



A Three-Fold Cord

Creation, Redemption & Dominion

2nd Edition, Revised & Expanded

1. Chapter Outline

1. Chapter Outline
2. Introduction
3. The Three-Fold Fall – Messiah is the Solution.
 - a. Genesis 3 – Separation from God
 - b. Genesis 6 – Total Depravity
 - c. Genesis 11 – Separation of Nations
4. The Mystery of the Ages
5. Jesus Christ: The Redeemer
 - a. The Second Person of the Trinity
 - b. The Incarnation - Eternal Word Becomes Flesh
 - c. Born of A Virgin
 - d. Other Prophecies
 - e. The Man Christ Jesus
 - f. What did the people think about ‘the Christ’ and what was their expectations of Him?
 - i. Son of God
 - ii. Son of David
6. The Coronation of the King
7. The Cross – The King is Lifted Up – History’s Pivot Point
 - a. Confrontation
 - b. Enmity: Personification of The Antithesis
 - c. Broke Sabbath
 - d. Blasphemy
 - e. Prophecies of Death & Resurrection
8. Enthronement of The King - Ascension & Seating
9. The Three-Fold Redemption – Messiah’s Redemptive Solution.
 - a. Genesis 3 – Restoring the Presence of God
 - b. Genesis 6 – Restoring Righteousness
 - c. Genesis 11 – Restoring the Nations
10. The New Birth – New Creation Life
11. Being In Christ
12. The Restored Image
13. In the World but Not of the World
14. Transformation
15. Being Made Righteous
16. Glorious
17. The Holy Spirit: The Inner Work vs The Outer Work
 - a. The Inside
 - b. The Outside
18. More Than Beliefs – Experiential Christianity
19. Knowing God

- a. Everyone Already Knows
 - b. Old Testament
 - c. New Testament
- Appendix A – Pain is a Sign of Life
Appendix B – The Love of God

2. Introduction

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman, and between **your seed** and **her Seed**; He shall crush your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

Galatians 3:16

Now to **Abraham and his Seed** were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “**And to your Seed,**” **who is Christ.**

Isaiah 6:1-3

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw Yahweh sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”

Acts 2:14-17, 21

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;

21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Galatians 3:8-9

8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the [Nations] by faith, **preached the gospel to Abraham** beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed,” (Gen 18:18, 22:18). 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

Most people’s view of redemption is about people getting saved or converted rather than understanding a comprehensive plan of God to redeem and transform, not only individuals, but families, nations, and the whole of creation. All made possible by the Lamb upon the throne.

Redemption, like repentance, is a two-edged sword. The question must be asked. “From what, to what?” In both cases we are moving from one thing to a different thing, a before and after.

A common belief is that people are born as a clean slate or perfectly innocent. Then at some point in their lives they do something bad, and God consigns them to hell. The truth is that everyone is born (except Jesus) dead. The dead have no place in the Kingdom of God. No one is good enough and no one is too bad.

A person must be “born again” or literally “born from above” or “born of the Spirit.” The plan of God has been a rescue mission to save the dead by giving them “newness of life” or “resurrection life.” Only the living can exist eternally with the Living God. The dead are thrown into the Lake of Fire following final judgment. All of this is covered below.

When we talk about words like redemption and repentance there are often unasked questions. Redeemed from what to what? Repent from what, to what? The “from what” is answered in chapter 4, “Origins.” The “to what” is answered here.

3. The Three-Fold Fall

Covered in chapter 4, “Origins.” The arrival of the Messiah was expected to restore all things.

Acts 3:19-21

19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Psalms 110:1-2

1 Yahweh said to my Adoni, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”
2 Yahweh shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

Luke 19:27

But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.

A. Genesis 3

Man is separated from God and expelled from God’s house, ultimately resulting in death.

B. Genesis 6

Man becomes totally depraved resulting in much violence.
See the section on “Being Made Righteous.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

For [the Father] made [the Son] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

C. Genesis 11

The nations are divided and estranged from God and each other.

Romans 9:25-26

25 As He says also in Hosea (2:23): “I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved.” 26 “And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ There they shall be called sons of the living God, (Hos 1:10).”

4. The Mystery of the Ages

Romans 16:25-27

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the **revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began**

26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith— 27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is **the mystery of godliness**: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the [Nations], believed on in the world, received up in glory.

Mark 4:11

11 And He said to them, “To you it has been given to **know the mystery of the kingdom** of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables...”

1 Corinthians 2:6-8

6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we **speak the wisdom of God in a mystery**, the hidden wisdom which God **ordained before the ages for our glory**, 8 which none of the rulers of this age (Dt 32:7-8) knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Ephesians 1:7-10

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 **having made known to us the mystery of His will**, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth, in Him.

Ephesians 3:1-13

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by **revelation He made known to me the mystery** (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, **you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ**), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the [Nations] should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. 8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the [Nations] the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the **fellowship of the mystery**, which **from the beginning of the ages has been hidden** in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold **wisdom of God might be made known by the church** to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. 13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

Colossians 1:24 - 28

24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, 25 of which I became a

minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to **fulfill the word of God, 26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.** 27 To them **God willed to make known** what are the riches of the **glory of this mystery** among the [Nations]: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.** 28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

Colossians 2:1 - 3

1 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the **full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God,** both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Colossians 4:2-4

2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, **to speak the mystery of Christ,** for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

1 Timothy 3:8 - 16

8 Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, 9 holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. 10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. 11 Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. 14 These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; 15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. 16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:
God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the [Nations], believed on in the world, received up in glory.

5. Jesus Christ: The Redeemer

A. The Second Person of the Trinity

One Being: God, and Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Unity in diversity in the community of the Trinity. (Ravi Zacharias)

John 1:1-4, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the **Word was with God,** and the **Word was God.** 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
14 And the **Word became 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.

Mark 1:9-11

9 It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw **the heavens**

parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. 11 Then a voice came from heaven, “**You are My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.” Isa 64:1, Mark 15:38.

Acts 20:28

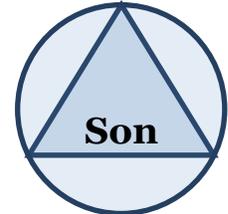
Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which **He purchased with His own blood**.

B. The Incarnation: The Eternal Word Becomes Flesh – Transformation of The Ages

1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy [by common confession] great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

Question: Who was received up in glory? (Daniel 7:13-14).



John 1:1-4, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and **the Word was with God**, and **the Word was God**. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 **All things were made through Him**, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

14 And **the Word became 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.

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 1:15-18

15 He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist [are set together]. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

1 John 5:20

And we know that **the Son of God has come** and has **given us an understanding**, that **we may know Him who is true**; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God and eternal life**.

