is true **ONLY** of those who are a part of the First Resurrection.

Yet, the primary group of saved-souls who are a part of that First Resurrection is **THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD.**

THE “GREAT TRIBULATION SAINTS,” OR THOSE SAVED DURING THE “SEVEN YEARS OF WRATH” WILL ALSO HAVE WHITE ROBES.

Revelation 7:9-17

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, **CLOTHED WITH WHITE ROBES**, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God,
12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, **WHAT ARE THESE WHICH ARE ARRAYED IN WHITE ROBES?** and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest.

And he said to me, **THESE ARE THEY WHICH CAME OUT OF GREAT TRIBULATION, AND HAVE WASHED THEIR ROBES, AND MADE THEM WHITE IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.**

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 **FOR THE LAMB WHICH IS IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE SHALL FEED THEM, AND SHALL LEAD [future tense] THEM UNTO LIVING FOUNTAINS OF WATERS:** and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

THIS GROUP IS NOT THE CHURCH! WHY? BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST WHILE ON EARTH.

THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO DRINK OF THE “FOUNTAINS OF LIVING WATER” UNTIL AFTER THEY ARRIVED IN HEAVEN (Rev 7:17).

These souls, who are seen **STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE**, do not receive the “Baptism of the Holy Ghost” until they get to heaven. The “living fountains of water” is a direct reference to the Baptism of the Holy Ghost (John 4:14; 7:37-39), which these “saints” will not have access to until they are saved “out of” great tribulation and arrive in heaven (Rev 7:9–17).

Even as those who repented before the Day of Pentecost and were baptized in Jesus’ name did not have the Holy Ghost because it was not yet available (John 7:37-39); so also, those who are saved during the Seven Years of Wrath will be able to repent and be baptized in Jesus’ name. Yet, they will not be able to receive the Holy Ghost because it will not be available to anyone after the Rapture (2 Thessalonians 2:4-7). As a result, they will NOT be “IN the church.” But, they will be a part of the First Resurrection.

**NOTE: THESE WILL NOT BE “BACKSLIDERS” FROM “THE CHURCH”!
THESE ARE NOT PEOPLE WHO WERE GIVEN A “SECOND CHANCE”
AFTER THE RAPTURE.**

Revelation 20:4-6

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them [The Church Rev - 4&5], and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands [the Great Tribulation Saints - Rev 7]; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

**ACCORDING TO THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE “HARVEST,”
THE FIRST RESURRECTION HAS THREE PARTS AS FOLLOWS:
CHRIST IS THE FIRST FRUITS,
THE CHURCH IS THE MAIN “HARVEST” (THE RAPTURE),
AND THOSE SAVED DURING THE SEVEN YEARS OF WRATH ARE THE
“GLEANINGS” (1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-23).**

CHRIST AS THE “FIRST FRUITS” WILL WEAR WHITE (Revelation 3:4).

THE CHURCH WILL BE RAPTURED BEFORE THE SEVEN YEARS OF WRATH AND IS THE “HARVEST” OF THE NEW TESTAMENT AND THEY WILL WEAR WHITE (Revelation 4:4; 19:8).

THE REVELATION SEVEN GROUP WHO ARE SAVED “OUT OF GREAT TRIBULATION” AND ARE RESURRECTED AT THE “SECOND COMING” WILL WEAR WHITE (Revelation 7:9,13-14).

**UNCOVERED NAKEDNESS,
OR THE LACK OF INNOCENCE,
THEREFORE, BEING UNRIGHTEOUSNESS
WILL BE ONE OF THE CHIEF
CHARACTERISTICS OF SOME (maybe
many) IN THE LAST DAY CHURCH.**

Revelation 3:14-22

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and **knowest not** that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and **NAKED**:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and **WHITE RAIMENT, THAT THOU MAYEST BE CLOTHED, AND THAT THE SHAME OF THY NAKEDNESS DO NOT APPEAR;**

and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

***BECAUSE THE CHURCH DESCRIBED IN THE SCRIPTURES
ABOVE DID NOT HAVE BIBLICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS, THEY ALSO
DID NOT RECOGNIZE THAT GOD WAS NOT MANIFESTED IN
THEIR MIDST.***

THEY HAD OBVIOUSLY LEARNED HOW TO “HAVE CHURCH” and “PREACH”

– WITHOUT JESUS PRESENT!

THEIR IGNORANCE OF THE ABSENCE OF THE LORD’S MANIFESTED PRESENCE AND HIS LIGHT CAUSED THEM TO BE COMPLETELY BLIND/IGNORANT OF THEIR TRUE SPIRITUAL CONDITION. THEY WERE TOTALLY CONVINCED THAT THEY WERE “OK”! BUT, THEY WERE NOT “OK”!

SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS IS “SELF-COVERED”!

**BECAUSE OF MAN’S INNATE NEED TO BE COVERED AND NOT NAKED,
THE ADVERSARY CANNOT PERSUADE MOST PEOPLE TO SIMPLY GO ABOUT “EXPOSED” BEFORE OTHER HUMANS.**

**SO, BECAUSE MAN WANTS TO BE COVERED (PROTECTED),
THE ADVERSARY IS SUBTLY INVOLVED IN SUGGESTING VARIOUS “SUBSTITUTE COVERINGS” FOR MAN’S NAKEDNESS.**

THIS IS CALLED “SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

THE ADVERSARY REALLY DOES NOT CARE WHAT FORM THESE “SELF COVERINGS” TAKE ON,

**JUST AS LONG AS MAN IS ATTEMPTING TO COVER THEMSELVES WITH “COVERINGS” OF THEIR OWN DESIGN,
RATHER THAN SUBMITTING TO BEING COVERED WITH “THE COVERINGS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS” PRESCRIBED AND SUPPLIED BY GOD, THE ADVERSARY’S PURPOSE IS ACCOMPLISHED.**

Isaiah 30:1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD,
that take counsel, but not of me;
and **THAT COVER WITH A COVERING, BUT NOT OF MY SPIRIT,**
that they may add sin to sin:

THE LORD WAS NOT REBUKING THESE PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY DID NOT
BELIEVE IN BEING “COVERED.” ADAM TOO BELIEVED IN BEING “COVERED.”

HE REBUKED THEM BECAUSE THEY COVERED THEMSELVES WITH A
COVERING OF THEIR OWN MAKING (A COVERING THAT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO
THEM/COMFORTABLE TO THEIR FLESH),
RATHER THAN SUBMITTING THEMSELVES TO BEING COVERED BY THE
COVERING SUPPLIED BY GOD ALONE.

**THE LORD SPECIFICALLY STATED
THAT THE ULTIMATE MOTIVE OF THE PERSON WHO COVERS
THEMSELVES WITH A COVERING OF THEIR OWN “GOOD DEEDS”
RATHER THAN SUBMITTING TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IS
THAT THEY MIGHT “ADD MORE SIN TO THEIR ‘SELF-COVERED UP’
SIN.”**

HYPOCRISY IS A PRODUCT OF “SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS”!

