

# THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

HIS CREATION AND CREED  
HIS CAPTAIN AND CUSTODIAN  
HIS CHARTER AND CONSTITUTION  
HIS CAPITAL AND CREDENTIALS  
HIS CAREER AND CONDUCT  
HIS COMPANY AND COMMUNION  
HIS CONFLICT AND CONQUEST  
HIS COURSE AND CULMINATION

## PASTOR'S O'HAIR'S TESTIMONY

I can not remember a time, even in early childhood, when the fear of God was not in my heart. I was taught to pray when old enough to talk. I prayed off and on—mostly off—for years before I was saved. I knew about God and about Jesus Christ, but I did not know Them. I had enough religion to bring me to tears now and then because of my sins, and often ashamed of myself, I would fall to my knees crying; and seemed at times to get some relief by confessing my sins to God. But I never found peace until I found Christ and His wonderful salvation. I left my home city in the South to go to a little saw-mill town in Louisiana where I was engaged in a clerical position.

In that camp in the early part of 1900 I sat at noon in the hotel waiting for dinner. As I looked at my watch several times, growing impatient for the dinner-bell, the lady in charge walked over to me with an open book and said, “interest yourself in this while you are waiting.” The Book was the Bible, opened at the Book of Daniel. I read with great interest the story of the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace. The next day I continued the story of Daniel in the lions’ den. When I remarked to the lady that the stories were quite interesting, she said, “Why not come up to the Sunday school, where we are studying the Book of Daniel?” I consented to go and will never forget the old faithful servant of God who had walked thirty-six miles more than once to be there for his Sunday appointment. He had a long white beard, a penetrating look, a saintly expression. He spoke with authority, earnestly and convincingly. Conviction came to my soul. I was introduced to a young lady, with whom I walked home. She told me the story of Jesus, but more than her story, it was the testimony of her beautiful Christ-like life that influenced me. She did not tell me a hundred different things that I would have to give up to become a Christian, but she told me that nineteen hundred years ago Jesus Christ gave up something; that He gave up the ghost, and cried, “It is finished”; that He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Nor did I give up any of my sinful habits to become a Christian. One night—at midnight—within a week after my visit to that Sunday school, as I was lying on my bed reading the Bible I came to the story of Calvary, where they crucified the Lord Jesus Christ. Out of bed onto my knees I surrendered my will to that wonderful Saviour, and that night I passed out of death into life; becoming a new creature in Christ Jesus. Old things passed away

and all things became new. My sinful habits left me. Such a transformation took place in my life. I started life anew, with new hopes and ambitions, new likes and dislikes. I became a Christian in a moment in the twinkling of an eye, when I said “yes” to the Saviour.

I have spent the past forty-three years with this young lady who is the mother of our six children, and the Lord Jesus Christ has been to us a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. He has never disappointed us. I know I have often disappointed Him. But He has always proven faithful, a Helper in every time of need, in prosperity and adversity, in business and in our home, I have found the Lord Jesus Christ the solution of all of my problems. He was especially precious when we had to give up a bright little twenty months babe. He is a real Saviour, who never leaves nor forsakes His own.

During my seventeen years of business-life, before I entered into the ministry, I found that my greatest asset in business was Christian character, and if I had the time, I could recite to you so many instances where Christian character was responsible for business success.

From the day I started on the way by reading that chapter in Daniel I have been reading my Bible constantly, and surely it is a most scientific Book of things that pertain to the soul and eternity, and man’s relation to God. “If any man willeth to do My will, he shall know,” said the Lord; and how true it is.

I have today no more doubt about the truthfulness of the Bible and the eternal realities of Christianity than I have about the existence of the sun. Surely the Bible is the very Word of the true and living God. My favorite verse was Galatians 6:14: “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

So often have I longed to have some little booklet to hand to one who has confessed the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and started on this New Way. I do not know why I have delayed until this late date to try to prepare such a booklet. But at last I have determined to undertake it, no matter how imperfect it may be. For the want of something better I am making this effort, so that I can put into the hands of the new convert some simple instructions that will help him in the new life.

Truly, next to the joy of experiencing for ourselves the new birth, there is no joy in all this world comparable with the joy of leading a sinner to Christ where he can find eternal life in this almighty Saviour; and then we do want to put something in his hand to guide him. He has the Holy Spirit, the True Teacher, in his heart; and the Bible, his lamp and guide, in his hand. But God expects older Christians to help the new ones on their start, and Hence this effort.

May this little booklet be used to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ Who was rich and for our sakes became poor that we through His poverty might be rich.

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## **HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN**

Are you a Christian? If your answer to this question is, “yes,” then you should be ready to give a reason of the hope that is in you.

“And be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” I Peter 3:15.

In other words, how do you know that you are a Christian and how did you become a Christian? It is one thing to try to live a Christian life, or behave like a Christian; it is another thing to become a Christian. No one has ever become a Christian by trying to live a Christian life. Every Christian should be able to say, "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." But he must first take the step that makes him a Christian before he can begin to live the life, or allow Christ to live His life in him.

Every Christian should be a workman for God; but no one can be a workman for God until that one is first the workmanship of God. We must be worked upon by God before God will permit us to work for Him. We can work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, because it is God that worketh in us both to will and to do of His own good pleasure. Philippians 2:13.

There are not many ways to become a Christian; there is just one way. A sinner may become a Christian in one day, in one hour, yea in a very few moments. Before the individual takes the final and decisive step that causes him to become a Christian, there may have been many influences and contributing causes, such as the prayers of God's people, some good sermons, Bible readings, Church attendance, serious and thoughtful meditation; but becoming a Christian is as definite an act as becoming a husband or wife.

Because of the confusion of this day when many people do not know the difference between a sentimental religion and eternal life, let us put the question in different words:

"Have you received from God the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord?"

"Have you been born from above?"

"Are you saved?"

"Are you a child of God?"

"Are you a saint?"

"Is your name written in Heaven?"

"If any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature." Are YOU?

Some time ago at the close of my gospel message there came forward a lady who was very much concerned about her relation to God. There was much doubt in her mind and more distress in her soul. I said, "Are you a Christian?" She replied, "Well, I'm a member of the Presbyterian Church, and have been for some years; but I'm no saint."

I said, "Lady, if you are not a saint, then you are a poor lost sinner." "But," said she, "I'm trying hard to live a Christian life; what else can I do?" I said to her, "You can never become a Christian by trying to do. You can be saved only by trusting in something that some One else has done." "Perhaps," said I, "you are a saint, and do not know it, but if you are, it is not because of anything or everything you have ever done, or ever will do; it is because you are a sinner saved by the grace of God on the basis of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, the sinner's Saviour; because of the value of His work on Calvary's cross."

It seems at times an impossible task to make people understand that sinners become Christians—or saints—not by working; but by believing. The Bible very clearly teaches that Christianity is both a creed and a life; that the creed must not only precede the life, but the life is ever because of the creed. Multitudes are deceived by the religious leaders of this day who tell their deluded followers that it makes very little difference what they believe; the thing that counts with God is what they do. But remember the Lord Jesus Christ said, "If ye believe not that I am, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24. "With the heart, man believeth unto righteousness." Romans 10:10. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts

16:31. Never can a man become a Christian except by believing the Record that God hath given concerning His Son. Every sinner must believe the same thing in order to become a Christian.

Let us carefully examine these words:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; It is the gift of God; Not of works lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8 and 9.

1. “By Grace” suggests that the sinner does not receive what he deserves when he receives from God the gift of eternal life or salvation.
2. “Through Faith” means that God gives the salvation to believers.
3. “Not of yourselves” teaches very clearly that salvation is not of yourself. No sinner has any inherent righteousness to offer to God, and no flesh can ever glory in God’s presence. Man is by nature everything that he ought not to be and cannot please God. Therefore, “They that are in the flesh cannot please God.” Romans 8:8. Nothing good in the flesh. Romans 7:18.
4. “The gift of God” means exactly what it says, God gives life to the sinner on the condition that the sinner will receive it as a free gift. If the sinner in any way earns it, or helps to pay for it, it is not a gift.
5. “Not of works” means that no sinner was ever saved by God by doing good deeds or living a good religious life, or by anything he did or could do for Him. No man is good enough to be saved apart from the grace of God. But thank God! no man is so bad that God’s grace is not sufficient for his salvation. “Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.”

To be sure, all saved people should be faithful in their service for God. But no one was ever saved by serving God.

God’s children are called into a Heavenly calling, a Holy calling, a High calling. They are called to Salvation, Separation and Service—and in the order mentioned, not save by serving, but save to serve.

It requires the same grace of God to save the self-righteous, religious Church-member and the murderer ready for the gallows. There are some of the former class who profess to be disciples of Jesus because they are trying to live up to His moral philosophy. They speak in very complimentary terms concerning the Master. But they have never been saved, because they have never believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, as their Sinbearer. They refuse to confess themselves as ruined sinners apart from the grace of God. They are unwilling to say with Peter, “Depart from me for I am a sinful man,” or with the publican, “God be merciful unto me, a sinner.”

It is one thing to be moral and religious; it is an entirely different thing to be spiritual and righteous.

Remember! “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”

“Christ died for our sins.” “He appeared once in the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” Hebrews 9:26.

To be saved is to be saved by a Saviour, by The Saviour. “Neither is there salvation in any other . . .” Acts 4:12. The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Can you truthfully say with assurance and certainty, “Christ is my Saviour”; “Christ liveth in me?”

The manhood of Jesus Christ the Righteous, with His moral philosophy, is an ideal to which no human being has ever attained. If we have to live like Jesus Christ lived before God will accept us, we certainly are without hope. There is no good news in such a proposition. There

are thousands and hundreds of thousands who are singing the song of redemption; because Jesus Christ died for the ungodly. Sinners are redeemed by the precious shed blood of this Lamb without spot or blemish.

“Who Himself bare our sins in His own body on the tree.”

“Jesus, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood suffered without the gate.” Hebrews 13:12.

Thus we see it is because Jesus died on Calvary’s cross that believing sinners are sanctified. “We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” Hebrews 10:10. Every believer thus sanctified immediately becomes a saint; for a saint is one who has been sanctified through the offering of Christ on the cross. There is a very definite once-for-all sanctifying when the Holy Spirit first applies the precious blood of Christ to his sinful soul. Hebrews 10:10 to 14.