Hebrews 1:1-2

1 God, who at various times and in various ways **spoke in time past** to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has **in these last days spoken to us by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

On a philosophical note, the idea that something eternal (unchanging by definition) changes is antithetical. How can something unchanging change? How can the Eternal Word become Flesh, subject to all the effects of a fallen world, yet without sin? This is a great mystery (1Tm 3:16, Heb 4:15). But with God, all things are possible. The theological word for this is “hypostatic union.” The eternal and the temporal, divinity and humanity, meet in Christ Jesus. As with other great mysteries, there has been much heated discussion as to exactly how such a thing can be. Any attempt to minimize Jesus’s humanity or divinity is error, and maybe heresy.

C. Born of A Virgin

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore, Yahweh Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Luke 1: 26-38

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and **bring forth a Son** and shall **call His name Jesus**. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

34 Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” 35 And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible.” 38 Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel”* (Is 7:14), which is translated, “God with us.”

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and **did not know her until** she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

D. Other Prophecies

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between you [the serpent] and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall crush your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.

Question: From what time forward?

Daniel 2:35, 44

35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

44 And in the days of these [10] kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Daniel 7:14, 27

14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, **that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.** His dominion is an **everlasting dominion**, which **shall not pass away**, and His kingdom the one which **shall not be destroyed**.

27 Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, **shall be given to the people, the saints** of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.

Daniel 9:24-25

24 Seventy weeks are determined for your people [Jews] and for your holy city [Jerusalem],

1. To finish the transgression Mt 23:31-36, 21:33-22:14
2. To make an end of sins Heb 9:25-26, 10:11-14, Is 53, Rom 6, 11:27
3. To make reconciliation for iniquity 2Cor 5:18-20, Is 53
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness 2Cor 5:21, Rom 3:21, 25-26, 5:17, 10
5. To seal up vision and prophecy Mk 1:15, Lk 21:22, Jn 19:30
6. To anoint the Most Holy Is 61:1-2, Lk 4:18, Act 10:38 Heb 9:10-11

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be **seven weeks and sixty-two weeks** (or 483 years).

Christ's baptism at the Jordan River finished those years. See Ch 6, Eschatology.

Luke 18:31

Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and **all things that are written by the prophets** concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.

E. The Man Christ Jesus

Early in my Christian life I was talking to a member of a cult that teaches "Jesus Christ is not God." That happens to be the title of a book written by the cult's founder, Victor Paul Wierwille, (1916 – 1985).

He now knows he was wrong. It was called The Way International. He told me he could show me 20 verses that proved Jesus was a man. I said I believed him and that there were 20 more verses that showed Jesus was also God. He didn't like that. Jesus is God and man.

This is an example of eisegesis or selective theology. By picking the right verses and ignoring others you can make the Bible say whatever the system requires. External belief drives the interpretation.

There is a common misconception that Jesus did miracles to prove He was God. The key word being "prove." This is not true. The truth is two-fold.

The first is that Jesus's whole life was one of "It is written..." In this, Jesus is unique, once for all time, never to be repeated. Almost everything in the life of Jesus was in fulfillment of Scripture.

Here is a link that shows over 350 prophecies fulfilled by Jesus.

<https://www.accordingtothescriptures.org/prophecy/353prophecies.html>

If that doesn't work, go here:

<http://www.criticalmass.pro/book/351PropheciesFulfilledbyJesus.pdf>

"It is written..."

Luke 24:25-27, 32, 44-45

25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

The Old Testament was the only Scripture of the day, but it showed Jesus.

1 Peter 1:10-11

10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the **Spirit of Christ who was in them** was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

Acts 17:2-3

2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and **demonstrating** that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ."

John 5:39-40

39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

The second is that Jesus was the prototype Christian. He is "the first born of many brethren" (Romans 8:29). He demonstrated what any person could do in right relationship with the Father and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

John 14:12

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Daniel 7:13-14

13 "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the **Son of Man**, coming with the clouds of heaven! **He came to the Ancient of Days**, and they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

So, let's look at some of those "the man Christ Jesus" verses.

1 Timothy 2: 5

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

John 1:14

And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 2:19-22

19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of **the temple of His body**. 22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

Luke 24:36-39

36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." 37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for **a spirit does not have flesh and bones** as you see I have."

John 17:4-5

4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Colossians 1:13-15

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have **redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking

the **form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in **appearance as a man**, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Acts 10:36-41

36 The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ— He is Lord of all— 37 that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. 40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even **to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.**

Acts 20:25-28

25 “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

John 10:30-39

30 I and My Father are one. 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?” 33 The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because **You, being a Man, make Yourself God.**” 34 Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, I said, ‘You are gods’?” 35 If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), 36 do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? 37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, **though you do not believe Me, believe the works**, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.” 39 Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand.

John 14:9-12

9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. 12 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Psalms 45:6-7

6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.

Hebrews 1:8-9

8 But to the Son He says:

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”

Psalms 102:25-27

25 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. 26 They will perish, but You will endure; yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. 27 But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.

Hebrews 1:10-12

10 And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.”

Hebrews 8:1-6

1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: **We have such a High Priest**, who is **seated at the right hand of the throne** of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. 3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore, it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. 4 **For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest**, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; 5 **who serve the copy and shadow** of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you **make all things according to the pattern** shown you on the mountain.” 6 But now [Jesus] has obtained a **more excellent ministry**, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a **better covenant**, which was established on **better promises**.

F. What did the people think about “the Christ” and what were their expectations of Him?

Matthew 2:1-6

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, “Where is **He who has been born King of the Jews?** For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet (Mic 5:2): 6 ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come **a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.**’”

Notice that when the wise guys from the east showed up at the palace, the chief priests and scribes had an answer as to where Christ was to be born and His purpose. They had a previously existing theology about the Christ. This knowledge was now known to a large group of very influential people, “gathered all the chief priests and scribes,” and floated in the environment for thirty years. A little later some shepherds added to the rumors. From the highest to the lowest it was known that the time of the Messiah had arrived, the Kingdom was at hand.

Matthew 16:13-16

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” 14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist,

some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered and said, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

More on the Rock of Caesarea Philippi below.

Matthew 22:41-46

41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “The Son of David.” 43 He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: 44 ‘The LORD (Yahweh) said to my Lord (Adoni), “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool,” Psalm 110:1’? 45 If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” 46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

This represents one of the examples of “**the Two Powers of Heaven**” as Adoni was often used as a substitute name for Yahweh. Others are in Ps 110:1, Gen 18:1-8 and Dan 7:9-14. This is the Hebrew roots of the Trinity.