Matthew 23:27-28

27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, HYPOCRITES! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

28 EVEN SO YE ALSO OUTWARDLY APPEAR RIGHTEOUS UNTO MEN, BUT WITHIN YE ARE FULL OF **HYPOCRISY AND INIQUITY.**

The Greek word translated “hypocrisy” literally refers to actors on a stage. In the Greek theater an actor would hold up a mask in front of his face and speak in the voice of the character represented by the mask. The Holy Ghost chose this word to represent those who are attempting to be righteous through their own “good deeds.”

THEREFORE, BY DEFINITION, EVERY EFFORT TO BE RIGHTEOUS OTHER THAN THROUGH FAITH IN THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IS **AN ACT OF HYPOCRISY.**

WE ARE COVERED BY CHRIST'S OWN INNOCENCE!

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have **PUT ON CHRIST.**

BEING “BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST” IS WITHOUT QUESTION WATER BAPTISM.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPARATE WATER BAPTISM FROM OUR INITIAL JUSTIFICATION UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS AS WE WILL SEE IN MUCH OF THE REMAINDER OF THIS STUDY.

(THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST IS CHRIST THROUGH THE “SPIRIT OF CHRIST” [OR, THE SPIRIT THAT WAS WITHIN CHRIST] BEING BAPTIZED INTO US!)

WHAT ARE WE “PUTTING ON” IN WATER BAPTISM?

THE “ROBE” OF THE “LORD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

CHRIST’S OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS BECOMES OUR COVERING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Revelation 19:6-9

6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and HIS WIFE HATH MADE HERSELF READY.

8 And TO HER WAS GRANTED THAT SHE SHOULD BE ARRAYED IN FINE LINEN, CLEAN AND WHITE: FOR THE FINE LINEN IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF SAINTS.

9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Revelation 1:5-6

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

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

AS THE PREVIOUS SCRIPTURES HAVE SHOWN, THE ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS ALSO OUR “WEDDING GARMENT.”

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, **HE HATH COVERED ME WITH THE ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Matthew 22:1-14

1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,
2 THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE UNTO A CERTAIN KING, WHICH MADE A MARRIAGE FOR HIS SON.

3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and ALL THINGS ARE READY: COME UNTO THE MARRIAGE.

5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

[WE MUST BE CAREFUL HOW WE TREAT THOSE WITH A “MESSAGE” THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO HEAR!]

8 Then saith he to his servants, **THE WEDDING IS READY, BUT THEY WHICH WERE BIDDEN WERE NOT WORTHY.**

9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

11 And when the king came in to see the guests, **HE SAW THERE A MAN WHICH HAD NOT ON A WEDDING GARMENT:**

12 And he saith unto him, Friend, HOW CAMEST THOU IN HITHER NOT HAVING A WEDDING GARMENT? AND HE WAS SPEECHLESS.

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: **THAT EVERY MOUTH MAY BE STOPPED**, and all the world may become guilty before God.

13 THEN SAID THE KING TO THE SERVANTS, BIND HIM HAND AND FOOT, AND TAKE HIM AWAY, AND CAST HIM INTO OUTER DARKNESS; THERE SHALL BE WEeping AND GNASHING OF TEETH.

14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

MATTHEW 22 MAKES IT PAINFULLY OBVIOUS THAT WHATEVER THE “WEDDING GARMENT” IS, HAVING IT ON IS UNDOUBTEDLY ESSENTIAL TO ONE’S SALVATION!

The Passion Translation NOTE on Matthew 22:11

Those invited to come from the streets had no opportunity to buy wedding clothes. This wedding robe is a picture of the garment of righteousness that grace provides for us. The man without the wedding garment had one provided, but he didn’t want to change into new clothes. **A change is necessary, for our King provides garments of white linen for us to wear, our wedding garments.**

(Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary) Matthew 22:11
which had not on a wedding garment

—The language here is drawn from the following remarkable passage in Zep 1:7, 8:—**"Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God; for the day of the Lord is at hand: for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice, He hath bid His guests. And it shall come to pass in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with STRANGE APPAREL."** The custom in the East of presenting festival garments (see Ge 45:22; 2Ki 5:22), even though not clearly proved, is certainly presupposed here.

It undoubtedly means something which they bring not of their own—for how could they have any such dress who were gathered in from the highways indiscriminately?—but which they receive as their appropriate dress. And what can that be but what is meant by "putting on the Lord Jesus," as "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS?" (See Ps 45:13, 14). Nor could such language be strange to those in whose ears had so long resounded those words of prophetic joy: **"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath**

clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels" (Isa 61:10).

(Barnes' New Testament Notes) Matthew 22:11.

A man which had not on a wedding garment. Anciently, kings and princes were accustomed to make presents of changes of raiment to their friends and favourites, to refuse to receive which was an expression of highest contempt (Ge 14:22; 2 Ki 10:22; Es 6:8; 8:16).

It was, of course, expected that such garments would be worn when they came into the presence of the benefactor. The garments worn on festival occasions were chiefly long white robes; and it was the custom of the person who made the feast to prepare such robes to be worn by the guests. This renders the conduct of this man more inexcusable. He came in his common ordinary dress, as he was taken from the highway; and though he had not a garment of his own suitable for the occasion, yet one had been provided for him, if he had applied for it. His not doing it was expressive of the highest disrespect for the king. This beautifully represents the conduct of the hypocrite in the church. A garment of salvation might be his, wrought by the hands of the Saviour, and dyed in his blood. But the hypocrite chooses the filthy rags of his own righteousness, and thus offers the highest contempt for that provided in the gospel. He is to blame, not for being invited; not for coming, if he would come—for he is freely invited; but for offering the highest contempt to the King of Zion, in presenting himself with all his filth and rags, and in refusing to be saved in the way provided in the gospel.

**Zephaniah 1:8 And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD's sacrifice,
THAT I WILL PUNISH THE PRINCES, AND THE KING'S CHILDREN,
AND ALL SUCH AS ARE CLOTHED WITH STRANGE APPAREL.**

DOES THIS NOT MAKE THE POINT EXCEEDINGLY CLEAR?

ANY "GARMENT OF SO-CALLED RIGHTEOUSNESS" THAT DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM THE LORD JESUS CHRIST SUBJECTS THE WEARER TO ETERNAL PUNISHMENT!

2 Corinthians 5:1-5

1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

3 IF SO BE THAT BEING CLOTHED WE SHALL NOT BE FOUND NAKED.

4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

WE ARE WASHED, SANCTIFIED, AND JUSTIFIED BY WATER BAPTISM IN JESUS' NAME!

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are **WASHED, but ye are **SANCTIFIED**, but ye are **JUSTIFIED** in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**

THESE THREE THINGS TAKE PLACE IN WATER BAPTISM IN JESUS' NAME!

WE ARE “SAVED BY” THE **WASHING OF REGENERATION AND THE RENEWING OF THE HOLY GHOST.**

Titus 3:4-6

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,
5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy HE SAVED US, BY THE **WASHING OF REGENERATION, AND **RENEWING** OF THE HOLY GHOST;**
6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

**IF WE CANNOT BE SAVED BY THE WORKS OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS,
THEN WE CANNOT BE RIGHTEOUS BY “THOSE SAME WORKS.”**

WE HAVE TO PUT OFF THE OLD MAN IN ORDER TO PUT ON THE NEW MAN.