The same Holy Spirit who makes us saints of God by applying the precious blood of the slain Lamb, at the same time makes us children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26. He likewise enables us to walk as becometh saints after we are saved. “But as many as received Him to them gave He the right to become the sons of God.” John 1:12.

God’s message of grace to the sinner is also stated in these words. “If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9.

Thus we learn that the sinner must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, must believe that God hath raised Him from the dead, must receive Him, and confess Him, in order to be saved. With this salvation comes the new creation, at which time the believer is called, “a new-born babe,” and is instructed to desire the sincere milk of the Word that he may grow thereby. I Peter 2:2. Every new-born babe should grow; but he must be born before he can grow. “God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works.” Ephesians 2:9 and 10.

“Happy is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.” Romans 4:8. If you are a sinner and saved by grace, you are the happy man spoken of. If your sins have been charged to Christ, God will not charge them to you. You are a free man, because a most worthy Substitute took your place and bare your sins in His own body on the tree. Your standing before God is perfect, if you are in Christ Jesus. Before God can find fault with your standing, He would have to find fault with His Son, and this is impossible. You are accepted in the Beloved. You are complete in Him. Your state is far from perfect and while it is your duty to so live that you can say with Paul, “I am what I am by the grace of God,” and also, “His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain,” (I Corinthians 15:10), yet you are not saved because of the life you live. You live because you are saved.

God is not only a just and righteous God, but He is a longsuffering and gracious Saviour, not willing that any should perish. He is an Almighty God, “the God of all grace,” eagerly waiting to bestow His grace upon any one who with true sorrow for sin and a sincere desire for salvation, believing that Jesus Christ was delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification, will surrender to Him as Saviour. This is the step necessary to become a Christian. Read in I Timothy 2:4 to 7 that God will have all men to be saved and how.

Now, if you are sure that you have taken this necessary step, here is the good news for you, “By Him all that believe are justified from all things.” Acts 13:39.

Do you believe? If you do, you are justified, redeemed, saved and sanctified. You are a child of God. Remember you are not saved because you feel like it; not because you understand the plan of salvation; not by reason. But because you believe. How foolish to depend upon

feelings for salvation! The essential is faith in God's infallible Word. God cannot lie. Nothing more delights the heart of God than to forgive the sinner who will accept His Divine terms. Hear this wonderful message, "Christ once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." I beg you, sinner, believe this; and God, for Christ's sake, will forgive you freely and fully. Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 2:13.

The same Saviour who saved you when you were a sinner can and will surely keep you now that you are a saint.

Now your question is not, "What must I do to be saved?"; but "Now that I am saved, what must I do?"

JESUS SAID:— John 6:47

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me (Jesus) hath everlasting life."

## **THE CHRISTIAN'S SECURITY AND ASSURANCE**

Satan causes many unsaved religious people to feel that they are perfectly safe and that all is well with their souls; while on the other hand he brings doubt and fear into the minds and hearts of many believers who are really saved, but who are untaught in the Word of God. Many such believers when asked the direct question, "Are you a Christian?" or "Are you saved?" reply, "I believe so"; "I think I am"; or "I hope to be saved when I die."

A young man tarried recently in a meeting to talk with me. The first question I put to him was, "Are you saved?" He replied, "I hope so." I said, "Do you hope that Christ died for your sins?" He said, "I know He did." Then I asked, "Do you hope that you believe on Him?" He said, "I am sure that I do." I then read to him these words from the Word of God:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth Him that sent me, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, and shall not come into judgment; but is passed out of death into life." John 5:24.

"Do you truly believe?" I asked the young man. "I most certainly do, was his reply. Then said I, "Are you saved?" He said, "I can only say 'I hope so.'" "But what does the Word say? Read it for yourself." "Heareth . . . believeth . . . hath everlasting life." "Does it say that if you hear and believe you have the right to hope that some day you may be saved?" "No," said he, "hath everlasting life." "Then, said I, "why do you not believe it and have the assurance?" He said, "I wish I could." Dear friend, do not dishonor the Lord by doubting his Holy Word.

Many Christians are being taught by ignorant teachers to do all kinds of things to keep from losing their salvation. Others depend very largely for their assurance upon their feelings of their faithfulness in service. The Bible speaks of believers as those: "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time, Wherein ye greatly rejoice." I Peter 1:5.

The sinner is saved by the power of God through faith; and receiving the salvation, he becomes a Christian. The Christian is kept by the same power; by the same God; through the same faith. Let us refer to three verses in the Epistle to the Romans and emphasize the expression "much more";

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. MUCH MORE then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, MUCH MORE, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" Romans 5:8 to 10, also 20.

Certainly if God loved us when we were the children of wrath, when we were His enemies, out in the world in sin, serving the devil, He will not love us any less, now that we have become His children. Looking moment by moment to our Father for grace and strength and guidance, we should walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called. We should seek to please Him in thought, word and deed; that is, we should act like God's children. But we are His children by faith in Christ Jesus. By grace are ye saved.

“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform (further perfect) it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6.

A Christian should be confident that the same sufficient grace of the same almighty Saviour, that saved his soul, will keep him until the day of redemption. “Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him: for we shall see Him as He is.” I John 3:2.

Let us always remember that it is the gospel of Jesus Christ which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. When you believed the gospel of salvation, “Ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.” Ephesians 1:13 and 14. And furthermore God clearly states that this sealing is “unto the day of redemption,” 4:30.

“For He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Hebrews 13:5.

Can you not rest, as Paul did, in the gracious promises of the faithful God? Paul said, “in hope of eternal life which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.” Titus 1:2. Therefore he had always sweet and blessed assurance.

Paul was willing to rest his soul in the One who died for him, and who had taken His seat in heaven, where He ever liveth to make intercession for His saints, and who is, therefore, “able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God, by Him.” Hebrews 7:25.

It was this same Christ who declared to His disciples in the tenth of John, that He was the Good Shepherd who would give His life for the sheep. In this chapter He said: “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father which gave them me is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.” John 10:28 and 29. Eternal life is eternal life. It is not life for a few months, for a few years. It is life that is forever. And remember Christ said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” John 6:47. When He entered heaven once for all, He obtained eternal redemption for us. Hebrews 9:12. Eternal life never depends upon our faithfulness in service; it is the gift of God to believers. Romans 6:23. Our desire always should be to be faithful in service for Him who has done so much for us, and who said, “If any man serve me, him will my Father honor.” But at the same time we should say at all times, “And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God, by faith.” Philippians 3:9. We are not righteous in God's sight, because of our righteous acts, but because of the acts of Jesus Christ the Righteous. We should live righteously because we are on the way to heaven. But we are not on the way because we live righteously, but because we are righteous by faith in the One who was made sin on the cross of Calvary that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. II Corinthians 5:21. We are not discounting the value of good works, but want to impress upon your mind and heart that the believer is justified without works. Christians should always maintain good works.

In the twelfth chapter of the Book of Exodus is recorded the story of the Passover. The children of Israel were instructed to slay the lamb and sprinkle its blood above their doors and

thus escape the wrath of God when He came that night in judgment upon all the firstborn males of Egypt. God said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." "Under the blood" was the only place of safety that dark night. No one was safe because he felt all right, or felt safe. How many thousands of poor deluded sinners there are today on the road to perdition, to suffer forever the sorrows of the second death, who feel all right. They are apparently not the least disturbed about their spiritual welfare or their eternal destiny. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

The story has been told of two Hebrew boys, the firstborn sons, who were delivered that night in Egypt. Their fathers had been very careful to see that the blood was placed where God had told them. Therefore, the two boys were perfectly safe and in no danger of judgment. But, according to the story, there were two entirely different scenes in the two homes. The boy in one home went peacefully to sleep, having absolute confidence in God's promise and the assurance that he would rise to see another day. In the other home, the boy spent a sleepless and restless night and continually had to be reassured by his father as to the faithfulness of God and his own security under the blood. When the morning came he was just as much alive as the other firstborn, but he was worn in mind and body, and he was ashamed because of his lack of trust and confidence in the almighty Deliverer. Both boys were equally safe, but they were by no means equally certain and assured. So it is with Christians today. Are you not safe, sheltered under the precious blood of Christ?

It is dishonoring to God for any true believer to doubt his salvation; "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba Father." Romans 8:15. "The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." 8:16. And joint-heirs with Christ. Is it not blessed to be saved for time and eternity?

Let us remember that "Jesus having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end." John 13:1.

Do you doubt that God will hear and answer the prayer which Christ made for His own: "Father, I will that they also, whom Thou has given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory?" John 17:24.

We believe our Saviour. And because we believe Him, we are going to say with Paul:

"I am persuaded, that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38 and 39.

If you have really surrendered to the Son of God and are trusting in His finished work, if you have thrown yourself on the grace and mercy of God for your salvation, in other words, if you have committed your way unto the Lord and you are also trusting in Him, remember that he will bring it to pass. Do not say, "I think I am saved," "I hope I am saved," "I believe I am saved." But say, "I know I am saved." God says so.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." I John 5:13.

If you know that you believe, then you know that you are saved. Why? Because God's Word says so. And, "He, that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself." I John 5:10.

There are other reasons which we shall consider in subsequent chapters; but this is quite sufficient for the present. Now bow and thank God for your assurance.

“Blessed God, we do give thanks: we believe Thy Holy Word:  
We praise Thee for Thy wondrous love; for Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Our sins by Him were put away; in death He took our place.  
Eternal life is Thy free gift; we have received Thy grace.  
Now in Him we rest secure in Thine own beloved Son;  
Knowing He will consummate the work He has begun.  
By Thy Holy Spirit sealed, unto redemption day,  
Our risen Christ as Advocate will keep us all the way.”

## THE CHRISTIAN AND THE TWO NATURES

When the sinner becomes a Christian, he receives a new nature from God; he becomes a partaker of the Divine nature. Because the Christian does not lose his old sinful nature, he is soon conscious of a warfare within. “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary one to the other; so that ye may not do the things that ye would.” Galatians 5:17. Christians have tried all kinds of religious schemes and joined all kinds of fanatical movements to get rid of their sinful natures. Many of them have deceived themselves—but no one else—into believing that they have been successful. There are many who claim for themselves that they have reached, through a second work of grace, the state of sinless perfection. Such a doctrine and position is not only contrary to Scripture, but contrary to the experience of any and every Christian. However, there is victory in Christ for every fully yielded believer.