Matthew 26:63-64

But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: **Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!**” 64 Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Matthew 1:1

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, **the Son of David**, the Son of Abraham:

Matthew 9:27

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, “**Son of David**, have mercy on us!”

Matthew 12:23

And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “**Could this be the Son of David?**”

Matthew 15:22

And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, **Son of David!** My daughter is severely demon-possessed.”

Mark 10:47-48

47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “**Jesus, Son of David**, have mercy on me!” 48 Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “**Son of David**, have mercy on me!”

Mark 12:35-37

35 Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, “**How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David?** 36 For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: The LORD (Yahweh) said to my Lord (Adoni), ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ 37 Therefore David himself calls Him ‘Lord’; how is He then his Son?” And the common people heard Him gladly.

Mark 14:61-62

Again, the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, “**Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?**” 62 Jesus said, “**I am.** And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.” (Dan 7:13-14, Jesus was claiming to be one of the Two Powers of Heaven.)

Luke 1:30-32

30 Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name JESUS. 32 He will be great and will be called **the Son of the Highest**; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of **His father David**.”

John 1:49

49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the **Son of God!** You are the **King of Israel!**”

John 1:19-21

19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “**Who are you?**” 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “**I am not the Christ.**” 21 And they asked him, “What then? **Are you Elijah?**” He said, “I am not.” “**Are you the Prophet?**” And he answered, “No.” (Gen 49:10, Dt 18:15)

John 6:14

Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly **the Prophet who is to come into the world.**”

John 11:27

She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are **the Christ, the Son of God**, who is to **come into the world.**”

John 12:12-13

12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him and cried out: “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! **The King of Israel!**”

John 12:34

The people answered Him, “We have heard **from the law that the Christ** remains forever...”

Romans 1:3-4

3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was **born of the seed of David** according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the **Son of God** with power according to the Spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead.**

So, Jesus was/is:

1. The King of the Jews
2. The King of Israel
3. The Christ
4. The Son of God
5. The Son of the Highest
6. The Son of the Blessed

7. The Son of David
8. The Prophet (that should come)

The Son of God

John 8:54

Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is **My Father** who honors Me, of whom you say that He is **your God**.”

John 9:35-38

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “**Do you believe on the Son of God?**” 36 He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe on Him?” 37 And Jesus said to him, “**You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.**” 38 Then he said, “**Lord, I believe!**” And he worshiped Him.

John 10:31-33

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?” 33 The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”

Everything reproduces after its kind!

John 11:27

[Martha] said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that **You are the Christ, the Son of God**, who is to come into the world.”

John 20:31

but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, **the Son of God**, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Acts 8:37

Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.”
And he answered and said, “I believe that **Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**”

Acts 9:20, 22

20 Immediately [Saul] preached the Christ in the synagogues, that [Jesus] is the Son of God.

Acts 9:19-20, 22

19 So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. 20 Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that [Jesus] is **the Son of God**.

22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, **proving** that this Jesus is the Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:18-20

18 But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. 19 For **the Son of God, Jesus Christ**, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes

and No, but in Him was Yes. 20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of **the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the **equipping of the saints for the work of ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the **Son of God**, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

1 John 1:1-3

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life - 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the **Father and with His Son** Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:22-23

22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the **Father and the Son**. 23 Whoever **denies the Son does not have the Father** either; he who acknowledges **the Son has the Father** also.

1 John 5:12-13

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the **Son of God** does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the **Son of God**, that **you may know** that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to **believe in the name of the Son of God**.

Son of David

Matthew 1:1

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, **the Son of David**, the Son of Abraham ...

Matthew 22:41-46

41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 saying, “**What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?**” They said to Him, “**The Son of David.**” 43 He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: 44 ‘The LORD (Yahweh) said to my Lord (Adoni), “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool,” (Ps 110:1)?’ 45 If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” 46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

6. The Coronation of the King

7. The Cross – History’s Pivot Point

“Jesus’s death as a consequence of crucifixion is indisputable” (Gerd Ludmann of Germany, Atheistic New Testament scholar). (For an atheist scholar to say this is significant.)

A. Confrontation

Beginning at Caesarea Philippi, Jesus intensified His antagonism with the principalities and powers and religious leaders. At Caesarea Philippi was a giant rock. Anyone going there can see it. It was called “the gates of Hades” and was connected to a temple. This was an ancient high place. By the way, gates are defensive, not offensive. Anyone ever been attacked by a gate? Nothing can stop the Assembly Jesus built!

Matthew 16:13

When **Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi**, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

Matthew 16:18

And I also say to you that you are Peter (small rock), and on this rock (big rock), I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Not even the Gate of Hades can withstand an aggressive Church determined to confront the forces of evil enslaving mankind. Then Jesus was transfigured on Mount Hermon and another confrontation with the forces of evil began. Then Jesus confronted the religious leaders in their own temple (Matt 23). By the time Jesus was finished, He had whipped up the forces of evil to a murderous frenzy. Blinded by their own fury, they were the ones being led as sheep to the slaughter, 1Cor 2:8.

B. Enmity: Personification of The Antithesis

Genesis 3:14-15

14 So Yahweh God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And **I will put enmity** between you and the woman, and **between your seed and her Seed**; He shall crush your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from himself, for he is a liar and the father of it.

John 10:30-31

30 I and My Father are one.” 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.

John 10:37-39

37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.” 39 Therefore **they sought again to seize Him**, but He escaped out of their hand.

John 11:47-53

47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, “What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. 48 If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in

Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.” 49 And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you consider that it is **expedient for us that one man should die** for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.” 51 Now this he did not say from himself; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, 52 and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad. 53 Then, from that day on, **they plotted to put Him to death.**

Mark 12:13

Then they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, to catch Him in His words.

Luke 11:53-54

53 And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to **cross-examine Him about many things**, 54 lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.

Matthew 22:46

And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Matthew 23:31-33

31 “Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt. 33 Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?”