Ephesians 4:20-24

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,
18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:
19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.
20 But ye have not so learned Christ;
21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:
22 That ye PUT OFF concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;
23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Romans 13:11-14

11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: **LET US THEREFORE CAST OFF THE WORKS OF DARKNESS, and let us put on the armour of light.**

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But **PUT YE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Job 29:14 I put on righteousness, and it clothed me:
my judgment was as a robe and a diadem.

Colossians 3:8-14

8 But now ye also **PUT OFF ALL THESE**; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have **PUT OFF THE OLD MAN WITH HIS DEEDS**;

10 And **HAVE PUT ON THE NEW MAN, WHICH IS RENEWED IN KNOWLEDGE AFTER THE IMAGE OF HIM THAT CREATED HIM:**

11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

12 **PUT ON THEREFORE, AS THE ELECT OF GOD**, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14 And **ABOVE ALL THESE THINGS PUT ON CHARITY**, which is the bond of perfectness.

TO BE FREE FROM SIN, WE HAVE TO BE DEAD BY REPENTANCE AND BURIED WITH CHRIST BY BAPTISM.

Romans 6:1-12

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 **God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**

3 **KNOW YE NOT, THAT SO MANY OF US AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH?**

4 **THEREFORE WE ARE BURIED WITH HIM BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH: THAT LIKE AS CHRIST WAS RAISED UP FROM THE DEAD BY THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, EVEN SO WE ALSO SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.**

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

6 **KNOWING THIS, THAT OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM, THAT THE BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DESTROYED, THAT HENCEFORTH WE SHOULD NOT SERVE SIN.**

7 **For he that is dead is freed from sin.**

8 **Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:**

9 **Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.**

10 **For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.**

11 **LIKEWISE RECKON YE ALSO YOURSELVES TO BE DEAD INDEED UNTO SIN, BUT ALIVE UNTO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.**

12 **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.**

13 **Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.**

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

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

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18 BEING THEN MADE FREE FROM SIN, YE BECAME THE SERVANTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

19 I SPEAK AFTER THE MANNER OF MEN BECAUSE OF THE INFIRMITY OF YOUR FLESH: FOR AS YE HAVE YIELDED YOUR MEMBERS SERVANTS TO UNCLEANNESS AND TO INIQUITY UNTO INIQUITY; EVEN SO NOW YIELD YOUR MEMBERS SERVANTS TO RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTO HOLINESS.

20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

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

WE ARE NOT “DEAD TO SIN” BECAUSE OF ANYTHING THAT “WE HAVE DONE.”

WE ARE DEAD TO SIN BECAUSE OF WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE — IF WE BELIEVE IT AND TRUST IN IT!

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

WE WERE BAPTIZED “INTO CHRIST”!

WE CANNOT “ACCOMPLISH” THIS NEW MAN THROUGH OUR EFFORTS!

WE CAN ONLY BE A “NEW CREATURE” THROUGH YIELDING TO THE LORD’S WORK IN US!

WE ARE COMMANDED TO KEEP OUR GARMENT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS CLEAN

Revelation 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

James 1:26-27

26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 THAT HE MIGHT PRESENT IT TO HIMSELF A GLORIOUS CHURCH, NOT HAVING SPOT, OR WRINKLE, OR ANY SUCH THING; BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH.

1 Timothy 6:13-14

13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Peter 3:11-18

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 WHEREFORE, BELOVED, SEEING THAT YE LOOK FOR SUCH THINGS, BE DILIGENT THAT YE MAY BE FOUND OF HIM IN PEACE, WITHOUT SPOT, AND BLAMELESS.

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

Jude 1:22-25

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; **HATING EVEN THE GARMENT SPOTTED BY THE FLESH.**

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25 To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Revelation 3:1-6

1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis WHICH HAVE NOT DEFILED THEIR GARMENTS; AND THEY SHALL WALK WITH ME IN WHITE: for they are worthy.

5 He that overcometh, THE SAME SHALL BE CLOTHED IN WHITE RAIMENT; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

WE SOMETIMES NEED A “CHANGE OF GARMENTS”

Zechariah 3:1-10

1 And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

4 And he answered and spoke unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him.

And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

5 And I said, Let them set a fair miter upon his head. So they set a fair miter upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.

6 And the angel of the LORD protested unto Joshua, saying,

7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.

8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

9 For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

10 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbor under the vine and under the fig tree.

**AS STATED BEFORE, WE WERE GIVEN THE ROBE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS IN WATER BAPTISM IN JESUS' NAME.**

**BUT, WHEN WE CEASE TO PARTICIPATE WITH CHRIST'S
RIGHTEOUSNESS BY REVERTING TO ATTEMPTING TO BE
RIGHTEOUS BY DOING "GOOD DEEDS,"
WE CHANGE GARMENTS.**

**WE PUT OFF CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PUT ON OUR
OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**BUT, ALL OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS AS FILTHY RAGS (Isaiah
64:4).**

**THEREFORE, WE MUST CHANGE OUR GARMENTS BACK TO
CHRIST'S ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FIRST PUTTING OFF
THE "OLD MAN" GARMENT.**

THEN CHOOSING TO PUT BACK ON CHRIST!

Colossians 3:1-7

**1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ
sitteth on the right hand of God.**

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 FOR YE ARE DEAD, AND YOUR LIFE IS HID WITH CHRIST IN GOD.

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

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth;

**fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and
covetousness, which is idolatry:**

**6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of
disobedience:**

7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

WE ARE NOT JUST SUPPOSED TO BE “COVERED” BY CHRIST’S ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

WE ARE SUPPOSED TO “HIDDEN” IN HIM!

WASHED BY THE BLOOD AND THE WORD

Ephesians 5:22-33

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

1 John 1:7-9

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

John 3:3-6

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

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 JESUS ANSWERED, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO THEE, EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN OF WATER AND OF THE SPIRIT, HE CANNOT ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

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

1 Peter 3:18-22

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

21 The like figure whereunto EVEN BAPTISM DOTH ALSO NOW SAVE US (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

THE CLEANSING OF “REPENTANCE”

1 John 1:5 - 2:2

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

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

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to CLEANSE us from all UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2:1 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:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

CLEANSE WHAT?

OUR GARMENT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

PAUL'S INSTRUCTION TO BELIEVERS TO "PUT ON CHRIST" IS NOT A COMMAND TO BE "RE-BAPTIZED"!

John 13:1-17

1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

5 After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

10 JESUS SAITH TO HIM, HE THAT IS WASHED [WATER BAPTIZED] NEEDETH NOT SAVE TO WASH HIS FEET, BUT IS CLEAN EVERY WHIT: AND YE ARE CLEAN, BUT NOT ALL.

11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

PAUL'S INSTRUCTION IS A CALL TO BEING CLEANSED THROUGH REPENTANCE!