The apostle Paul has well described the believer’s experience in these words, “For I delight in the law of God after the inward man. But I see another law in my members warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.” Romans 7:22 and 23. Notwithstanding this warfare, he exhorts his fellow-saints in these words: “Let not sin therefore REIGN in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.” Romans 6:12. It is one thing for sin to dwell in the believer; it is another thing for sin to reign in him. The believer is urged to be constantly on his guard, to be sober, vigilant, prayerful, yielding himself moment by moment to the Lord.

“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” I Corinthians 10:12 and 13.

This does not mean that the Christian will lose his salvation, but he can fall into sin, if he does not do that which he is commanded to do: “Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” Romans 6:13. He is likewise commanded, “Submit yourselves unto God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7.

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.” I John 4:4. It is because of this great fact that God instructs us: “Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:11. For said Paul, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13.

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16.

There is victory for the Christian in the Lord, and this victory comes by walking in the Spirit. All who thus walk fulfill the righteousness of the law by manifesting the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Against such there is no law. Romans 8:4. Galatians 5:22.

“And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” I John 2:1.

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” I John 1:8. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9.

We shall deal in subsequent chapters with the Christian’s conflict with the world and the devil, but we are here dealing with an enemy which in this life never leaves us nor forsakes us, but which will hinder, defeat and disgrace us unless we are ever and always yielded to the Lord, and can truly say, “The life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me and Who gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

When we are born of our parents we inherit a nature of sin which abides with us as long as we abide on this earth. When we are born of God we receive a Divine nature. We are born from above. With such Divine power we can put to death the deeds of the flesh. The old man came to an end at Calvary. Romans 6:3 to 6. Believers died with Him. But the believer must constantly put off the old man and put on the new. “That ye put off, concerning the former conversation, the old man . . . And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” Ephesians 4:24.

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ Our Lord.”

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

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

“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.” Roman 6:11 to 14.

## **THE CHRISTIAN’S WALK AND CONVERSATION**

We have learned from the preceding chapters that the believer’s standing before God is perfect, because Christ, by one offering, hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. Hebrews 10:14. “He that believeth on the Son is not condemned.” John 3:18.

On the cross of Calvary our Lord Jesus Christ became the propitiation for the sins of the whole world, and when the sinner, by faith, accepts that work, his relationship is forever established. The same Lord is now the believer’s Advocate, at God’s right hand, to maintain his fellowship with God. I John 2:1 and 2. There are many Christians who know very little about true fellowship with God, although they are children of God. This relationship has been established because of their faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. They have salvation, but experience very little of the true joy of salvation.

We have been blessed “with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3. “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” Romans 8:32.

“All are yours: And we are Christ’s and Christ is God’s. I Corinthians 3:23.

Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we have been:

“Delivered from the wrath to come”	I Thessalonians 1:10
“Delivered from the power of darkness”	Colossians 1:13
“Delivered from the fear of death”	Hebrews 2:15
“Delivered from the law”	Romans 7:6
“Delivered from this present evil age”	Galatians 1:4

Through faith in this same Lord Jesus Christ we have become:

“Partakers of the Divine nature”	II Peter 1:4
“Partakers of His holiness”	Hebrews 12:10
“Partakers of His sufferings”	I Peter 4:13
“Partakers of the heavenly calling”	Hebrews 3:1

This is because we are partakers of Christ. Hebrews 3:14. Christ is our righteousness, our holiness and our redemption. I Corinthians 1:30.

The Christian’s spiritual resources are unlimited, but very few Christians ever learn how to possess their possessions. Beginning as a newborn babe in Christ, the believer is exhorted to add to his faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control, patience; and to; patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love; and thus to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. II Peter 1:5 to 7; II Peter 3:18.

“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.” Colossians 1:10.

Our God would have us abstain from the very appearance of evil. “Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” So that we may be vessels, sanctified, and meet for the Master’s Service. II Timothy 2:19 to 22. We are called to Salvation, Separation; Service.

Christ said: “Occupy till I come.” Ever Christian should be constantly occupied with Christ and for Christ.

Read about the Lord Jesus and Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38 to 42. Martha was occupied for Jesus. Mary was occupied with Jesus. Christ said, “Mary hath chosen that good part.” Luke 10:42.

## **THE CHRISTIAN AND PRAYER**

“Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.” Luke 18:1.

Christians not only have the privilege of praying to the almighty God, Who is their Father; but they are commanded to pray to Him. God’s children prosper spiritually just in the degree they obey this most important command. So many problems of the Church could be solved today, if God’s people would give themselves to prayer. How many defeated Christians there are, because of the neglect of prayer.

“He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6.

“The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers.” I Peter 3:12.

Is it not wonderful to think that a way has been provided whereby creatures here on this earth can really communicate with the Creator, who is all powerful and all wise; with the great God who is a loving and compassionate Father of redeemed sinners, sensitive to all of their needs? The ears of the reigning God, Who is willing, faithful and able, Who has never yet made one mistake, are open unto the praises and petitions of His children.

“Pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” Matthew 6:6.

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16.

“We know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Romans 8:26.

It is recorded of Jesus, the Son of God, that He went up into the mountain to pray, that He continued all night in prayer to God. Luke 9:28, Mark 6:46 and Luke 6:12.

If the holy Son of God needed to pray, how about poor weak Christians like us? Men ought always to pray and not to faint.

The members the early Church gave themselves continually to prayer. Acts 6:4. Christians are told to pray without ceasing. I Thessalonians 5:7. Pray always Colossians 1:3 and Ephesians 6:18. Continuing instant in prayer. Romans 12:12. Give yourself to prayer and fasting, I Corinthians 7:5. Pray lest ye enter into temptation. Luke 22:46. Pray for one another. James 5:16. Be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer. I Peter 4:7. In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Philippians 4:6. Night and day praying. I Thessalonians 3:10. Evening and morning, and at noon will I pray. Psalm 55:17. Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men. I Timothy 2:1.

“The prayer of the upright is His delight.” Proverbs 15:8.

“What is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit should we have, if we pray to Him?” Job 21:15.

“All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Matthew 21:22.

“THAT YOUR PRAYERS BE NOT HINDERED.” I Peter 3:7.

“Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” James 4:3.

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” Psalm 66:18.

“When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” Mark 11:25.

“Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.” I John 3:22.

“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us.” I John 5:14.

“If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” John 15:7.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you.” John 16:23 and John 14:13.

When Stephen was dying he said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Acts 7:59. But on the authority of the Lord Jesus, prayer should be directed to the Father, in the name of the Son.

May God help us to be faithful in prayer.

We here quote from the Old Testament Scriptures some examples of answered prayer.

Genesis	20:17	Jonah	2:1
Numbers	11:2	Nehemiah	1:4
I Samuel	1:27	Nehemiah	2:4
II Kings	6:17	Ezra	10:1
II Kings	19:15	Daniel	6:11

May God help us to hear afresh the words of the Lord Jesus Christ as we look all about at the abounding sin and the powerless churches, “This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” Matthew 17:21 and 9:29.

## THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SCRIPTURES

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.” II Timothy 2:15.

“We are His workmanship.” Ephesians 2:10.

As we stated in an earlier chapter, we are not ready to work for God until we are sure that we are first the workmanship of God, “created in Christ Jesus;”

“God hath chosen you unto salvation through belief of the truth.” II Thessalonians 2:13; “Thy Word is truth.” John 17:17. The sinner saved by grace is the workmanship of God. To be saved by grace is to be born again, “not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.”

There are times when some seem, fearful that the Word of God will be destroyed; but the Psalmist said: “Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven.” Psalm 119:89. Truly the Word of God liveth and abideth forever. Men and generations may change in their attitude toward God’s Word, but His Word never changes. By this Word of God, we are born again, and become new-born babes.

“As new-born babes desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.” I Peter 2:2.

Some young Christians, as well as old ones, are unceasingly active, but growing very little, because they are not regularly and systematically studying the Word of God. One of the signs of a healthy Christian is a real appetite for the Word of God, an appetite satisfied by constantly feeding upon that Word.

Jeremiah said, “Thy Words were found, and I did eat them, and Thy Word was unto me the joy and the rejoicing of my heart.” Jeremiah 15:16.

Hundreds of times in the Bible do we find the expression, “The Word of the Lord.” “God spake all these things.” Surely the Word of God is life-giving and powerful, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12.

The moment doubt creeps into the heart as to the plenary inspiration of God's Holy Book, the moment the individual begins to question the infallibility, accuracy or integrity of the Word of God, that moment holy respect for God's absolute authority begins to wane. And what follows, if faith and obedience are not restored? "Every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

The Psalmist said, "I rejoice at Thy Word, as one that findeth great spoil." Psalm 119:162.

"I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12.

The ignorance of the Word of God among Christians is appalling. Think of the wonderful privilege that we have today with the complete revealed will of God, bound in one volume, with every help imaginable; "and yet how few Christians are taking advantage of their opportunity." As someone has truly said, "The Church today needs more teach and less preach." Careful and prayerful Bible-students are not easily swept off their feet with false doctrines into Satanic and fanatical cults.

"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace." Hebrews 13:9.

God's instruction to the saint is, "Try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world." I John 4:1. How can we try them unless we know the Scripture which is "given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:16 and 17.

Every Christian should be like those at Berea, who "were more noble than they at Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11.

If you want to be a sower for God, remember, "The sower soweth the Word." Mark 4:14. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Romans 10:17. There is no substitute for the Word of God. God has not promised to bless our logic and eloquence; unless they convey to the human heart His own eternal Word. Nor has He promised to save souls by human philosophies and schemes. The seed is the Word of God, "the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation." II Timothy 3:15.

When the Son of God was tempted by the devil He used the Sword of the Spirit, "It is written." Luke 4:4, 8 and 12. So every Christian in his conflict against the devil is instructed to use the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Ephesians 6:17.

Remember then, Christian, you cannot grow spiritually; you cannot defeat Satan; you cannot please God and get the greatest joy in your Christian life in service and victory; you cannot escape heresies; unless you diligently, systematically, and prayerfully study God's holy Book.

"How sweet are Thy Words unto my taste! Yea sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalm 119:103.

So we are born by the Word of God. I Peter 1:23. James 1:18 and 21. II Thessalonians 2:13.

We grow by the Word of God. I Peter 2:1 and 2.

We are built up by the Word of God. Acts 20:32.

We are separated by the Word of God. John 17:17.

We are clean through the Word of God. John 15:3.

We are to go everywhere and preach the Word of God. II Timothy 4:2; Acts 8:4.

“For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” I Peter 1:24 and 25.