C. Broke the Sabbath

Exodus 31:14-15

14 You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be **put to death**; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. 15 Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to Yahweh. **Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.**

Matthew 12:1-2

1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, “Look, Your disciples are **doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!**”

Matthew 12:9-14

9 Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. 10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, “**Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?**”—that they might accuse Him. 11 Then He said to them, “What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? **Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.**” 13 Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other. 14 Then the Pharisees went out and **plotted against Him**, how they **might destroy Him.**

Mark 3:1-6

1 And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. 2 So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. 3 And He said to the man who had the withered hand, “Step forward.” 4 Then He said to them, “**Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil**, to save life or to kill?” **But they kept silent.** 5 And when He had **looked around at them with anger**, being **grieved by the hardness of their hearts**, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, **how they might destroy Him.**

Luke 13:10-17

10 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. 12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” 13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. 14 But the **ruler of the synagogue** answered with indignation, because **Jesus had healed on the Sabbath**; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.” 15 The Lord then answered him and said, “**Hypocrite!** Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? 16 So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” 17 And when He said these things, all His **adversaries were put to shame**; and all **the multitude rejoiced** for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Luke 14:1-6

1 Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread **on the Sabbath**, that **they watched Him closely.** 2 And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy. 3 And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “**Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?**” 4 But they kept silent. And He took him and healed him, and let him go. 5 Then He answered them, saying, “Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?” 6 And they could not answer Him regarding these things.

John 5:8-11

8 Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And **that day was the Sabbath.** 10 The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “**It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.**” 11 He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’”

John 5:16

For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because **He had done these things on the Sabbath.**

John 7:21-24

21 Jesus answered and said to them, “I did one work, and you all marvel. 22 Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and **you circumcise a man on the Sabbath.** 23 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because **I made a man completely well**

on the Sabbath? 24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

John 9:13-16

13 They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. 14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” 16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “**This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.**”

D. Blasphemy

It is interesting to note the different reactions of the religious leaders and the people. Note what the religious leaders considered blasphemy.

Mark 14:61-64

61 But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again, the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” 62 Jesus said, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven (Dan 7:13-14).” 63 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “What further need do we have of witnesses? 64 **You have heard the blasphemy!** What do you think?” And they all **condemned Him to be deserving of death.**

John 10:31-33

31 Then the Jews **took up stones again to stone Him.** 32 Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?” 33 The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but **for blasphemy,** and because **You, being a Man, make Yourself God.**”

Matthew 9:2-8

2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “**Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.**” 3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “**This Man blasphemes!**” 4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 **For which is easier,** to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” 7 And he arose and departed to his house. 8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

John 5:17-18, 58-59

17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.” 18 Therefore the Jews **sought all the more to kill Him,** because He not only **broke the Sabbath,** but also **said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.** 58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” 59 Then **they took up stones to throw at Him;** but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Mark 2:5-7

5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” 6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 “Why does this Man **speak blasphemies** like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Luke 5:19-21

19 And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. 20 When He saw their faith, He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this who **speaks blasphemies**? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

In Mt 9:5 Jesus asks, “For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk?’” Which is easier, to speak words, or to give a demonstration of power? To Jesus they are the same, and the people needed to see the demonstration. Anyone can spew words. Today there are many words and hardly any demonstration, (Mk 16:17-18, Jn 14:12).

Matthew 26:63-66

63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!” 64 Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven (Dan 7:13-14).” 65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now **you have heard His blasphemy!** 66 What do you think?” They answered and said, “He is deserving of death.”

E. Prophecies of Death and Resurrection

Christopher Hitchens (1949-2011), in a debate, once described the resurrection like this: Imagine you are riding in a bus and the man seated next to you says, “I was dead. Now I am alive.” Wouldn’t that make you want to move to the next section? The audience had a big laugh. This kind of manipulative tool is frequently used to distort the truths of Scripture, a twisted half-truth. And it only works because of the pervasive biblical illiteracy. America used to be the most literate nation in the world.

Fortunately, Douglas Wilson was able to bring back sense into the conversation and point out that not only did Jesus die and rise again but – and this is key – He prophesied it well in advance, with details, how it would happen. Here are some of those words.

Matthew 16:21

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Matthew 17:22-23

22 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Matthew 20:17-19

17 Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, 18 “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.”

Mark 9:30-32

30 Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. 31 For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed

into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.” 32 But they did not understand this saying and were afraid to ask Him.

Mark 10:32-34

32 Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: 33 “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; 34 and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

Luke 18:31-34

31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32 For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. 33 They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.” 34 But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.

Luke 24:46-48

46 Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things.

John 3:14-15

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 12:30-33

30 Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

Revelation 13:8

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of **the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

God, seeing the end from the beginning, knew what would happen and made provision. The Lamb was the solution to a problem not yet manifest. But God had a comprehensive plan from the beginning and has such amazing wisdom and power that even the bad things that happen are redeemable (Rom 8:28).

8. Ascension and Seating: Enthronement of The King

Mark 16:19

So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He **was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God** (Dan 7:13-14).

Acts 1:9

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and **a cloud received Him** out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Daniel 7:13-14

13 “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! **He came to the Ancient of Days**, and they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

First, we view the event from the earth, then from the throne room. Can you see the direction of travel?

Acts 2:23

Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death

Acts 5:30-31

30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 **Him God has exalted to His right hand** to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 7:55-56

55 But [Stephen], being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and **Jesus standing at the right hand of God**, 56 and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

Matthew 26:64-66

64 Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” 65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! Dan 7:13-14

Luke 22:67-69

67 “If You are the Christ, tell us.” But He said to them, “If I tell you, you will by no means believe. 68 And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. 69 Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.”

Romans 8:34-35

34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even **at the right hand of God**, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Colossians 3:1-3

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, **sitting at the right hand of God**. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Hebrews 10:12-13

12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, **sat down at the right hand of God**, 13 from that time **waiting till** His enemies are made His footstool (Ps 110:1).

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has **sat down at the right hand of the throne of God**.

1 Peter 3:21

[Jesus Christ] who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

9. The Three-Fold Redemption – Messiah’s Redemptive Solution.

A. Genesis 3 – Restoring the Presence of God

Jn 3:3-5, Act 1, 2, Eph 2:5-10, Jn 10:10

B. Genesis 6 – Restoring Righteousness

Rom 5:17, 2Cor 5:21, Gal 3:21

C. Genesis 11 – Restoring the Nations

The People of God

Eph 2:15

Rom 11:15-24

Gal 3:13-16, 28-29, 6:14-16

Josh 21:43-45, 1Kg 8:54-57

1Pt 2:4-10

Rom 9:25-26

10. The New Birth – New Creation Life

Jesus came to make us fit for sacred space. Fit for the throne. Fit for the divine council.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is **a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new**.

John 20: 30-31

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and **that believing you may have life** in His name.

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 10:27-28

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

John 6:44

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 1:12-13

12 But as many as received Him (the Word), to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:3-8

3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God**. 6 That which is **born of the flesh is flesh**, and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit**. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘**You must be born again**.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is **born of the Spirit**.”

“Born again” literally means “born from above.”

1 Peter 2:1-3

1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 **as newborn babes**, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Galatians 6:15

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, **but a new creation**.

1 John 5:11-12

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 **He who has the Son has life**; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

John 17:14-16

14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because **they are not of the world**, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 **They are not of the world**, just as I am not of the world.