**AGAIN, IF WE FIRST “PUT ON CHRIST” IN WATER
BAPTISM, WHY DO WE NEED TO “PUT HIM ON” AGAIN?**

**BECAUSE WE “PUT HIM OFF” BY TRYING TO BE
RIGHTEOUS BY THE “GOOD” WORKS OF THE FLESH.**

Ephesians 4:17-24

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 AND THAT YE PUT ON THE NEW MAN, WHICH AFTER GOD IS CREATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUE HOLINESS.

HOW DID WE “PUT OFF” THE CHRIST WE FIRST PUT ON IN BAPTISM?

Galatians 3:1-14

1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

3 ARE YE SO FOOLISH? HAVING BEGUN IN THE SPIRIT, ARE YE NOW MADE PERFECT BY THE FLESH?

4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

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

7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

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

9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

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

14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

WE ARE FORBIDDEN BY JESUS TO REPAIR OUR GARMENTS BY MIXING “NEW” AND “OLD” CLOTH.

Matthew 9:14-17

14 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?

15 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

16 No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse.

17 Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

Mark 2:18-22

18 And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast: and they come and say unto him, Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?

19 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

20 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

21 No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse.

22 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.

Luke 5:33-39

33 And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?

34 And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?

35 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

36 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.
37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.
38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.
39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

THE SIGN/SEAL OF “NEW TESTAMENT” CIRCUMCISION — WATER BAPTISM

Romans 4:1-15

1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?
2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.
3 For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.
4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.
5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.
6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,
7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.
8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.
9 **Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.**
10 **How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.**
11 **AND HE RECEIVED THE SIGN OF CIRCUMCISION, A SEAL OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE FAITH WHICH HE HAD YET BEING UNCIRCUMCISED: THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FATHER OF ALL THEM THAT BELIEVE, THOUGH THEY BE NOT CIRCUMCISED; THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS MIGHT BE IMPUTED UNTO THEM ALSO:**

12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

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

Colossians 2:6-19

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

11 IN WHOM ALSO YE ARE CIRCUMCISED WITH THE CIRCUMCISION MADE WITHOUT HANDS, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 BURIED WITH HIM IN BAPTISM, WHEREIN ALSO YE ARE RISEN WITH HIM THROUGH THE FAITH OF THE OPERATION OF GOD, WHO HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, WATER BAPTISM IN JESUS' NAME IS OUR CIRCUMCISION.

IT IS ALSO THE SIGN/SEAL OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE LORD!

Romans 2:25-29

25 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.

26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?

27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfill the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?

28 FOR HE IS NOT A JEW, WHICH IS ONE OUTWARDLY; NEITHER IS THAT CIRCUMCISION, WHICH IS OUTWARD IN THE FLESH:

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

Deuteronomy 10:12-22

12 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

13 To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

14 Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

15 Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.

16 CIRCUMCISE THEREFORE THE FORESKIN OF YOUR HEART, AND BE NO MORE STIFFNECKED.

17 For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

18 He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.

19 Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

20 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.

21 He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

22 Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now the LORD thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude.

Ephesians 2:1-22

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

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

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by (grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

No Longer Strangers

11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

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

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

**PHILIPPIANS 3:3 FOR WE ARE THE CIRCUMCISION,
WHICH WORSHIP GOD IN THE SPIRIT, AND REJOICE IN
CHRIST JESUS, AND HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE
FLESH.**

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE “HOLY” AND THE “RIGHTEOUS” IN REGARDS TO LAST DAY PROPHECY.

**WHILE EVERYONE WHO IS A PART OF THE FINAL
“EVERLASTING KINGDOM” WILL HAVE TO BE
“RIGHTEOUS,”
THOSE WHO ARE PART OF THE FIRST RESURRECTION
(AND THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM) MUST ALSO BE
“HOLY.”**

Revelation 22:9-11

9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Revelation 20:1-6

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

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

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.
This is the first resurrection.

**6 BLESSED AND HOLY IS HE THAT HATH PART IN THE FIRST
RESURRECTION: ON SUCH THE SECOND DEATH HATH NO POWER,
BUT THEY SHALL BE PRIESTS OF GOD AND OF CHRIST, AND SHALL
REIGN WITH HIM A THOUSAND YEARS.**

Psalms 96:13 Before the LORD: for he cometh,
for he cometh to judge the earth:
he shall judge the world with righteousness,
and the people with his truth.

Psalms 98:9 Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth:
with righteousness shall he judge the world,
and the people with equity.

Acts 17:22-31

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I
perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this
inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him
declare I unto you.

24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of
heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25 Neither is worshiped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing,
seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of
the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of
their habitation;

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

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own
poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the
Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men
every where to repent:

**31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the
world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof
he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from
the dead.**

Romans 2:1-11

1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

5 BUT AFTER THY HARDNESS AND IMPENITENT HEART TREASUREST UP UNTO THYSELF WRATH AGAINST THE DAY OF WRATH AND REVELATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD;

6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life:

8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

10 But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

THE HEAVENS ARE A PLACE FOR THE RIGHTEOUS ONLY

2 Peter 3:11-13

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Isaiah 32:16-17

16 Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field.

17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

CAN AN UNRIGHTEOUS PERSON BE SAVED?

NO!

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 KNOW YE NOT THAT THE UNRIGHTEOUS SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Romans 1:18-19

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.

Romans 1:28-32

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 BEING FILLED WITH ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

BEING BIBLICALLY RIGHTEOUS IS IMPERATIVE TO SALVATION!

NOT BEING BIBLICALLY RIGHTEOUS CAUSES US TO BE LOST!

IF THE RIGHTEOUS ARE “BARELY” SAVED, THEN THE UNRIGHTEOUS HAVE NO HOPE OF BEING SAVED!

1 Peter 4:12-19

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

18 AND IF THE RIGHTEOUS SCARCELY BE SAVED, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

1 Peter 4:18 (*AMPC*)

18 And if the righteous are barely saved, what will become of the godless and wicked?

1 Peter 4:18 (*GWT*)

18 If it's hard for the person who has God's approval to be saved, what will happen to the godless sinner?

THE RIGHTEOUS DO RIGHTEOUS “DEEDS”!

**SOME WILL SAY AT THIS POINT:
BUT, I THOUGHT WE WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO DO
“DEEDS” TO BE RIGHTEOUS?**

**WE ARE NOT! BUT, WE ARE SUPPOSED TO “MANIFEST”
OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH DOING THOSE
THINGS WHICH RIGHTEOUSNESS DOES THROUGH US!**

**FOR EXAMPLE AGAIN, SPEAKING IN TONGUES DOES
NOT SAVE ME. BUT, IF THE ONE WHO SAVES ME IS
ABIDING IN ME, HE WILL SPEAK THROUGH ME.**

**AGAIN, IT IS NOT THE SPEAKING IN TONGUES THAT
SAVES ME, BUT SPEAKING TONGUES IS AN OUTWARD
MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY GHOST IN ME!**

**IF I HAVE RECEIVED RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM GOD AS A
GIFT, AND THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS IS ABIDING IN ME,
THEN IT WILL MANIFEST ITSELF THROUGH ME IN
“RIGHTEOUS DEEDS” AS PER THE FOLLOWING
SCRIPTURES.**

1 John 2:24 - 3:24

24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life,

26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

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

28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

29 IF YE KNOW THAT HE IS RIGHTEOUS, YE KNOW THAT EVERY ONE THAT DOETH RIGHTEOUSNESS IS BORN OF HIM.

3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

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

5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

7 Little children, let no man deceive you: HE THAT DOETH RIGHTEOUSNESS IS RIGHTEOUS, EVEN AS HE IS RIGHTEOUS.

8 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.