“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” Psalms 119:89.

“I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving kindness and for thy truth; for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.” Psalms 138:2.

“Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.” Psalms 119:140.

“Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word. I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.” Psalms 119:161 and 162.

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalms 119:105.

“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.” Jeremiah 15:16.

## **THE CHRISTIAN AND THE FATHER**

“For ye are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26.

Only Christians are the children of God, and only because of faith in Christ Jesus. Children of God!

God is not some impersonal principle, or some unknown inanimate force. God is a living, personal God. Some religious people know Him as the Supreme Being, but His children know Him as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:3, I Peter 1:3 and II Corinthians 11:31.

“Neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him.” Matthew 11:27. “God is a Spirit.” John 4:24. “God is light.” I John 1:5. “God is love.” I John 4:8. “Our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:29.

“This is life eternal that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.” John 17:3.

This excludes all other gods. The only true God is known as “The God of Peace.” Hebrews 13:20. “The God of all Comfort.” II Corinthians 1:3. “The God of all Grace.” I Peter 5:10. “The Father of Mercies.” II Corinthians 1:3. “The Father of spirits.” Hebrews 12:9. “The God of Hope.” Romans 15:13.

This same God is known in the Old Testament Scriptures as the “God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” “The Lord which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”

When we receive Christ, we are born of God and become the children of God. John 1:12 and 13. Then we belong to the Household of God. Ephesians 2:19. “For which cause He (Christ) is not ashamed to call them brethren.” Hebrews 2:11. Christ said, “Go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God.” John 20:17.

The Bible is very clear in its teachings that the sinner has to be born into the family of God. One of the lies of Satan today is, that all men are the children of God. They quote, to support this teaching, the experience and language of the Prodigal Son, “I will arise and go to my father.” Luke 15:18. Also, “For in Him, we live and move, and have our being,” as certain also of your own poets have said, “For we are also His offspring.” Acts 17:28. To be sure all have

their being in God; for there is no life apart from the living God. But it is one thing to be born of blood, the will of the flesh and of man; but something entirely different and separate to be born of God. John 1:13. The Prodigal had departed from his father's house: some saints do thus depart from God's House. But no unsaved one was ever in God's House. Through unbelief, Adam departed from God and took the whole human race with him.

To those religious men who rejected Him, Christ said, "Ye are of your father, the devil." John 8:44. To another Paul said, "Thou child of the devil." Acts 13:10.

"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil." I John 3:10. Thus we see there are two kinds of children in the world, and the cross of Calvary stands between them.

I was in a city holding a meeting when the preacher pointed out to me the home of one of his members and told me the sad story of a wrecked life. A fine young man had lived in that home with other children since babyhood. He at last had come to legal age and was told the story of his life; that the man whom he had always called his father was not his own father. He brooded over the story of a long covered disgrace until he became a physical and moral wreck. What a sad day it will be when the great multitudes of religious people who are asserting sonship without experiencing regeneration, will stand with all their guilt and sin uncovered before the true and holy God in that awful day of judgment!

Some religious self-righteous sinners are trying to behave like children of God without having experienced regeneration, without having received His Divine nature, the new birth which is the imperative for Divine sonship. Read Titus 3:5 to 7.

Remember, it is one thing to be born of human parents within the natural law of procreation; it is another thing to be born of God by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. "Ye must be born again, 'from above,' of the Spirit." How? By receiving Christ. John 1:12. "He that hath the Son hath the Father." I John 3:1 to 7.

"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying 'Abba Father.'" Galatians 4:6.

"The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God; and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ." Romans 8:17.

"The Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved me." John 16:27.

When the apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians these words, "my God shall supply all of your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus," (Philippians 4:19), he was confirming the statement of Christ, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him." Matthew 7:11.

"Pray to thy Father." Matthew 6:6. This is the instruction of the Son, our Saviour. So prayer should be directed to the Father, through the Son, the Holy Spirit making intercessions for us. Romans 8:26.

God delights to be addressed as "Almighty God, Our Heavenly Father, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

## **THE CHRISTIAN AND GOD, THE SON**

"And He is the Head of the Body, the Church; Who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence." Colossians 1:18.

We can only touch on the glories of our Lord Jesus Christ and the eternal relationships between this One who is called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, and the redeemed sinner who is already seated with that glorious Saviour in the heavenlies. Ephesians 2:6. Isaiah 9:6.

When we learn that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is mentioned by noun and pronoun more than sixty-nine hundred times in the New Testament Scriptures, we see the impossible task of trying to describe Him in our relationships in one short chapter. According to John 21:25, “even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written” concerning this One, who is called:

“The Lord of Glory.” I Corinthians 2:8.

“The Prince of Life.” Acts 3:15.

“The Brightness of God’s Glory.” Hebrews 1:3.

He was in the form of God. Philippians 2:6. He was with God. He was God. John 1:1 and 2. The Father said, “Let all the angels of God worship Him.” “Unto the Son He saith, ‘Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever.’” Hebrews 1:6 and 7. “Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever.” Romans 9:5. And Thomas said unto Him (Jesus), “My Lord and my God.” John 20:28.

Being a man he made himself God. John 10:33.

“He is before all things and by Him all things consist.” Colossians 1:17. By Jesus Christ, God made the world and all things. Ephesians 3:9. In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Colossians 2:9. All judgment is committed into His hands. John 5:22. He knows all things. John 21:17.

God hath appointed Jesus Christ heir of all things. Hebrews 1:2. Therefore the Son could truthfully say, “All things that the Father hath are mine.” John 16:15.

All of the promises of God are yea and amen in Christ Jesus. II Corinthians 1:20.

This is the Saviour who was made after the power of an endless life. Hebrews 7:16. This is the Lord of Glory who for sinners was crucified. I Corinthians 2:8. Is it any wonder He could say, “I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and death?” Revelation 1:18.

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” Revelation 1:8.

The Scriptures, the Written Word, testify of Jesus Christ, the Living Word. John 5:39.

This Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church. Sinners saved by grace are members of that Body. “And they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the Church.” Ephesians 5:31.

This Christ is the true vine and sinners saved by grace are the branches. John 15:1 to 8.

“Our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.” I Thessalonians 5:10.

This Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever. Hebrews 13:8. He is:

“The Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.” I Peter 2:25.

“The Author and Finisher of our faith.” Hebrews 12:2.

“The Apostle and High Priest of our confession.” Hebrews 3:1.

This is the Christ who died that “He should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.” John 11:52.

“That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him.” Ephesians 1:10.

The believer is in Christ. Romans 8:1. II Corinthians 5:17.

Christ is in the believer. Galatians 2:20. Colossians 1:27.

The believer in Christ is accepted in the Beloved; he is complete in Him; is a new creature in Him and is free from condemnation in Him. Romans 8:2. Ephesians 1:6. Colossians 2:9. II Corinthians 5:17.

The believer is a joint-heir with Christ. Romans 8:17. If God hath appointed Christ heir of all things, what does it mean to be a joint-heir with Him?

“Christ is the believer’s one Husband.” II Corinthians 11:2.

“He is our Righteousness.” I Corinthians 1:30.

“He is our Peace.” Ephesians 2:14.

“He is our Sanctification or Holiness.” I Corinthians 1:30.

“He is our Saviour.” Titus 1:4.

“He is our Passover.” I Corinthians 5:7.

“He is our Redemption.” I Corinthians 1:30.

“He is our Hope.” I Timothy 1:1.

“He is our Life.” Colossians 3:4.

“He is our Resurrection.” John 11:25.

He Himself said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life.” “I am the Bread of Life.” “I am the Light of the World.” “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” “Before Abraham was, I am.” “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.”

He is the one Mediator between God and men. I Timothy 2:5.

He is the Good Shepherd; He is the Great Shepherd; He is the Chief Shepherd. John 10:11 Hebrews 13:20. I Peter 5:1 to 3.

Therefore Christians say with the greatest of all Christians:

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” Galatians 6:14.

All of the eternal purposes of God are centered in that Only Begotten and Well Beloved Son with Whom He was well pleased; that One who was ever the eternal bosom-companion of His Father; and not only so, but they are centered in that cross of Calvary where that Son, obedient unto that cruel death, was made sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

We will be singing His praises for all eternity and will never tire of hearing of His glories. “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honour and glory and blessing.” Revelation 5:12.

So we are rejoicing in the fact that we are serving and worshipping a living, resurrected, glorified Saviour, who is our Advocate at God’s right hand, where He ever liveth to make intercession for those who are saved. But let us remember that it is one thing to know Him as the Saviour from the penalty of sin, while it is something different to daily acknowledge Him as Lord, knowing Him with Paul in the fellowship of His sufferings and in the power of His resurrection. Philippians 3:10.

As disciples of Christ, we are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. And surely no Christian can consistently be a member of any fraternal organization whose members dishonor our Lord or deny His Deity.

“All men should honor the Son even as they honor the Father.” John 5:23.

Let us never receive the teaching of any man or woman, that the eternal Christ was the creation of the eternal Father before the world began. The Christ of the Bible said, “He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father.” John 14:9. After the order of Melchisedec, Christ is without father or mother, beginning of days or end of life. Hebrews 7:3. He was pre-existent, co-existent with the Father and self-existent. He was called “God” by the Father. Hebrews 1:8. Romans 9:4 to 6. I John 5:20. Isaiah 9:6. John 1:1 to 3.

“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:”

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:”

“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist” Colossians 1:15 to 17.

## **THE CHRISTIAN AND THE HOLY SPIRIT**

All true Christians believe in three Persons in one God-head, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As the little boy said, “Three in One and One in Three, and the One in the middle died for me.”

Christ said, “Baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19.

The personality and deity of the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, are clearly set forth in the Scriptures. Christ said, “And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter (or Paraclete).” John 14:16. This is the same word translated “Advocate.” I John 2:2. When Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, he lied to God. Acts 5:3 and 4. “And the Holy Spirit said . . .” Acts 13:2. “The Holy Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered . . .” Romans 8:26.

In the Old Testament Scriptures the Second and Third Persons of the God-head were latent; in the New Testament Scriptures they are patent. Christ, beginning with the Book of Matthew, is patent; the Holy Spirit, beginning with the Book of the Acts is patent.

As one teacher has said, The Holy Spirit was a visitor in the Old Testament, who came upon the aristocracy; God’s servants. But in the New Testament He is a resident in the hearts of the democracy as well.