The Calvinist doctrine of election is essentially true, but it is incomplete. The Father does choose the elect ones for His own purposes. It is not about salvation but calling to a purpose. However, there are those that, under the influence of the Spirit in the life of the elect, “choose Christ.” They are not “initiating” anything because nothing happens outside the radiance of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:17). This second group is the “whomsoever will may come” of Rev 22:17, and they do, in large numbers. Some of these dry up in the heat or get choked by the weeds (Mt 13:20-22). They, none the less showed signs of life.

Notice Rev 20:11 starts with the dead being judged and ends with those not written in the Lamb's book of life are sent to the lake of fire. There are some, by implication only, that seem to be written in the book of life. I certainly would not want to rest my eternity on such a flimsy possibility.

My argument is that there are only two camps on the earth: the dead and the living. Dead in Adam by natural birth, alive in Christ by the second birth. First the natural, then the spiritual (1Cor 15:46).

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is **the gift of God**, 9 **not of works**, lest anyone should boast. 10 **For we are His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one **a measure of faith**.

Hebrews 3:19 - 4:2

19 So we see that they **could not enter in because of unbelief**.

1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard **did not profit them, not being mixed with faith** in those who heard it.

The implication here is that they had the faith (Eph 2:8) but failed to mix that faith with the Word. There is a relationship: In the same way the Holy Spirit leads us to all truth (Jn 16:13) but doesn't make us believe it; God gives us the faith but doesn't make us mix it.

11. Being In Christ

There is only one promise outside of Christ (Acts 2:21), and all the rest are only found "in Christ" and they are "yes and amen!" There are over 100 verses that speak of "in Christ" or "in Him" in the New Testament. It is a worthy study to see who we are and what we have in Christ. I will show just a few.

Acts 2:21

And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is **a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new**.

2 Corinthians 1:18-20

18 But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, **but in Him was Yes**. 20 For all the promises of God **in Him are Yes**, and **in Him Amen**, to the glory of God through us.

Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and **seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus**.

John 14:1-6

1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; **that where I am**, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know.” 5 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

The word “mansions” is an unfortunate translation and has led to some bad theology. It connotes giant houses, each on its own sprawling estate. Jesus is very busy if He is going to make every believer such a property. The word is better translated as “dwelling places” with a connotation more like an apartment complex. This is also consistent with the New Jerusalem of Rev 21. Since we all end up back on earth anyway, why go to so much trouble in Heaven?

No, the dwelling place Jesus has in mind is within His body. The Body of Christ (Rom 12, 1Cor 12). Even further the Spiritual House (1Pt 2:5), Holy Nation (1Pt 2:9-10), City of God (Heb 12:22, Rev 3:12), the Lamb’s Wife (Rev 21:9-10), and the New Jerusalem (Rev 3:12, 21:2) are all metaphors for the same place Jesus is building. “I will build My church...” (Mt 16:18). The reception Jesus is talking about is not the rapture but reception into the Body of Christ. He receives us unto and into Himself. See the article below called “Organ Transplants.”

1 Peter 2:4-5

4 Coming to Him as to a **living stone**, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as **living stones**, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:4-5

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Organ Transplants

It is pretty well-known that when a person receives a new internal organ, such as a kidney, liver, or lung, there is a serious concern that the organ may be rejected, even killing the recipient. Usually, a careful search is made to find a compatible donor. The better the compatibility, the smaller the chances for the rejection of the organ by the body.

Such is the Christian’s relationship with God. We are born into this world utterly incompatible with God. We are as incompatible as death is to life, darkness is to light, perversion is to perfection, sinfulness is to righteousness. Even though we are made in God’s image, we are about as opposite as can possibly be! We must be born again from above (Jn 1:12-13, 3:3, 5-7).

But God loves the fallen crown of His creation and wants to have the close fellowship of a loving Father and a beloved child. A way was made to solve the incompatibility problem: “Behold the Lamb of

God that takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Jesus took it all away! He took it all to hell where it belongs and left it there. But this is just the beginning.

2Cor 2:19 says, “... God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their sins against them ...” God does not hold anyone’s sins against them, Jesus took them away. This is good news! But wait there is more, and it gets better...

Back to the organ transplant... Remember the big issue is compatibility.

God wants to implant us into the “Body of Christ.” In order for the implant to hold, we must be made compatible, because in our natural state, we are not just dead but death. The removal of sin is not enough, we must be brought to life (Jn 10:10). The only thing God could do is make us into a new creation (2Cor 5:17)! There is no chance of rejection. The Bible even describes the difference between the “old man” and the “new man.” It is the old you and the new you being treated as two different people. The old man is dead, and a new man has taken his place (Rom 6:4, 7, 18, 22, Gal 2:20, Col 3:3). God ignores the old and only deals with the new. The old is dead. So, when you say, “remember when I used to be ...” God says, “No, that person is dead. I made you a new creation. You are now My child by birth.” Learning to live the new life in Christ requires resurrection life, a new heart (Ezek 36:26) and renewed mind, so He gave us the mind of Christ (1Cor 2:16) to put an end to the bad habits acquired by the “old man” (Rom 12:1-2). Kingdom ways are almost opposite of the world’s ways. God is the only “boss” that gives you absolutely everything you need, in advance, then teaches you how to use it all. He’s like that. Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father of lights. Hello, lights! A lifetime of discovery awaits you. Your life in Christ is discovering who you already are based on what He has already done.

At its root, true Christianity is **not** based on beliefs but on a supernatural transformation that God Himself performs. We are life from dead. One **must** be “born of the Spirit” (Jn 1:12-13, 3:5-6, Rom 8:2, 1Pet 1:23, 1Jn 5:18). We can’t earn it. It is a gift given to those that come to Jesus (Eph 2:8-10). I don’t believe God changed me; He did, in fact, change me. I am His son. He made me that way and is stuck with me! He knew exactly what He was getting. I can’t disillusion Him because He has no illusions in the first place.

For those that have already been implanted in Christ, look at this small sample:

John 10:10

... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

1 Corinthians 6:17

They that are joined to the Lord are one Spirit.

Galatians 3:29

If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.

Colossians 3:10-11

10 and have **put on the new man** who is **renewed in knowledge** according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but **Christ is all and in all**.

Ephesians 4:24

... put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

16 Do you not know that **you are the temple of God** and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 ... For **the temple of God is holy**, which temple you are.

Ephesians 2:15

... create in Himself one new man.

Romans 5:17

having received the gift of righteousness, will reign in life.