9 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.

10 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.

11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

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

RIGHTEOUS DEEDS “CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE OF OUR FAITH”

James 2:1-26

1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

8 If ye fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well:

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 EVEN SO FAITH, IF IT HATH NOT WORKS, IS DEAD, BEING ALONE.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 BUT WILT THOU KNOW, O VAIN MAN, THAT FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

26 FOR AS THE BODY WITHOUT THE SPIRIT IS DEAD, SO FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD ALSO.

BUT HOW DO WE DO “RIGHTEOUS DEEDS” THAT PLEASE GOD SO WE MIGHT BE SAVED?

Romans 7:4 - 8:4

4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

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

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

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

8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.

9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

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

12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

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

15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

8:1 THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THEM WHICH ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT.

2 FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS HATH MADE ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.

3 FOR WHAT THE LAW COULD NOT DO, IN THAT IT WAS WEAK THROUGH THE FLESH, GOD SENDING HIS OWN SON IN THE LIKENESS OF SINFUL FLESH, AND FOR SIN, CONDEMNED SIN IN THE FLESH:

4 THAT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT.

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Galatians 2:16-21

16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

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

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Colossians 3:1-7

1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

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

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

Romans 8:1-17

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

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

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

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

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

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

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

THE GRACE OF GOD IS THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE INDWELLING GOD ENABLING US TO DO WHAT WE CANNOT DO THROUGH OUR OWN STRENGTH.

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13 (*Expanded Bible*)

13 because God is working in you to help you want to do and be able to do [Literally – both to will/desire and to work] what pleases him.

Philippians 2:13 (*AMPC*)

13 [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.

Philippians 2:13 (*Wuest An Expanded Translation*)

13 for God is the One who is constantly putting forth His energy in you, both in the form of your being desirous of and of your doing His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13 (*BBE*)

13 For it is God who is the cause of your desires and of your acts, for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13 (*TPT*)

13 God will continually revitalize you, implanting within you the passion to do what pleases him.

Philippians 2:13 (*GNT*)

13 because God is always at work in you to make you willing and able to obey his own purpose.

(*Wuest Word Studies in the Greek New Testament*) Philippians 2:12-13

Now, in 2:12, 13, the apostle exhorts these saints to make the humility and self-abnegation exhibited by the Lord Jesus, a fact in their own lives. He calls them, "my beloved ones," the word being plural in the Greek. The distinctive word here for "love" refers to the love that God is, to the love produced in the heart by the Holy Spirit, a love that impels one to sacrifice one's self for the benefit of others. This is the heavenly love with which the great apostle loved the Philippians. He commends them for their constant obedience. Then he exhorts them to work out their own salvation. Let us be clear first of all as to what this exhortation does not mean. It does not mean to work for one's salvation, and for two reasons; first, Paul was writing to those who were already saved, and second, salvation is not a work of man for God, but a work of God for man, a work that was accomplished at the Cross. Neither does it mean to work out an inworked salvation. The idea of working out an inworked salvation is merely a play upon the English words "work out," and has no support from the Greek.

The words "work out" are the translation of a Greek word which means "to carry out to the goal, to carry to its ultimate conclusion." We say, "The student worked out a problem in arithmetic." That is, he carried the problem to its ultimate conclusion. This is the way it is used here. The Philippians are exhorted to carry their salvation to its ultimate conclusion, namely, Christlikeness. The salvation spoken of here is not justification, but sanctification, victory over sin and the living of a life pleasing to the Lord Jesus. They are to see to it that they make progress in their Christian lives. They are to do this with fear and trembling. This is not a slavish terror, but a wholesome caution. "This fear is self-distrust; it is tenderness of conscience; it is vigilance against temptation; it is the fear which inspiration opposes to high-mindedness in the admonition, 'be not high-minded but fear.' It is taking heed lest we fall; it is a constant apprehension of the deceitfulness of the heart, and of the insidiousness and power of inward corruption. It is the caution and circumspection which timidly shrinks from whatever would offend and dishonor God and the Saviour" (Vincent, quoting Wardlaw On Proverbs). This is human responsibility.

In verse thirteen we have divine enablement. The saints are to carry their salvation which God has given them and which thus belongs to them, to its ultimate goal, always remembering and depending upon the fact that it is God who is working in them both to will and to do of His good pleasure. The word "worketh" in the Greek means "to energize, to work effectively." Our words "energy" and "energize" come from it. The words "to will" are the translation of a Greek word meaning "to desire," and refer

to a desire that comes from one's emotions rather than from one's reason. It is this desire to do the good pleasure of God that is produced by divine energy in the heart of the saint as he definitely subjects himself to the Holy Spirit's ministry. It is God the Holy Spirit who energizes the saint, making him not only willing, but actively desirous of doing God's sweet will. But He does not merely leave the saint with the desire to do His will. He provides the necessary power to do it. This we have in the words "to do." The Greek construction implies habit, the habitual doing of God's will.

In verse twelve, we have human responsibility, in verse thirteen, divine enablement, a perfect balance which must be kept if the Christian life is to be lived at its best. It is not a "let go and let God" affair. It is a "take hold with God" business. It is a mutual co-operation with the Holy Spirit in an interest and an activity in the things of God. The saint must not merely rest in the Holy Spirit for victory over sin and the production of a holy life. He must in addition to this dependence upon the Spirit, say a positive NO to sin and exert himself to the doing of the right. Here we have that incomprehensible and mysterious interaction between the free will of man and the sovereign grace of God.

Translation: Wherefore, my beloved ones, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, carry to its ultimate conclusion your own salvation with fear and trembling, for God is the One who is constantly putting forth His power in you, both in the form of the constant activity of (your) being desirous of and the constant activity of (your) putting into operation His good pleasure.

1 Corinthians 15:9-11

9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: YET NOT I, BUT THE GRACE OF GOD WHICH WAS WITH ME.

11 Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

1 Corinthians 15:10 (AMPC)

10 But by the grace (the unmerited favor and blessing) of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not [found to be] for nothing (fruitless and without effect). In fact, I worked harder than all of them [the apostles], though it was not really I, but the grace (the unmerited favor and blessing) of God which was with me.

1 Corinthians 15:10 (*Wuest An Expanded Translation*)

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am. And His grace to me did not turn out in vain, but I labored to the point of exhaustion more abundantly than all of them;

however, not I myself, but the grace of God which labored with me.

1 Corinthians 15:10 (*TPT*)

10 But God's amazing grace has made me who I am! And his grace to me was not fruitless. In fact, I worked harder than all the rest, yet not in my own strength but God's, for his empowering grace is poured out upon me.

1 Corinthians 15:10 (*GNT*)

10 But by God's grace I am what I am, and the grace that he gave me was not without effect. On the contrary, I have worked harder than any of the other apostles, although it was not really my own doing, but God's grace working with me.

Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

(*Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary*) 1 Corinthians 15:10

grace of God ... with me—Compare "the Lord working with them" (Mark 16:20)...The "not I, but grace," implies, that though the human will concurred with God when brought by His Spirit into conformity with His will, yet "grace" so preponderated in the work, that his own co-operation is regarded as nothing, and grace as virtually the sole agent.

THE LORD ALONE GETS THE CREDIT/GLORY FOR THE WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT HE DOES THROUGH US BY HIS GRACE.

Isaiah 60:21 Thy people also shall be all righteous:
they shall inherit the land for ever,
the branch of my planting, the work of my hands,
THAT I MAY BE GLORIFIED.

Psalms 96:1-13

- 1 O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.
- 2 Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day.
- 3 **DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE HEATHEN, HIS WONDERS AMONG ALL PEOPLE.**
- 4 For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.
- 6 Honor and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- 7 **Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, GIVE UNTO THE LORD GLORY AND STRENGTH.**
- 8 **GIVE UNTO THE LORD THE GLORY DUE UNTO HIS NAME: BRING AN OFFERING, AND COME INTO HIS COURTS.**
- 9 O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.
- 10 Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof.
- 12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice
- 13 Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

THE MAN CHRIST JESUS IS THE EXAMPLE OF THE GRACE OF GOD WORKING THROUGH HUMANITY!

John 5:19-31

19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIMSELF, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.**

20 For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

23 That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him.

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

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

30 **I CAN OF MINE OWN SELF DO NOTHING: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.**

31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.

John 14:6-14

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

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

10 **Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: BUT THE FATHER THAT DWELLETH IN ME, HE DOETH THE WORKS.**

11 **Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.**

12 **VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME, THE WORKS THAT I DO SHALL HE DO ALSO; AND GREATER WORKS THAN THESE SHALL HE DO; BECAUSE I GO UNTO MY FATHER.**

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

John 1:10-18

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 **And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.**

15 John bear witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

16 And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17 **For the law was given by Moses, BUT GRACE AND TRUTH CAME BY JESUS CHRIST.**

18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

**IT IS A GREAT OFFENSE TO GOD AND HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS
WHEN WE ATTEMPT TO BE RIGHTEOUS
BY OUR OWN WORKS!**

**PRESENTING “OUR WORKS” TO GOD,
AS THE PROOF OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS
IS “DOING DESPITE
UNTO THE SPIRIT OF GRACE.”**

Hebrews 10:26-31

26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth,
there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall
devour the adversaries.

28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 **Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought
worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted
the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy
thing, and HATH DONE DESPITE UNTO THE SPIRIT OF GRACE?**

30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will
recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

WHOSE RIGHTEOUSNESS DO YOU HAVE?

YOURS OR GOD'S?

Philippians 3:7-11

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, **NOT HAVING MY OWN righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:**

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

**TO HAVE GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS,
AND THUS BE RIGHTEOUS IN HIS SIGHT,
WE MUST RENOUNCE "OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS,"
AND SUBMIT TO HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

Romans 10:1-4

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, **BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE.**

3 **For they being ignorant of God's righteousness,** and going about to establish their own righteousness, **HAVE NOT SUBMITTED THEMSELVES** unto the righteousness of God.

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

ARE YOU OF CAIN, OR ARE YOU OF ABEL?

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, **God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.**

SO, IS ABEL SPEAKING TO YOU?

Genesis 4:1-25

Cain and Abel

1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bore Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

2 And she again bore his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

15 And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

16 And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bore Enoch: and he built a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.

18 And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begot Mehujael: and Mehujael begot Methusael: and Methusael begot Lamech.

19 And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

20 And Adah bore Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle.

21 And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ.

22 And Zillah, she also bore Tubal-cain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

23 And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.

24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

25 And Adam knew his wife again; and she bore a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.

26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

1 John 3:10-15

10 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.

11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

**THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT FOCUSES
OF THE “CHRISTIAN LIFE” ARE NOT
THINGS TO “DO,” BUT ARE THINGS “TO
SEEK GOD FOR”:
SEEK YE FIRST HIS KINGDOM
AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

**Matthew 6:33 But seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness; and all these things shall be
added unto you.**

FIRST (*Strong's*) = NT:4412 *proton* (pro'-ton); neuter of NT:4413 as
adverb (with or without NT:3588); **firstly (in time, place, order, or
importance):**

KJV - before, at the beginning, chiefly (at, at the) first (of all).

FIRST (*Thayer's*) = NT:4412 *proton*

I. first in time or place

A. in any succession of things or persons

II. first in rank

A. influence, honour

B. chief

C. principal

III. first, at the first

**WE ARE TO SEEK FOR THE LORD’S KINGDOM AND HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS AS THE TOP TWO PRIORITIES OF OUR
DAY
— BOTH IN ORDER OF TIME AND IMPORTANCE.**

**EVERYTHING ELSE
— EVERYTHING ELSE
— IS AN “ADDITION”!**

**FRIEND, YOU CAN SEEK GOD FOR
“THINGS” EVEN “SPIRITUAL THINGS,”
OR YOU CAN SEEK GOD FOR HIMSELF!**

**YOU CAN SEEK GOD FOR REVIVAL AND “CHURCH
GROWTH,” OR YOU CAN SEEK GOD TO HAVE GOD!**

**YOU CAN SEEK GOD TO GET POWER, MIRACLES, GIFTS
OF THE SPIRIT, ETC., OR YOU CAN SEEK GOD TO KNOW
AND FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.**

**IF YOU “GET GOD,” THEN YOU GET ALL OF THAT AND
MORE!**

**YOU CAN SPEND YOUR TIME SEEKING FOR THE
“ADDITIONS,”**

**OR YOU CAN SEEK TO KNOW GOD AND GROW IN YOUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND YOUR SUBMISSION TO
YOUR PLACE IN HIS KINGDOM,**

AND, THEN THE LORD WILL “ADD” ALL OF THOSE THINGS TO YOU THAT HE HAS ORDAINED — WHEN AND HOW HE CHOOSES TO GIVE (ADD) THEM!

YOUR CHOICE! WHAT WILL YOUR FOCUS BE?

CRAVING (HUNGERING AND THIRSTING FOR) A “RIGHT” (RIGHTEOUS) RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

WE MUST SEEK HIM PERSONALLY UNTIL HE GIVES US THE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

What is a “right” relationship with the Father?

What is the **WRONG** righteousness?

What is God’s righteousness?

How do we receive it?

What does Righteousness do in us and through us?

We do not “do right” to be “righteous”!

We do right **BECAUSE** we have been made righteous **IN** and **THROUGH** the Lord Jesus Christ.

ANY “right” I do when I have not received and submitted to the righteousness of God is NOT accepted by God! Why? Because it is “SELF-righteousness”!

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPARATE THE REVELATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD FROM THE REVELATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Hebrews 1:8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

- Only time in the New Testament.

- *Strong's* = rectitude

- RECTITUDE = "rightness of principle or conduct; moral virtue"

NO ONE IS ABLE TO BE THIS KIND OF "RIGHTEOUS" BUT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!

SERVING GOD AND PLEASING HIM!