The dispensation of the Holy Spirit was ushered in after the resurrection of the Son of God. Before the Son of God went to the cross “the Holy Spirit was not yet given.” John 7:39.

When Jesus Christ was here on earth, He said:

“I will send the Holy Spirit.” John 16:7.

God is in the Christian. II Corinthians 6:16.

Christ is in the Christian. Colossians 1:27.

The Holy Spirit is in the Christian. I Corinthians 6:19.

Therefore the Holy Spirit is a Person as truly as is God, the Father. It is unscriptural for any Christian to pray for, or to seek for, more of the Holy Spirit. It is all right to pray that the Holy Spirit may have more of the Christian. It is likewise unscriptural to ask God to send down the Holy Spirit from heaven. When Christ was on earth He said, “I came down from heaven.” The Bible says that the Holy Spirit has been sent down from heaven. I Peter 1:12. How foolish would John have been, had he looked up to heaven and prayed for God to send down from

heaven His Son, when John's head was leaning on His bosom at the time. It is equally as foolish for a Christian with the Holy Spirit in his bosom to pray that the Third Person be sent down from heaven today.

Note in Ephesians 1:3 and Ephesians 1:19 to 23 that the Christian has all blessings and power and therefore it is unscriptural to seek a second blessing called Holy Spirit baptism.

The Holy Spirit bears witness of the resurrection of the believer's sonship. Romans 8:16. He is the believer's assurance of his incorruptible inheritance at the Lord's coming. Ephesians 1:14. Therefore he is the witness of the Lord's return. Ephesians 4:30.

Just as truly as there is one Father and one Son, there is one Spirit and one Church. Ephesians 4:4. Just as truly as there are infidels in the churches preaching another Jesus, there are fanatics in the churches preaching another spirit. II Corinthians 11:4.

The world cannot receive the Spirit. John 14:17. The Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. John 16:8. If the sinner under conviction yields to the Sinbearer, he is drawn by the Spirit to the Son. John 6:44. Then he is born of the Spirit. John 3:5. As no one can work for salvation, which is a free gift from God, no one can work for the Holy Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit by the hearing of faith. Galatians 3:2. The Holy Spirit is given unto believers. Romans 5:5. Therefore we do not have to agonize or go through physical contortions or have others put hands on us in order to receive the Holy Spirit.

Notice the three persons of the Trinity in these verses: "Now He which establisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." II Corinthians 1:21 and 22. The proof that we are in Christ, is the Spirit in our hearts. By this Spirit we are sealed when we believe. Ephesians 1:13. "After that ye believed," in this verse is properly translated from the original, "having believed." No Christian is ever sealed because of an interval between the time of believing and the time of sealing; but every Christian is sealed by the Holy Spirit, because he believes the gospel of his salvation. Moreover he is sealed unto the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30.

No Christian could possibly have the experience of the certain disciples whom Paul met in Ephesus. They had received John's message and baptism, which have had no place in the Church since that time. Acts 19:1 to 5. Paul's question should be correctly translated, "Having believed, received ye the Holy Spirit." Acts 19:2.

The anointing which the believer receives when first he believes abides in him. I John 2:27.

There is one Spirit and one baptism. Ephesians 4:4. When the sinner is born into the family of God, by the work of the Holy Spirit, he is taken into the Church of God, which is the Body of Christ. The work of the Holy Spirit which puts the believer into the Body, or Church, of Jesus Christ is called, "Baptized in or by the Holy Spirit." I Corinthians 12:13.

People who call themselves Christians are doing all kinds of peculiar things today in an effort to receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Some are being taught that believers receive the Holy Spirit with them when saved by faith in the finished work of God, repentance and water baptism; and then they must pray and tarry and yield for a second work of grace in order to receive the Holy Spirit in them. Such teaching is contrary to the Word of God and has wrecked the faith and sanity of many converted people.

Some of these false teachers often quote the experience of Peter and the Eleven who were saved with Christ in the days of His flesh, and then were baptized by the Holy Spirit after His resurrection. Let us remember that they were His disciples before His death, that is before the Holy Spirit was given. John 7:39. They were with Him while He was under the law, preaching

the kingdom of heaven message to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Galatians 4:4. Matthew 10:1 to 5. Those disciples had the unique experience of living, as disciples of Jesus, before His death and resurrection in the Old Testament and also after His resurrection in the New Testament. As it would be impossible historically to have such an experience today, it would likewise be impossible for any believer to have their experience in receiving the Holy Spirit as an act subsequent to regeneration or conversion.

The Christian, who is sealed with the Holy Spirit, can grieve the Holy Spirit and can quench the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30. I Thessalonians 5:19.

It is the duty of every Christian to walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16. All Christians are temples of the Holy Spirit but very few of them are walking in the Spirit in the degree that they should. When a Christian walks in the Spirit he manifests the fruit of the Spirit, against which there is no law. Galatians 5:22 and 23. He fulfills the righteousness of the law. Romans 8:4.

All Christians have been baptized by the Holy Spirit, but how few today are obeying the Word of God in this command, "Be filled with the Holy Spirit." Ephesians 5:18. The Christian who has the sweetest fellowship with the Lord, who experiences the greatest joy of salvation, Who serves God with the greatest power, who triumphs over the world, the flesh and the devil, is the one who is filled with the Holy Spirit.

The believer is thus filled just in the proportion that he is yielded to the will and way of the Lord in worship, prayer, Bible study, testimony and practical Christian service.

Tarrying-meetings for members of the Body of Christ to receive the Holy Spirit are unscriptural or rather undispensational. Prayer-meetings for faith, willingness and obedience to receive the power of Ephesians 1:19 to 23 are altogether Scriptural. No believer receives the Holy Spirit on the installment plan. Believers filled with the Holy Spirit will exalt Christ.

During the "Acts" period, the thirty years from Acts 1:1 to Acts 28:31, there were several baptisms, "Holy Spirit baptism," in fulfillment of Joel's prophecy, "water baptism," and "baptism into the death of Christ." Acts 2:16 to 38. Acts 19:1 to 7. Romans 6:3 to 4. Joel prophesied concerning the "last days," particularly concerning Israel's kingdom age. Joel 2:28 to 30, concerning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, will not be fulfilled during this "grace" period. Whatever we may have in mind when we speak of Holy Spirit baptism, let us never forget that the anointing of the Holy Spirit is a once-for-all anointing (I John 2:27); that the sealing, anointing and baptism, of, in, or by, the Holy Spirit is always a past experience with a believer.

Compare the "death" baptism of Christ in Luke 12:50 with the baptism of Romans 6:3, Colossians 2:12 and Ephesians 4:5.

"But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified." John 7:39.

Read carefully II Thessalonians 2:13 and I Corinthians 6:11 and see how the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit precedes justification and salvation.

"What! Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are NOT YOUR OWN?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's." I Corinthians 6:19 and 20.

## **THE CHRISTIAN AND THE CHURCH**

“Now ye are the Body of Christ, and members in particular.” I Corinthians 12:27. Read this twelfth chapter and study the relation of the members to Christ and to one another. “So we, being many, are one Body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” Romans 12:5.

When the sinner is born of the Spirit, this birth is something that cannot be seen. Even so when he is by the same Spirit baptized into the Body of Christ by a Divine Baptism not made with hands, the transaction is not with ocular demonstration. This mystical or invisible birth places the believing sinner in the invisible Church. Therefore, the Church is primarily an organism. Before the individual becomes concerned about joining a visible organization, he should be sure that he is a member of that invisible Body of the Lord Jesus Christ. He may be sure that he is a member of that Body, if he is a temple of the Holy Spirit, indwelt by this One who is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession. Ephesians 1:14.

When the sinner comes to Christ, the Lamb of God, Which beareth away the sins of the world, and accepts Him and His great sacrifice, by simple faith, that sinner’s name is written down in heaven, in the book of life. There is a song we sing, “Is my name written there?” Thank God we can know, and should know, whether or not it is. Many unsaved religious people have their names written on the church-roll of some denominational organization on this earth. What a pitiful sight, a poor religious sinner headed for perdition as a church-member. He may be very respectable, but a respectable sinner. Many churchmember have never experienced the new birth, but are relying upon their good works and religion to take them to heaven. Unceasingly active in church-work but lost. “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.”

The Church of Christ is not being built upon Peter or any other man or group of men. “Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ.” I Corinthians 3:11. Peter wrote concerning the Stone, “To whom coming, as unto a living Stone, disallowed of men, but chosen of God, and precious. Ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house.” I Peter 2:1 to 9. Christ is called in the sixth verse “A Chief Cornerstone.”

“Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner-stone; in Whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; in Whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God.” Ephesians 2:21.

It is a growing temple, not yet completed. God in this age is not converting the whole world: He is building a Temple. The stones in this Temple are sinners taken out of the quarry of sin and placed by the Holy Spirit in the Building which is being fitly framed together. The world can not see this construction work; they can see the professing Church with its great political and ecclesiastical organizations. But alas! In many of these schemes the Lord has little or no part.

The apostle Paul declares that this Church, or Body of Christ, was a mystery, “which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men.” Ephesians 3:5. Having been revealed, the Body of Christ is no longer a “secret.” Israel and the kingdom were made known in other ages, and different from the Body of Christ. There was an Old Testament assembly or church in the wilderness; but this was not the mystery revealed to Paul. The Church is surely related to the kingdom of God, but it is peculiarly the Body of Christ.

So long as we take the promises and use the ritual belonging to Israel, and identify them with the Body of Christ, we will do violence to the Word of God and frustrate the grace of God.

The Church is called also “One New Man.” Ephesians 2:15. The New Man is made up of members and Head. When the last member of the Body has been added, the Head will come and there will be a real resurrection union. I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18. But in the meantime there

exists that invisible union of every believer to that One who is seated at God's right hand. Already the believer is positionally seated in the heavenlies in Christ. Ephesians 2:6.

Read concerning this inseparable and eternal union in Ephesians.

The kingdom of heaven for Israel, God's earthly people, has been temporarily set aside until Christ's Church is completed. This is His purpose in this age. Then He will return and build again the tabernacle of David, etc., and Israel will be restored to God's Divine favor, and the kingdom of heaven message will be sent out to announce the establishment of the Messianic kingdom on this earth. Romans 11:25 to 30.

The Body of Christ is the fulness or filling-up of Christ. Ephesians 1:23. Note the consummation in Ephesians 4:12 and 13.

We quote Ephesians 1:19 to 23:

"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power."

"Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places."

"Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:"

"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church."