Romans 8:30

Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

John 17:16, 20

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them

Colossians 2:9-10

9 For in [Christ] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. Also Rev 1:5

In the world, if something is “too good to be true,” it is probably a rip-off. In the Kingdom, if it’s not “too good to be true,” it’s not God, and it’s not the Gospel. He makes us completely compatible so we can be together forever, and you become like those you hang with. Communion is just not just the name of a ritual; it is deep fellowship with the Creator of the universe!

Enjoy!

12. The Restored Image

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

To be human is to be the image of God. We are His imagers, His agents, His representatives from a two-cell embryo in the womb to the comatose patient breathing his last breath. Humans are God’s imagers. Yes, we are fallen, and Jesus came to “seek what was lost,” (Lk 19:10). He was/is the perfect human, the perfect image of God (Col 1:15, Heb 1:3). He did for us what we could not do for ourselves. We are the ultimate proof for the existence of God. There is no escaping yourself, resistance is futile!

This is why humans can do what we do. That image is damaged, but it can be restored through the new birth (Jn 3:3-5) and the renewing of the mind (Rom 12:1-2, 1Cor 2:16).

John 14:9

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip?

He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Romans 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that [Jesus] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Colossians 1:13-18

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist [are set together]. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Colossians 3:10-11

10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but **Christ is all and in all**.

John 10:27-30

27 **My sheep hear My voice**, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 **I and My Father are one**.

John 14:9-11

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

Hebrews 1:1-4

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being **the brightness of His glory** and **the express image of His person**, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so **much better than the angels**, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

13. In the World but Not of the World

John 17:14-18

14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because **they are not of the world**, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 **They are not of the world**, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 **As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world**.

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be

conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed** to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Galatians 4:6-7

6 And **because you are sons**, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” 7 Therefore you are **no longer a slave but a son**, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

1 John 2:16-17

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy reasonings and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

14. Transformation

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Matthew 17:1-2

1 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain (Mt. Hermon) by themselves; 2 and He was **transfigured** before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Mark 9:2

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain (Mt. Hermon) apart by themselves; and He was **transfigured** before them.

15. Being Made Righteous

Like other aspects of the Gospel, there are three parts to righteousness. First, there is the gift of righteousness, God has made us righteous with His own righteousness. This is not the so-called “judicial righteousness” but righteousness of being. You are righteous.

Then, there is the development of righteousness (Heb 12:11), whereby God uses training and discipline to draw out the righteousness of the believer. By the way, God doesn’t use sickness as a means of training. Then, there is the outward expression of righteousness, the behavior of righteousness. Faith is

very similar. We can't live what we don't have, so we were made righteous so we could live righteously. Righteousness is a rich word because it is connected to God's own character. God is righteous; therefore, everything God does is right.

Galatians 3:21

Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a **law given which could have given life**, truly **righteousness would have been by the law**.

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of **the gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Note that if we **receive** the gift of righteousness, then we **didn't** have it before.

Romans 6:18, 20

18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness.

Question: Who is your master? Noone can serve two masters (Mt 6:24).

Romans 4:17

as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations" in the presence of Him whom he believed — God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist; as though they did.

But those things didn't exist, in time, but they did exist in God's eternal plan. So, in time, those things came into existence because God has already planned it, from the foundation of the world. We are to find out from God the things that will be and begin speaking them. That is the essence of prophecy (Amos 3:7).

What is the free gift (charisma G5486 [grace charis G5485]) mentioned in Romans, 4 times: 5:15, 16, 18, 6:23?

Romans 10:8-10

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For **with the heart** one believes unto **righteousness**, and **with the mouth** confession is made unto **salvation**.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Hebrews 12:11

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And **do not be conformed to this world**, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The military has known the secret of converting civilians into soldiers for a long time. It is called boot camp. From the day they sign the contract to enter the military, they are considered soldiers, subject to all the laws and regulations, but they are not yet soldiers. If they don't show up to boot camp, they are considered AWOL (absent without leave) and punishable by jail time. These would-be soldiers must present their bodies and through the training and disciplines and education, their bodies and, more importantly, their minds are transformed from civilian to soldier.

Many people have signed the contract in the blood of the Lamb but have yet to show up at boot camp. They are converts, not disciples. Thank God for every born-again person who will avoid the Lake of Fire, but they are of little value to the Kingdom, until they are transformed. This is a big reason there is so little transformation and Christians still look, act, and smell like the world. They are AWOL. A consequence is that so many will not have their beliefs (opinions) transformed into objective, absolute truth of the Word of God.

16. Glorious

Isaiah 42:8

I am Yahweh, that is My name; and **My glory I will not give to another**, nor My praise to carved images.

Isaiah 48:11

For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; For how should My name be profaned? And **I will not give My glory to another**.

These two verses are often used as a proof text to argue that God reserves all glory for Himself. But when we come to the New Testament, something has changed. It is the change of the new birth, the new creation man as described above. It is true God does not give His glory to another. But then we are not another; we are His offspring, children of God.

Colossians 1:26-27

26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them **God willed to make known** what are the riches of the **glory of this mystery** among the [Nations]: **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**.

John 17:22

And **the glory which You gave Me I have given them**, that they may be one just as We are one

Romans 8:21, 28-30

21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into **the glorious liberty of the children of God**.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, **He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these **He also called**; whom He called, these **He also justified**; and whom He justified, these **He also glorified**.

The greatest of all mysteries have been revealed. Like righteousness, we have been given a great gift. These gifts are not without purpose. They are for the purpose of producing unity in the body and to impress the world for whom Christ died. We can but humble ourselves before the Great King who has given such gifts to undeserving men. Who can boast? Every decent thing in me has come from Him.

17. The Holy Spirit: The Inner Work vs The Outer Work

Our sloppy use of language and inaccurate presentations of truth often causes much confusion. The two key phrases in this section are “the filling” and “the baptism” of the Spirit. They are entirely different operations of the Holy Spirit. They are often used interchangeably.

When you “fill” a cup with water, where does the water go? On the inside or the outside of the cup? Thank God for every person in which the Holy Spirit has taken up residence. But even the filling has a demonstration. Like a pregnancy, sooner or later, you will show.

On the other hand, baptism is an outer operation. To baptize literally means to immerse. It is unfortunate that so many translations do not translate this word; they transliterate the Greek word “baptizo,” Strong's G907, “to make fully wet.” Hence more confusion.

In Roman times, the soldiers would “immerse” their swords in a bucket of blood in preparation for a battle. When you immerse the cup in water, both the outside and the inside are affected. It should be noted that in Acts 2:4 “filled” was also both operations simultaneously. They were filled and spoke in tongues, a precursor of Cornelius. Thus Cornelius (Acts 10), also got both operations at the same time. He, and his family, were saved, filled and immersed in the Holy Spirit, all at once.