Romans 14:17-18

17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but

RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND PEACE, AND JOY in the Holy Ghost.

18 For HE THAT IN THESE THINGS SERVETH CHRIST IS ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, and approved of men.

THE RESULT IN OUR DAILY LIVES OF NOT KNOWING WHAT BIBLICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS IS MEANS THAT WE ALSO DO NOT KNOW HOW TO HAVE TRUE PEACE AND REAL JOY THAT FOLLOW FROM HAVING RIGHTEOUSNESS ACCORDING TO Romans 14:17.

**TRUE PEACE AND JOY CAN ONLY FOLLOW FIRST
HAVING RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

**THEY ARE BIBLICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE
OTHERWISE!**

In Romans 14:18, we are **COMMANDED** to SERVE GOD in righteousness, AND peace, AND joy.

**BUT, HOW CAN WE SERVE GOD WITH THINGS THAT WE DO NOT
HAVE?**

**ROMANS 14:17 CONTAINS THE THREE
STEP PROCESS
TO OUR WHOLENESS IN GOD.**

US HAVING WHOLENESS AND BEING RIGHTEOUS **CANNOT** BE
SEPARATED — BIBLICALLY OR SPIRITUALLY.

THEY ARE MUTUALLY DEPENDENT ONE UPON ANOTHER.

THE SAME PROCESS THAT MAKES ME WHOLE MAKES ME
RIGHTEOUS, AND VICE VERSA.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but
righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

**The foundation of and the agency that empowers
wholeness is the manifested Spirit of God.**

This manifestation of God's Spirit, power, and authority is called The Kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 4:20 **For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.**

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, BUT IN THE POWER OF GOD.

Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

IT IS THROUGH THE MANIFESTED AND DEMONSTRATED SPIRIT OF GOD THAT THE LORD DOES HIS WORK IN OUR LIVES.

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

Luke 11:20 **But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.**

Luke 9:1-2

1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Luke 10:8-9

8 And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

9 And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

RIGHTEOUSNESS: THE FIRST STEP TO WHOLENESS IS JUSTIFICATION UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS.

To summarize here, we are made righteous (innocent) by the Lord Jesus Christ taking our sins/guilt upon Himself and giving us His robe of righteousness (innocence) to put on. This covering of innocence is what the Almighty God sees when He looks at His justified children — He sees His own righteousness; His own innocence.

IN JOEL 2:25, WE ARE TOLD THAT THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE LORD'S -RESTORATION? OF US.

Joel 2:25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

HOW DOES THIS RESTORATION TAKE PLACE?

According to the Hebrew word *shalam* translated *restore* found in Joel 2:25, it is a two part process:

— To cause to be at peace with = The Lord enables and empowers us through His grace to be at peace with our past.

— To make whole or good, to make sound = Then the Lord heals the wounds caused by our past/shame, thus restoring us.

PEACE: THE NEXT STEP IS TO ALLOW THE LORD TO GIVE US PEACE.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

PEACE (*Strong's*) = g1515 *eirene*; probably from a primary verb *eiro* (to join); peace (literally or figuratively); by implication, prosperity:
KJV - one, peace, quietness, rest, set at one again.

PEACE (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary*) = g1515 In the OT the equivalent word *shalom* (7965) **meant wholeness, soundness, hence health, well-being, prosperity;**

The root word of the Greek word irene (peace) means to join. This implies a pre- existing brokenness. Peace is the condition of having the broken pieces re-joined together; this is synonymous to the wholeness that is a product of Biblical restoration.

This is confirmed by the fact that the Hebrew equivalent for the Greek word translated *peace* is *shalom*. Literally, *shalom* means wholeness and/or soundness which results in health, well-being, prosperity (spiritually, mentally, emotionally, etc.) (*Strong's*). Thus, this wholeness is called *Peace*.

3 John 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

This wholeness (peace) is a result or a work of righteousness or being made at peace with your past, being healed, and being declared innocent.

Isaiah 32:17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

WORK (*Strong's*) = h4639 *maaseh*; from h6213; an action (good or bad); generally, a transaction; abstractly, activity; by implication, a product (specifically, a poem) or (generally) property:

WORK (*Brown, Driver, and Briggs*) = h4639 *maaseh* — a deed, a work

- a) a deed, a thing done, an act
- b) work, labor
- c) business, pursuit
- d) undertaking, enterprise
- e) an achievement
- f) deeds, works (of deliverance and judgment)
- g) work, a thing made
- h) work (of God)
- i) a product

Peace does not just “happen.” It is produced by Righteousness “working” in us. Just like speaking in tongues is the initial external evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, having peace is the primary evidence that I have been made righteous by God.

“Present peace” or “peace with/in my present” can only exist AFTER I have made peace with my past — with the things that I have lost, including lost “innocence.”

Philippians 3:7-9

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

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

Once I have made peace with what I have already lost from my past, I can then make peace with what I fear I might lose in my present and future. These two things result in both His righteousness and His peace being manifested in my life.

**THE RESULT OF MAKING PEACE THROUGH BEING MADE RIGHTEOUS?
“I WIN CHRIST!”**

JOY: JOY COMES FROM HAVING GOD'S PEACE MADE AVAILABLE TO MANKIND ON THE EARTH.

Luke 2:10-14

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND **ON EARTH PEACE**, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

(**Verse 14 is often misquoted.** It does NOT say “peace on earth, good will toward men”! It says, “ON EARTH PEACE, good will toward men.” The difference? Christ was not born to bring “peace” TO the earth. He was born to make God’s peace in heaven available to men on earth. THIS shows His “good will towards mankind.” True peace on earth will NOT happen until Christ personally rules over the Earth from Jerusalem during His promised 1,000 year reign, called the *Millennial Kingdom*.)

Joy and peace are only possible in my life AFTER I have hope.

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

But hope is only possible after I have been made righteous (declared innocent, made whole). Only after dealing with my past can I have hope for my future.

Galatians 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Galatians 5:5 (*New Century Version*)

5 But we have the true hope that comes from being made right with God, and by the Spirit we wait eagerly for this hope.

Notice that in both of the verses quoted above (Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:5), the Holy Spirit is significant in producing the joy, hope, and peace.

**RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, AND JOY ARE NOT HUMAN EMOTIONS!
THEY ARE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS FROM GOD AND PRODUCED BY HIM
ALONE.**

Man cannot make himself “feel” any of these things through his own efforts or his intellect.

Neither can religion and its tenets produce them.

They are a work of the Spirit of God in our lives!

He is the source and Him alone.

ANY “FEELINGS” OF FREEDOM FROM GUILT, PEACE, JOY, OR HOPE THAT DID NOT/DO NOT ORIGINATE FROM GOD ALONE ARE NOT VALID AND WILL EVENTUALLY FAIL US!

**WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT
RIGHTEOUSNESS IS A “GIFT” NOT A
“REWARD”!**

**IT IS BIBLICALLY IMPOSSIBLE “TO BE
RIGHT” BY “DOING RIGHT” OR “DOING
ANYTHING FOR GOD”!**

Romans 3:9-28

9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

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

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

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

13 Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit;
the poison of asps is under their lips:
14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:
15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:
16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:
17 And the way of peace have they not known:
18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.
19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are
under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become
guilty before God.
20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight:
for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being
witnessed by the law and the prophets;
22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and
upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
24 BEING JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS GRACE THROUGH THE REDEMPTION
THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS:
25 WHOM GOD HATH SET FORTH TO BE A PROPITIATION THROUGH FAITH IN
HIS BLOOD, TO DECLARE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS
THAT ARE PAST, THROUGH THE FORBEARANCE OF GOD;
26 TO DECLARE, I SAY, AT THIS TIME HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS: THAT HE MIGHT
BE JUST, AND THE JUSTIFIER OF HIM WHICH BELIEVETH IN JESUS.
27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by
the law of faith.
28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the
law.

REMEMBER: JUSTIFICATION IS THE PROCESS; RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE PRODUCT!

JUSTIFY (*Strong's*) = g1344. *dikaioo*; from 1342;

to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent:

— free, justify(-ier), be righteous.

AV (40) - justify 37, be freed 1, be righteous 1, justifier 1;

(Thayer's) = g1344. *dikaioo*;

I. to render righteous or such he ought to be

II. to show, exhibit, evince, one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered

III. to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be

**JUST, JUSTIFY, and JUSTIFICATION
ALL COME FROM THE SAME ROOT GREEK WORD AS
RIGHT, RIGHTEOUS, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**ATTEMPTING TO BE RIGHTEOUS BY
WHAT WE DO,
RATHER THAN BEING RIGHTEOUS
THROUGH FAITH
BY THE LOVE AND WORKS OF THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST,
DEVALUES, DINEGRATES, AND CAN EVEN
NULLIFY
THE GIFT OF THE LORD'S
RIGHTEOUSNESS
AND IT'S WORK IN OUR LIVES.**

Romans 5:1-21

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.
8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.
12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.
15 But not as the offense, so also is the FREE GIFT. For if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.
16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification.
17 For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)
18 Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the FREE GIFT came upon all men unto justification of life.
19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
20 Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:
21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

WE MUST EXCEED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE PHARISEES!

Matthew 5:20 **For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall EXCEED the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

THEY WERE THE MOST “RELIGIOUS” OF ALL OF THE JEWS.

ONLY BY OUR RECEIVING THE LORD’S OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS AS A GIFT CAN OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS “EXCEED” THEIRS!

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Jeremiah 23:5-6

5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jeremiah 33:15-16

15 In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.

16 In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

**THE FOCUS OF THIS STUDY ASKED AS A QUESTION ONE FINAL TIME IS,
“WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO BE
RIGHTEOUS?”**

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

DOING WRONG MAKES ME UNRIGHTEOUS, BUT “DOING RIGHT” CANNOT MAKE ME RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE TO BE RIGHTEOUS IS TO BE “INNOCENT”!

DOING RIGHT AFTER HAVING DONE WRONG DOES NOT UNDO THE WRONG DONE!

THEREFORE, I CANNOT BECOME “INNOCENT” AGAIN ONCE I HAVE BECOME GUILTY OF VIOLATING GOD’S LAW BY DOING RIGHT — OBEYING THE LAW.

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

2 Corinthians 5:21 (Wuest an Expanded Translation)

21 He who did not know sin in an experiential way, on behalf of us and instead of us, was made [the representative of] sin, in order that, as for us, we might become a righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (*TPT*)

21 For God made the only one who did not know sin to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God through our union with him.

SIN CAME INTO BEING BY ONE MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE.

**RENEWED/RESTORED INNOCENCE (RIGHTEOUSNESS)
FOR MANKIND CAME INTO BEING BY ONE MAN'S
OBEDIENCE.**

Romans 5:12-21

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

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

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

15 But not as the offense, so also is the free gift. For if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification.

17 FOR IF BY ONE MAN'S OFFENSE DEATH REIGNED BY ONE; MUCH MORE THEY WHICH RECEIVE ABUNDANCE OF GRACE AND OF **THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL REIGN IN LIFE BY ONE, JESUS CHRIST.)**

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

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

**20 MOREOVER THE LAW ENTERED, THAT THE OFFENSE MIGHT
ABOUND. BUT WHERE SIN ABOUNDED, GRACE DID MUCH MORE
ABOUND:**

**21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign
through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**TO BE INNOCENT (RIGHTEOUS),
I HAVE TO BE MADE INNOCENT AS A GIFT.**

I CANNOT EARN INNOCENCE AFTER BEING GUILTY.

**SO THEREFORE, I CANNOT BE MADE “RIGHT” BY DOING
RIGHT,
I CAN ONLY BE MADE UNRIGHTEOUS BY DOING
WRONG.**

**“RIGHT DEEDS” PRODUCED BY THE SAME FLESH THAT
SINNED IN THE FIRST PLACE, CAN NEVER ELIMINATE
OR ERASE THE WRONG DONE BY DOING “RIGHT
DEEDS.”**

**THEREFORE, IN GOD’S SIGHT ONLY BY SOMEONE WHO
IS INNOCENT TAKING ON OUR GUILT
AND PAYING THE PENALTY FOR IT,
CAN THE “WRONG” THAT WE HAVE DONE BE “ATONED
FOR.”**

**ATTEMPTING TO “UNDO” OUR WRONGS BY OUR DOING
OWN “RIGHT” DEEDS TOTALLY DISHONORS THE
SACRIFICE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS FOR US
AND DEMONSTRATES OUR UNBELIEF IN THE
NECESSITY OF HIS SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH FOR US.**

**WHOEVER PAYS THE PENALTY FOR OUR WRONGS GETS
THE CREDIT FOR OUR SALVATION.**

**IF WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO UNDO OUR WRONGS BY
“RIGHT DEEDS,”
THEN WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO “SAVE OURSELVES.”**

**MUST WE OBEY THE WORD AFTER BEING MADE
RIGHTEOUS?
ABSOLUTELY!**

**BUT WE CANNOT OBEY THE WORD THROUGH OUR
FLESH BY DOING IT “FOR HIM”!**

**WE MUST SUBMIT TO THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST DOING
THE WORD THROUGH US!**

**THE SAME SPIRIT THAT INDWELT CHRIST AND
EMPOWERED THE MAN CHRIST JESUS TO BE ABLE TO
LIVE “SIN FREE” NOW DWELLS IN US.**

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

John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 14:8-14

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

YIELDING OUR MEMBERS TO RIGHTEOUSNESS TO “WORK” THROUGH US.

Romans 6:1-23

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

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

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

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Servants to God

15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

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

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

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

THE FOLLOWING IS THE PRICE THAT CHRIST PAID TO MAKE US RIGHTEOUS (INNOCENT) SO THAT WE MIGHT BE SAVED.

DO WE REALLY WANT TO DISHONOR AND PROFANE THE LORD'S SACRIFICE FOR US BY ATTEMPTING TO BYPASS IT WITH TRYING TO DO "GOOD WORKS" TO BECOME "INNOCENT" AGAIN ON OUR OWN — BY OUR OWN EFFORTS?

Isaiah 53:1-12

1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.