"Which is His Body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all." Ephesians 1:19 to 23.

Christians should have a regular meeting-place and come together in the name of Christ, not as a factor in salvation, but because they are saved and on the way to heaven.

## **NO PRIEST BUT JESUS IN THE CHURCH**

There are some who claim that Peter was the first bishop of Rome and made pope of the Church. In the first place there is no reliable proof that Peter ever saw the city of Rome. But any one who will read his own Epistle will be assured that he was never a pope. In fact, we are certain that he never had any God-given right of supervision over the Gentile branch of the Church. Galatians 2:7 and 9. Peter was a minister to the circumcision. We are sure that he did not bear the title of the Very Right Reverend Simon Peter, D. D. Nor did he preach in clerical robes. There is no Scriptural record that Peter belonged to the order of priests, the Tribe of Levi. Nor is there one Scriptural record of any saint or sinner ever confessing his sins to him for forgiveness. He preached forgiveness by believing on Christ. Acts 10:34 to 44. Acts 4:12.

It was Peter who warned against any leader in the Church being called a clergyman while others should be called laymen: "Neither as being lords over God's heritage." I Peter 5:3. "Yea, all of you be subject one to another." I Peter 5:5. Not subject to a cardinal or an archbishop or a pope, all of whom claim to be lords over God's heritage. But subject one to another. Even as God said, "Confess your sins one to another, and pray one for another." James 5:16. He did not say to members of the Church confess your sins to an earthly priest, for there is no place for any such priest in the Church of this age. Every Gentile who ever served as a priest has been out of the will of God. He belongs to a man-made institution and system. God knows nothing about Gentile priests. God's temple priests were Jews, of one tribe only, Levi. If Christ were here He would not be a priest. Hebrews 8:4. Because He was of the Tribe of Judah. Hebrews 7:14. When Jesus Christ died on the cross the veil in the temple was rent from top to bottom, at which time

the Levitical priest-hood found its typical fulfillment in the High Priest of our confession, Jesus Christ, who offered Himself, as Priest and sacrifice on the altar of Calvary. Christ opened the new and living way and did away with the old way, which has now no place whatsoever in the economy of God. Hebrews 8:13. Read Colossians 2:13, and II Corinthians 3:6 to 15.

It was the function of a priest to present man to God. Only our Lord Jesus Christ can do this acceptably, except as any and all saints can and should intercede for others. When God said that Christ Jesus is the one Mediator between God and men, He meant just that. I Timothy 2:5. Christ is now in the true sanctuary, in heaven itself, “now to appear in the presence of God for us.” Hebrews 9:24.

It is the function of the New Testament preacher to present God to man and to recognize but one priest, even Jesus.

Many poor ignorant and deluded people have stumbled over these words of Jesus Christ, “Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.” John 20:23.

“Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:19.

To be sure the apostles of Jesus Christ held a unique position in the early Church, as the Spirit-filled messengers who were not only the custodians of the truth as given by the mouth of Jesus Christ, the Apostle of God, but they were to be moved upon by the Holy Spirit to give additional revelation to the Church. Who could qualify today as an apostle according to the Word of God? Acts 1:21 and 22. No successor was chosen to take the place of James when he died. Acts 12:2 and 3. So God’s program demanded twelve apostles from Acts 1 to Acts 11. Then the record concerning the activities of the Twelve ceased, and Paul the apostle to the Gentiles fills the last half of Acts. Romans 11:13, Galatians 2:7 to 13.

Peter and the Eleven represented Christ with Divine authority. Apostolic succession with transferred apostolic authority is wholly unscriptural. The pope is a usurper through the interference of man. The Church today is the Church of the living God, “the pillar and ground of the truth.” I Timothy 3:15. There were prerogatives vested in the first apostles which have no place in the Church today. Peter certainly did not presume to forgive or remit sins. He preached Jesus Christ to Cornelius and said, “Through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.” Acts 10:43.

Any fifteen year old Christian, black or white, male or female, can preach this message to any sinner today. It does not require a priest or a cardinal.

Cornelius wanted to worship Peter, “But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.” Acts 10:26.

As the Church of Jesus Christ is the custodian of the gospel of Jesus Christ, how will the sinner ever receive the remission of sins except as the Church is faithful in the proclamation of that saving message? Only as the Church of God preaches Christ crucified to a dying world will things be bound and loosed on earth and in heaven. Read Romans 10:9 to 17.

It was Peter, who has been misrepresented as a high-priest, who addressed Christians as “holy priests” and “royal priests.” I Peter 2:5 and 9. In Revelation 5:10, we read of a kingdom of priests.

Satan is responsible for all of the Judaism, ritualism, and systems of priesthood in Christendom today, in his most successful effort to obscure the glories of the true Head of the Church and cover up the wonderful gospel of grace, which requires no work of priest or bishop to aid in its efficacy. Every effort to supplement the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ

simply frustrates the grace of the God of all grace. We plead with you not to place any faith in religious rites, religious men and religious systems. Get your eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ, who is sufficient without the aid or interference of any so-called priest, cardinal or bishop. If we were not in the days of grace God would smite with death every Roman priest. Numbers 18:7. Their sin of demanding that God be approached through their mediatorial work is worse than heresy. Remember we are complete in Christ, seated with Him and blessed in the heavenlies. Colossians 2:10. Ephesians 2:6.

Read carefully I Timothy 2:5 to 6. Hebrews 7:25 and Hebrews 9:25 and Hebrews 4:16; and then note the sevenfold unity of Ephesians 4:3 to 7.

“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

“One God and father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” Ephesians 4:3 to 7.

Here is God’s own word that there is one and only one true Bible Church and that that Church is not primarily an organization of men on earth, but a company of redeemed sinners raised up and seated with Christ in the heavenlies.

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

“This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the Church:” Ephesians 5:31 and 32.

## **THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SAINTS**

It is written of Peter and John, “Being let go, they went to their own company:” Acts 4:23.

It is the desire of our Lord that every saint should belong to a company of saints who gather on the first day of the week, and as often besides as the Holy Spirit leads them.

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25.

There are many Christians who run hither and thither, and are not identified with a regular assembly of saints, for worship.

On the other hand there are some saved ones who are gathering under the ministry of shepherds who do not honor the Lord in their ministry and do not feed the flock with the Word of God. Truly there is a famine in the land, a famine for the Word of God.

God will hold responsible the saint who remains identified with some denominational organization where the Word is not preached. Be not a partaker of their evil deeds. II John 7 to 11.

Joining the church organization never helped a believer’s standing with God, and that believer can go to heaven without joining any organization. But the spiritual welfare of every Christian demands his identification with a company of saints gathered in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul in his day wrote desiring, “that there should be no schism in the Body.” I Corinthians 12:25. How it must grieve our Lord to see His Body divided up into several hundred

sects, with envy, competition, strife, pride and bitterness, when God's Word is so plain. One Body.

Jesus Christ said, "By this shall all know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another." John 13:34. Christ did not say for Baptists to love Baptists, for Methodists to love Methodists. He said that every member of the Body of Christ should love every other member. "And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 5:32. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2. "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." I John 3:11. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." Romans 12:10.

"Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?" "Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times; but until seventy times seven." Matthew 18:22.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Ephesians 6:18.

Regardless of denominational affiliation, all truly born-again people will be gathered to the Lord when He comes in the air and then there will be a united Church. Note what kind of a Church in Ephesians 5:26 to 31. Some will be ashamed before Him at His coming for their treatment of other saints.

May God enable us to be patient and longsuffering, gentle and loving toward one another without compromise as to His Divine truth And by all means be sure that you are a member of that Church which is the Body of Christ. Read Ephesians 2:19 to 22.

So we have concluded that we are not saved because we belong to a church organization, because we go to church services. But we are identified with God's people and attend these services, because we are saved through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work, and love to gather in His Blessed Name with other saved ones.

There, of course, is something unique about the Church which is the Body of Christ. Every time the word "church" is found in the Scriptures it is the Greek "EKKLESIA." It is translated in Acts 19:32, 39 and 41, "assembly." The King James translators acknowledged that "church" (from Kurios, the Lord) was not a good translation. Church is found in the N. T. Scriptures, in the singular, about 77 times, in the plural about 37 times. More than 60 times the word "EKKLESIA" is found in the Greek translation of the O. T. Scriptures. In Nehemiah 13:1, "the Ekklesia (congregation) of God." Paul is the only one who used the word "Body." So while the Body is the Church, the Church of God is not always the Body of Christ.

In Ephesians 3:6 "the Church of the mystery" is called "the Sussoma," which is "the joint-Body."

"Who now rejoice in my suffering for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his Body's sake, which is the church:

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the Word of God;

Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:24 to 27.

## THE CHRISTIAN AND SATAN

This is the instruction that God has given unto the saint: "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:11.

The Christian who fails to recognize the power, subtilty, devices and wiles of the devil will suffer defeat at his hands.

Paul said concerning Satan, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices." II Corinthians 2:11.

He wrote to this same Church these words, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." II Corinthians 11:3.

Peter wrote: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith." I Peter 4:8.

The same Holy Spirit who dictated to these two servants when they wrote, also used James to say these words: "Submit yourself therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7.

Some years ago I heard an evangelist pray to God in these words, "O Lord, rebuke and defeat for us his satanic majesty." Then after I had studied the Scriptures I realized why he used the title. I could then understand what Paul meant when he said:

"Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers be transformed as the ministers of righteousness." II Corinthians 11:13 to 15.

Jude records the fact that "Michael the archangel when contending with the devil, he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke thee.'" Jude 9.

The Lord Jesus Christ could say with authority, "Get thee behind me, Satan." Luke 4:8. "Get thee hence Satan." Matthew 4:10. But every human being unless equipped with the spiritual armour of God and protected by the power that is in Christ Jesus, is just as helpless in the hand of Satan as is the little mouse in the claws of the cat. If Michael could not rebuke and defeat Satan, surely no human being can.

I spoke concerning Satan one evening and the pastor's six-year-old girl was on the front seat. Much of the message went into her little heart. The next morning when her mother went to the door to call her from bed, she saw the little girl shaking her fist and mumbling with a very serious expression on her face. After the mother had stood for a moment she said, "What was mama's little girl saying?" The little girl replied, "Mama, I was just saying, if the devil bothers me today, I am going to knock the 'stuffin' out of him." Some poor Christians are trying this job, but he is too much for any of us. The task is too great. Only Divine power can defeat the supernatural power of "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." Revelation 12:9.