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit would come on someone and it would alter their behavior or abilities. Like Saul (1Sm 10:11) and Samson (Judg 16:20). But we have something far superior: the Holy Spirit moves in to stay when we are “born of the Spirit” (Jn 3:5-8).

We will look at “clothed upon” shortly. Both the internal and external operations of the Spirit are necessary to fulfill God’s plans on the earth, to make us fully functional sons of God. By the way, there is a group that teaches that you are not even saved until you speak in tongues, because in their speech, “you don’t have the Spirit” An example of ignorance and selective theology. There are others that teach that being “clothed upon” with the Spirit is not for us today. Every truth is like a road with a ditch on either side: excess and neglect.

In general, the inner work deals with the nature or personality of the person (Rom 8:29, Gal 5:15), while the outer work is about the display of supernatural power (Act 1:8, 1 Cor 2:5). We need both.

A. The Inside

The filling, or indwelling, happens at the new birth or conversion or regeneration. Contrary to popular belief, it is not mere belief that makes one a Christian. It is a supernatural act of Divine power that raises the dead to life when they are “born of the Spirit” (Jn 3:5-8, 10:10, Rom 6). It is the presence of the Holy Spirit within the Believer that makes a Christian a Christian. It is possible to believe “all the right stuff” and still not be a Christian (Mat 7:21:23).

Before the cross, the Holy Spirit would “come upon” various people to accomplish God’s plans. A dramatic example is found in 1 Samuel 10 when the Spirit of Yahweh came upon Saul before he became king. It was said he was “turned into another man” (1 Sam 10:6). Another is Samson (Judg 14-16). The source of his strength was the Holy Spirit. He didn’t look like Conan the Barbarian! But these were only temporary. After the cross, the Holy Spirit moves to the inside to take up permanent residence, and also “comes upon,” see below.

A word on “ministry.” Over time the belief that ministry is only for “special people” evolved. This is true for what is now called the “five-fold ministry” from Eph 4:11: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. People think ministry happens by people on a stage, by missionaries, Sunday school teachers, and functions connected to a church. This is a half-truth. The whole truth is that every person in whom the Holy Spirit lives is a minister (a servant, actually a son that serves). A revelation of the

Protestant Reformation was “the priesthood of ALL believers,” that is all believers are priests of God (Rev 1:6, 5:10) to minister the Lordship of King Jesus and His redemption to the whole of creation (Act 1:8, Rom 8:21), in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In days gone by the word “vocation” meant a divine occupation, a ministry or any honest work that God could bless. A baker made bread available to help feed his neighbors. We were created to work! How much greater with the help of the Holy Spirit.

John 1:12-13

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:3, 5-8

3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

“Born again” literally means “born from above.” A person is born of the Spirit, or they are not.

John 7:37-39

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly will flow rivers of living water.” 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 14:16-17

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and **will be in you**.

John 20:21-22

21 So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

Note: This was **before** the Day of Pentecost.

Romans 8:9

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Some try to say the “Spirit of God” and the “Spirit of Christ” are two different spirits. No, there is only one Holy Spirit. A teaching on the Trinity might be helpful.

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

B. The Outside

Many teach the external covering is not available today or that “you get it all when you get saved.” The proof is in the living and demonstration of the supernatural (1Cor 2:5). What is the Scriptural evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? By the way, neither maturity nor sanctification (being good or pure enough) is prerequisite. The Corinthian church was not lacking any manifestation of the Spirit but was out of control. They needed guidance and discipline. It is common to be “filled” more than once. Those that receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit after having been saved for many years report a profound difference in their Christian life. Having a “deep spiritual encounter with God” is not the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The normal means is to “lay hands on” the receiver. It is assumed in the New Testament every believer would go on to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Sadly, this didn’t seem to last long in history, leading to the false doctrine of Cessationism, that the demonstration of power (1Cor 2:5) displayed in the early Church was only for the purpose of establishing the church. When you can’t demonstrate any power, you have to invent a doctrine to explain why. All through history, there have been those that displayed the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the power of God. They became “special people” instead of being viewed as displaying normal Christianity.

An allegorical representation is the Ark of the Covenant in Exodus 25. It was a wooden box overlaid with pure gold on the inside and the outside. Wood is the symbol for humanity, and gold is the symbol for divinity. Jesus is the perfect fulfillment in His humanity and divinity. But it is intended that we also fulfill this symbol through the filling and baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:11

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (See also Mark 1:7-8).

John 1:32-34

32 And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

Luke 24:49

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.

“Endued” literally means “clothed upon.” You only put clothes on the outside.

It is a bizarre translational decision that of the 32 times this word is used, this is the only time the translators chose to transliterate the Greek word “enduo,” Strongs G1746. All other 31 times, it is directly connected to putting on clothing, being clothed upon. Why did the translators obscure one of the most important commands of Jesus directly connected to the birth of His Ecclesia, that they would be clothed with power? The KJV has many such points of confusion. See chapter 3, “How to study the Bible.”

You can read about the Armor of God in Ephesians 6. You have to “put on” the pieces of armour. I will give you a secret...in its fulness, the armour is Christ Himself, “put on Christ” (Rom 13:14, Gal 3:27). We are to put on this new man, (Eph 4:24).

Acts 1:4-5

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Notice “the Promise of My Father” is simultaneously “clothed with power from on high” and “baptized with the Holy Spirit.” They are synonymous.

Acts 2:1-4

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:5-6

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from **every nation under heaven**. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

It should be noted that it was because “the Day of Pentecost had fully come” not “being in one accord” that produced the recorded results. Some try to induce results by urging a group into some preconceived idea of unity. We are told in many places (Ps 133:1, Jn 17:11, 21-22, Eph 4:1-3, 13, Php 2:1-4) that we should be in unity, that we should be one, because it is right, but not for the purposes of manipulating God.

I would like to comment here on the brilliance of Divine planning. 1500 years earlier, God gave Moses the law with attendant feasts. Three times a year (Dt 16:16, below) Jews converged at Jerusalem. Previously, God had scattered the Jews to the nations for their idolatry. In the year the “Lamb of God” (Jn 1:29) was sacrificed, at Passover (Mt 26), then also “when the day of Pentecost had fully come” (Acts 2:1), Jews gathered “from every nation under heaven” (Acts 2:5). They saw and heard about the prophet who was crucified, and Gospel of the Kingdom being fulfilled, prophesied from centuries past (Acts 2:16). They were told to “repent and be baptized” to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). They did, and then returned back to “every nation under heaven” from which they came. But for the first time, they carried something back with them: the Gospel! In the time it took for the Jews to return home, the Gospel was scattered to the far reaches of the Roman Empire (Mt 24:14). Brilliant!

Deuteronomy 16:16

Three times a year all your males shall appear before Yahweh your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread [Passover], at the Feast of Weeks [Pentecost], and at the Feast of Tabernacles [Booths]; and they shall not appear before Yahweh empty-handed.

Acts 2:16-18

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 “And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will **pour out of My Spirit on all flesh**; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.”

Acts 8:14-17

14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**. 17 Then they laid hands on them, **and they received the Holy Spirit**.

Acts 10:44-48

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit fell upon all those** who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the [Nations] also. 46 For **they heard them speak with tongues** and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47 “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Acts 19:1-6

1 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So, they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.” 4 Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Clothed Upon – Put on Christ

Romans 13:11-14

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent; the day is at hand. Therefore, **let us cast off the works of darkness**, and **let us put on the armor of light**. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Question: What day is at hand?

1 Corinthians 15:53-54, 26

53 For this corruptible must **put on** incorruption, and this mortal must **put on** immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has **put on** incorruption, and this mortal has **put on** immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Galatians 3:26-27

26 For **you are all sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ**.

Ephesians 4:20-24

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have **heard Him** and have been **taught by Him**, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you **put off**, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that **you put on the new man** which was **created** according to God, **in true righteousness and holiness**.

Ephesians 6:10-13

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 **Put on the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore **take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand** in the evil day, and **having done all, to stand**.

Colossians 3:8-14

8 But now you yourselves are to **put off** all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have **put off the old man** with his deeds, 10 and have **put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the **image of Him who created him**, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on** tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But **above all these things put on love**, which is the bond of perfection.

18. More Than Beliefs – Experiential Christianity

1 John 5:9-10

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. 10 He who believes on the Son of God has the witness in himself...

John 14:12-14

12 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

Mark 16:17-18

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

John 18:37

Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

Romans 8:9-10, 15-16

9 But **you are not in the flesh** but in the Spirit, **if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you**. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And **if Christ is in you**, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom **we cry out, “Abba, Father.”** 16 **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God**

Galatians 4:6-7

6 And **because you are sons**, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an **heir of God through Christ**.

Ephesians 4:20-21

20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, just as truth is in Jesus

1 John 2:26-27

26 These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. 27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

1 Corinthians 6:17

They that are joined to the Lord are one Spirit.

John 10:27

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

19. Knowing God

A. Everybody Already Knows

Romans 1:16-25

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is 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 suppress the truth** in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for **God has shown it to them**. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible **attributes 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, **although they knew God**, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but **became futile in their thoughts**, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and **changed the glory of the incorruptible God** into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 **Therefore God also gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among

themselves, 25 who **exchanged the truth of God for the lie** and worshiped and **served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Acts 2:17-18

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour **out of My Spirit on all flesh**; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is (exists), and that **He is a rewarder** of those who diligently seek Him.

The first part is not the problem since everybody already knows. The truth is that most don't believe that God rewards the diligent. I have met quite a few who say, "I tried that once, it didn't work."

Mark 11:24

Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask **when you pray, believe that you receive** them, and you will have them.

Isaiah 6:1-3

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw Yahweh sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh of hosts; **The whole earth is full of His glory!**"

Right now!

This is the foundation of our apologetic and evangelistic effort. It should be well understood that everyone already knows but most are in rebellious denial. God's glory is present in everything He created.

B. Old Testament

Exodus 33:13-14

13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, **that I may know You** and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." 14 And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Judges 2:10

10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after **them who did not know Yahweh** nor the work which He had done for Israel.

1 Samuel 3:6-7

6 Then Yahweh called yet again, "Samuel!" So, Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." 7 Now **Samuel did not yet know Yahweh**, nor was the word of Yahweh yet revealed to him.

Jeremiah 4:22

"For My people are foolish, **they have not known Me**. They are silly children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge."

Jeremiah 9:23-24

23 Thus says Yahweh: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who glories glory in this, **that he understands and knows Me**, That I am Yahweh, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says Yahweh.

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does Yahweh require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to **walk humbly with your God?**

C. New Testament

Matthew 7:21-23

21 Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?” 23 And then I will declare to them, “**I never knew you**; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

John 8:19

Then they said to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “**You know neither Me nor My Father**. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.”

John 10:2-4

2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, **for they know his voice**.

John 10:14-16

14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep and **am known by My own**. 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and **they will hear My voice**; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

John 14:17-18

17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; **but you know Him**, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; **I will come to you**.

John 17:3

And **this is eternal life, that they may know You**, the only true God, **and Jesus Christ** whom You have sent.

John 18:37

Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

Galatians 4:9

But now **after you have known God**, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?

Ephesians 4:20-21

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 **if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him**, as the truth is in Jesus.

Philippians 3:7-11

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 **that I may know Him** and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-8

6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking **vengeance on those who do not know God**, and on those who **do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason, I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, **for I know whom I have believed** and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

1 John 5:20

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, **that we may know Him who is true**; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Appendix A

Pain is a sign of life.

Michael P. Hays

Pain in the heart, in the soul, is a sign you still have one.

A broken heart heals in one of two ways:

It either heals with an increased tenderness or it heals calloused and hard.

No one (in their right mind) likes pain

and we go to great effort to avoid pain.

But a broken heart, who can bear it?

There is no greater agony of the soul.

If that suffering can be offered as a sacrifice

in recognition of the suffering of the Savior

for the whole of humanity, that pain can be

morphed, as it heals, into deeper levels of

compassion and caring that over time, begin to

approximate that of the Savior's own where every great and noble thing becomes possible.

But if it can't, it hardens into a bitterness and coldness that mutates the soul into a demonic ugliness where every evil thing becomes possible.

I pray that any of you that are broken hearted will turn to the Savior, Jesus Christ who came to bind up the broken hearted and you would know His perfect grace and peace, even while tears stream down your cheeks, toward that day when you know the Love of God to a new depth and come to rest in a place of tenderness and affection.

Appendix B

The Love Of God

by Frederick M. Lehman

The love of God is greater far

Than tongue or pen can ever tell;

It goes beyond the highest star,

And reaches to the lowest hell;

The guilty pair, bowed down with care,

God gave His Son to win;

His erring child He reconciled,

And pardoned from his sin.

O love of God, how rich and pure!

How measureless and strong!

It shall forevermore endure

The saints' and angels' song.

When years of time shall pass away,

And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,

When men, who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—
The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above,
Would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.