The whole world lieth in this one. I John 5:19. The Lord Jesus Christ spoke of the sinner as being the house of the strong man (Satan), and said that He alone could bind the strong man and take his house. Matthew 12:26 to 33. The moment the Word is preached to the sinner, Satan tries to cause the seed to fall by the way side and then he devours the seed. Mark 4:15. It is Satan, as the prince of the power of the air, that controls the motives, desires, thoughts, acts, and words of the sinners of this world. Ephesians 2:2 and 3. It is Satan, as the god of this age, that blinds the minds of the poor unbelieving lost sinners, lest the light of the glorious gospel of

Christ should shine into their hearts. II Corinthians 4:4. Satan has religious children, and sows them as tares among the wheat, the children of God. Matthew 13:38. John 8:44. It is quite often difficult to tell a cultured, moral, religious tare in the church from the wheat.

When Jesus Christ died on the cross he destroyed Satan's power of death. Hebrews 2:14. But his final defeat will not come until this same Jesus binds Satan and puts him into the bottomless pit for one thousand years and ultimately casts him into the lake of fire. Revelation 20. The everlasting fire was prepared for the devil and his angels. Matthew: 25:41.

Satan can even now cause a saint to lie to the Holy Ghost. Saints for sins in the flesh were delivered to Satan for the destruction of the flesh. Acts 5:3. I Corinthians 5:5. Satan can hinder the most consecrated saint. I Thessalonians 2:18. Satan can make a church officer fall through pride, especially if a novice is appointed to this office. I Timothy 3:6. Many of these cases have come under our observation.

Notice the language used in this verse, "Lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." I Timothy 3:6:

If you will read carefully the twenty-eighth chapter of Ezekiel, beginning with the fourteenth verse, and the fourteenth chapter of Isaiah, beginning at the twelfth verse, you will learn that Satan was the anointed cherub of God, perfect in the day he was created, until he fell through pride. All sin began with the "I will's" of Satan.

There is no use trying to understand or explain the "Why" of Satan. It is a mystery, but it will all work out to the glory of the Son of God. We do know that Satan is a person, that he was a perfect creature of God, and that he fell from heaven because of his revolt against his Creator. Christ said: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." Luke 10:18.

There was something besides an evil influence from within that tempted Jesus Christ in the wilderness and offered Him all the kingdoms of the world. Luke 4 and Matthew 4. Jesus Christ had no evil within to tempt Him. He was holy, harmless and undefiled. Christ made no mistake when He acknowledged Satan as the prince of the world. John 12:31.

The Satan of the Scriptures is quite different from the devil of tradition. Satan is more than evil. He is a person with mighty power. He is the enemy of God and His holiness, of Christ and His disciples. As the accuser of the brethren he accuses them night and day. Revelation 12:10.

The saints overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony. Verse 13.

Satan afflicts with sickness. Luke 13:16. Job 2:6 and 7. Satan is directly or indirectly responsible for all of the sin, sickness, sorrow, crime, poverty, and death in the world.

He entered the serpent to beguile Eve. He was the first to challenge and criticize the Word of God and to corrupt it, and every destructive critic of this age in and out of the pulpit is his agent and servant, as all of them down through the ages have been.

Satan also entered into Judas, the son of perdition, to betray the Lord Jesus Christ. And he will also enter the second son of perdition, the antichrist, or man of sin, who is to be Satan's man. II Thessalonians 2:4 to 9.

Nothing but the shield of faith will enable the Christian to quench the fiery darts of this evil one who is playing havoc with the sleeping saints and the worldly churches of this day, to say nothing of the millions who are lying in heathen darkness. He has struck with a terrible blow many of the most useful servants of God in the Church.

The little girl who heard the story of Satan and the story of Jesus, said to her mother when saying her prayer, "Mother, hereafter when Satan knocks at my heart's door, I'm going to

say, Lord Jesus, you open the door.” Only in the Lord Jesus Christ is there victory over this constant and relentless enemy. So let us read carefully over and over the armour that God has provided for us and let us put it on. Ephesians 6:10 to 18.

Satan wanted to sift Simon as wheat. Luke 22:31. Satan bound with an infirmity for many years a daughter of Abraham. Luke 13:16. He was on hand when the sons of God went forth to worship God. Job 1:4 to 6. He afflicted Job. Job 2:7. Satan has led many of God’s children into his religious healing schemes in these last days. The antichrist is coming with the power of Satan performing miracles. II Thessalonians 2:9 to 13.

The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of Satan. Let Christ be our refuge, our strength, our Conqueror. He is altogether able to assure victory.

Read what is yet to take place on this earth when Satan comes down to reign with the beast and the antichrist. Revelation 12:7 to 15. Note in Colossians 2:15 what Christ did to principalities and powers.

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand:” Ephesians 6:11 to 13.

## **THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WORLD**

“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” John 15:19.

Some one said: “The Christian has three great enemies, the external, the internal, and the infernal.” He was referring to the world, the flesh and the devil. They are all three real enemies, and we only have to look about us today to see how the children of God are being affected and defeated by them.

When we read of the exploits and achievements of the faithful saints of God in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, we find it is recorded by God concerning them, “Of whom the world was not worthy.” Hebrews 11:38. The world needs the servants and faithful witnesses of God, but is not worthy of them.

The people of God as to conduct, hope, and habit, should be altogether different from the people of this world. Whenever the difference is not noticeable in a Christian’s life, he should pause to examine his life and change his conduct. Because of enmity, criticism, and persecution of an unfriendly world, the experience of a normal Christian is a life of suffering, yet a life of rejoicing in Christ.

When the grace of God finds a sinner it finds him, “having no hope, and without God in the world.” Ephesians 2:12. It finds him walking “according to the course of this world, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.” Ephesians 2:2 and 3. It is needless to say that any one who is walking according to the course of this world is walking contrary to the will of God; but the sinner can walk in no other way. How sad and pitiable the sight, however, when the saint is seen walking according to the course of this world. Many of the saints of God in this age are so worldly that you would never classify them as saints on account of their walk.

Concerning His disciples, the Lord Jesus said, “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” John 17:14.

But, said He, “These are in the world.” The sinner is in the world and of the world; while the Christian is in the world, but not of the world.

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul!” I Peter 2:11. Christians are considered by God as strangers and pilgrims, whose citizenship is in heaven, sojourning in a land where their King has been rejected, and where He is still despised as no other one in all this world is. It was this King who said, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.” John 15:18. The task of the Christian then is to walk with heavenly behavior in a world where the conditions and circumstances are unfavorable and the environment anything but conducive to such behavior; to walk among people who are rebels against God and His heavenly laws.

Christians are instructed to walk as becometh saints in the midst of fornication, and all uncleanness, and covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking and jesting. Ephesians 5:2 and 3. The Lord Jesus Christ prayed for His disciples, “I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.” John 17:15. The Lord does not want his disciple to be a recluse in a monastery, but wants him right in the midst of this wicked and ungodly world to touch the world and yet not to be touched by the world.

The Lord wants the Christian to keep himself “unspotted from the world.” James 1:27. “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God. Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is an enemy of God.” James 4:4. How difficult it is for some Christians to give up the world; but if a Christian loves the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and in truth and will be faithful in his testimony, he will not only give up the world, but the sinners of the world will give him up, when those sinners find that they cannot bring him to the place or compromise. Contact without contamination; association without fellowship, is the relation of the saint to the sinner. “For then must he need go out of the world.” I Corinthians 5:10.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” I John 2:15. Now you know full well that this command is not to the sinner; for he can love nothing but the world and its sin. He may grow tired of it at times and yearn for something that will satisfy the longings of the soul, but he is in the world and of the world, walking according to the course of the world. The command is to one who has been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Son of God’s love. How sad the experience of Demas which has been repeated by many a Christian, “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica.” II Timothy 4:10. This companion of Paul did the very thing Christians are told not to do: “Love not the world.”

There are three Greek words translated into the English word, “World,”—one is the inhabited earth; one is the created world, and the other is this age. Christ died to deliver us from this present evil age. Galatians 1:4. Satan is the god of this age. II Corinthians 4:4.

Demas did not decide to go to Thessalonica on the impulse of the moment. His decline was gradual. As a general rule Christians today are not plunged out into the world with its lust and pride by one step. First comes the neglect of the Bible, prayer and testimony; staying away from the house of worship, fellowship with unbelievers; one questionable amusement and then another. How many thousands of worldly Christians there are in our great wicked cities who were once faithful children of God back in the home town or city or out in the country church.

They have been swept out into the current of the world, and find it hard to shake off its strong grip and give up the pleasures of sins. Poor miserable back-sliders. How beautiful and attractive the prince of this world tries to make this ungodly age for God's children. But the Lord Jesus Christ is so much more attractive, when we know Him intimately and love Him sincerely.

The Church is the light of the world. The Church in the world is God's program; but the world in the Church is Satan's. It is all right for the ship to be in the water; it is all wrong for the water to be in the ship. The Church that lowers its standards to meet the demands of the world will lose its spiritual power and blessing. Unconquered pride leads many Christians to court favor and position in this world.

"Be not conformed to this world." Romans 12:2. The apostle Paul said, "I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." Galatians 1:10. The desire to be popular with the world is a great temptation. Many Christians, especially young people, want to avoid all appearances that would cause them to be considered peculiar. Let us always remember that Christians are traveling to heaven, while sinners are traveling in the opposite direction, toward the sorrows of the second death; that the cross of Christ stands between the Christian and the sinner. The greatest of all Christians said:

"God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Galatians 6:14. This has been my favorite text since the day I was saved. If it took the death of the Lord of glory, such suffering of such a Saviour, to separate us from the world, certainly we should stay separated unto Him. He said to His disciples: "In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." John 16:33. "As He is, so are we in this world." I John 4:17.

## **WORLDLY CHRISTIAN IS A PARADOX**

"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." I John 5:4.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:1 and 2.

God hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, and He wants us to be "blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom we shine as lights in the world." II Corinthians 4:6. Philippians 2:15. No worldly Christian can be a shining light; but is invariably a stumbling-block. "And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died." I Corinthians 8:11. "Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died." Romans 14:17. Surely we do not want some poor sinner to stumble over our inconsistent lives into hell.

There is a song, "Can others see Jesus in me?" It is well to ask ourselves this question; for God says, "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men." II Corinthians 3:2. Mr. Moody once said that so far as most sinners are concerned, the Christian is their Bible, and in many cases we need a revised edition. "They may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." I Peter 2:12.

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time." Colossians 4:5. Sinners are closely watching the steps of those who name the name of Jesus and while the sinner

should get his eyes off man and on to the Lord, yet the Christian is Christ's representative on earth, and should always be to the sinner an example and proof of the power of gospel over sin.

Because of his great sin, David received these words from God: "Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die." II Samuel 12:14. The sinful deeds of a Christian will always cause the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme.

When a Christian is caught in a shady transaction, cutting the corners in business, or in the theater, dance-hall, pool-hall or any such place, or gossiping, slandering, or absorbed in the lust and covetousness of this world, or in any other way compromising with this evil age, he is injuring the work of Christ, and often standing in the way of the salvation of some poor lost sinner. You have heard the story of the blind man carrying the lantern. Some one asked him if the light kept him from running into others. Said he, "No, I carry the light to keep others from running into me these dark nights." Every Christian should carry such a bright light that sinners would not stumble over them in these dark days.

God desires, "that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." I Peter 2:9.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." I John 2:15 to 17.

## **CHRISTIANS ARE WITNESSES, AMBASSADORS, AND FISHERS OF MEN**

There is no doubt that Christians need much training along Bible lines in order to work successfully with sinners in an effort to bring them to Christ; but the all-important thing is to believe in the terrible consequences of sin, the awful penalty awaiting the sinner at the White Throne judgment, and to know from personal experience that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is an almighty Saviour from sin and its consequences. both here and hereafter. Such knowledge should create within the heart of every Christian a passion for lost sinners, an earnest and sincere desire to see them brought to Jesus Christ, and washed in His blood.

A man said to me once, "Sir, if I believed what you do about eternal punishment and that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ could save sinners from the sorrows of the second death, I would use every ounce of strength in my being to tell every sinner in this town the story and then move to another place and do the same thing." The sinner knows that the Christian is not in earnest about these eternal issues. Many Christians never seriously take the message of salvation to sinners. O, the wasted moments, hours and days of God's people, while millions on this earth are perishing without the knowledge of Christ.

Paul said, "For the love of Christ constraineth us." II Corinthians 5:14. Also, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." II Corinthians 5:11.

He likewise said, "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise." Romans 1:14. If this Hebrew Christian was debtor to the Gentiles, surely we are debtor to the Gentiles and also the Jews.

Think of the passion for souls that dominated the life of this man who said, "I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren." Romans 9:3. Paul believed that eternal darkness awaited every man who failed to receive through Jesus Christ the gift of eternal life. He tried in his day to reach every sinner he possibly could with this message. How full was his life! What are we doing?

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." II Corinthians 5:20.

"For we are labourers together with God." I Corinthians 3:9.

"Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

"And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men." Mark 1:17.

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things." Romans 10:15.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach to every creature." Mark 16:16.

"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." Acts 5:42.

Saul asked of this Christ, "What wilt thou have me to do?" Acts 9:6. Peter said concerning John, "Lord, what shall this man do?" To this Jesus replied, "What is that to thee? Follow thou me."

If no other Christian assumes his responsibility, remember the Saviour is saying to you, "Follow thou me." There are nearly a billion souls who have never heard the gospel story. What are you going to do about it? Ezekiel 3:18 and 19.

Some day we are going to look into the face of our Saviour who died for millions of sinners who have never heard the story. May the Lord from this moment on have your life and mine fully dedicated to Him.

Will you say to Him now, "Here, Lord am I, send me."

Oh! that we might measure up to Paul's standard.

"Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men." Acts 20:26.

"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work. Say not ye there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathered, fruit unto life eternal; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, one soweth and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour, other men laboured, and ye are entering into their labours." John 4:35 to 38.

"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." Acts 5:42.

"When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand." Ezekiel 3:18.

## THE CHRISTIAN'S RELATION TO THE LAW

“For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.” Galatians 2:19. “I have been crucified with Christ.” Galatians 2:20. Paul was crucified to the law. Therefore he said. “I do not frustrate the grace of God; for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ hath died in vain.” Galatians 2:21.

The Christians of the Galatian churches believed in all of the fundamentals of the Christian faith and were very religious, but they had permitted false brethren to come into their midst with a perverted gospel and frustrate the grace of God.

These false teachers had perverted the gospel of Christ by adding the law of Moses to the finished work of the Son of God. They were mixing the religion of the Jews with the gospel of grace. Paul said to them: “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.” Galatians 5:9. This mixture has proved to be the leaven that has produced in the Church of Christ the ritualism, modernism and fanaticism of this present day. Judaism with its ritualism has no place in the gospel of grace. “The Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came with Jesus Christ.” John 1:17.

The Galatians desired to be under the law. Galatians 4:21. There are multitudes just like them in the churches today. Paul said concerning those who preached the law to Christians. “I would they were even cut off which trouble you.” Galatians 5:12. He also said, “Let him be accursed.” Galatians 1:9.

Notice carefully Paul's question to them and his own answer: “Wherefore then serveth the law?” Galatians 3:19. Now, God is asking the same question of any Christian today who is serving the law. Why should a Christian not serve the law? “It was added because of transgression, till the Seed should come to Whom the promise was made.” Galatians 3:19. The Seed was promised many years before He came. Genesis 3:15, Genesis 17:1 to 8. God said to Abraham, “And to thy seed which is Christ.” Galatians 3:16.

I have never yet known one Christian who knew and experienced the truth contained in the fourth chapter of the Book of Romans who could be led into ritualism, modernism, or fanaticism, or who could be influenced by those who are “desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.” I Timothy 1:7.

Four hundred and thirty years before God called Moses to the Mount to give him the commandments and ordinances He entered into a covenant of grace with Abram. Galatians 3:17. Genesis 15:13. When God told Abram what He would perform, Abram believed God, and it was counted to Abram for righteousness. Genesis 15:6. What a glorious gospel! What precious good news! Because a sinner believes in the ability and faithfulness of God, he is reckoned righteous in the sight of that God. If a man should keep the whole law and not offend in one point he would be righteous or right. Jesus Christ did this, therefore He is called “Jesus Christ the Righteous.” Abram was not Abram the righteous because he kept the whole law, but he was righteous because he accepted by faith the promise of a coming Redeemer, a promise made by God four hundred and thirty years before the law was given. So far as his standing before God was concerned, Abram was just as righteous as if he had kept God's righteous law. The righteousness of God was imputed to him because he believed the gospel, which was before the law. Galatians 3:8. That same righteousness of God, which is perfect, flawless, unimpeachable, is imputed to every sinner who by faith receives Jesus Christ who was delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification. Romans 4:22 to 25. Christ on the cross was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. II Corinthians 5:21.

When God made His covenant with Israel through Moses, the law-giver and mediator of the old covenant, it was four hundred and thirty years after the time He made his covenant with Abram, which He renewed with Isaac and Jacob. The law was given several months after God delivered Israel from Egypt by way of the passover blood and the Red Sea. Exodus 12 and 13. God delivered Israel from Pharaoh, because he remembered His covenant with Abram, Isaac and Jacob. Exodus 2:24. The children of Israel did not receive deliverance at the hands of God, because they were faithful; but because He was, and is. It took the blood of the lamb to deliver them from judgment; but it was all of grace. Only the blood of Jesus Christ can deliver us from a greater judgment.

Therefore when the law was given by Moses, it was given to a covenanted people who were on redemption ground, "I am the Lord thy God, Which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt." It was to these people that God said, "Thou shalt" and "Thou shalt not" Exodus 20:1 to 15

In giving the law of commandments contained in ordinances, God raised up a middle wall of partition between Israel and the Gentiles, which was broken down when Jesus Christ cried on the cross of Calvary, "it is finished"; and the veil in the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom. It was then and there that the middle wall of partition was broken down. Ephesians 2:14 and 15.

Now we should understand what God means when He says that the law was added till Christ rent the veil, at which time He became the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Romans 10:4 and 5. The law was added. Added to what? Added to the covenant of promise, added to the gospel that God preached to Abraham. Therefore the gospel was before the law. Galatians 3:8. The covenant that God made with Israel through Moses was a temporary covenant which has been fulfilled and done away with in Christ. Hebrews 8:13. II Corinthians 3:1 to 9.

When the Son of God yielded up the ghost on the cross, He met fully the penalty of the broken law, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross." Colossians 2:14. Then, says God to the Christian, "Why, as though living in the world are ye subject to ordinances, Touch not, Taste not, Handle not, which all are to perish with the using?" Colossians 2:21.

"For ye are not come to the mount that might be touched . . . For they could not endure that which was commanded." Hebrews 12:18 to 24.

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days." Colossians 2:16.

Christians have no holy days, no feast days, no meat ordinances, no Sabbath nor Sabbaths. Abraham did not rest in a day; he found rest in a Person. So likewise does the believer today. Matthew 11:27. Hebrews 4:10. The Sabbath was a covenant between God and Israel. Exodus 31:12. There could be no universal Sabbath out of the holy land. When Christ became the end of the law for righteousness He was dead and buried on Israel's Sabbath day, the seventh day. He arose on the first day of the week, the first fruits of them that slept, to start something new. He that keeps the Sabbath, like he that is circumcised, is debtor to keep the whole law. Galatians 5:3.

The Church is composed of heavenly people, seated in the heavenlies in Christ, waiting for Christ to come out of a heavenly sanctuary. Living this side of His resurrection, they gather on the first day of the week and every day in the week. The first day is not the Christian Sabbath. The Christian has no Sabbath but Christ.

But it is the blessed privilege of the believer under grace, to meet for praise, worship, and study, with other believers on the first day of the week. We thank God for the day set aside for spiritual occupation.

## **THE CHRISTIAN AND THE LAW**

“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to Another, even to Him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.” Romans 7:4.

God seriously objects to the Christian’s being married to both Christ and Moses. Romans 7:1 to 3.

To the Christian, God says, “Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” It is not circumcision that is the yoke; for Abraham was not under a yoke, though he was circumcised. The Hebrew Christians tried to force the Gentile Christians in the early Church to go back to Moses after they had received Christ, but God said: “Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?” Acts 15:10.

The Law entered that the offense which entered by Adam might abound. Romans 5:20. By the law is the knowledge of sin. Romans 3:19. Be it known unto you, men and brethren, that through this man (Jesus Christ) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sin.

By Adam is the entrance of sin.

By Moses is the knowledge of sin.

By Christ is the forgiveness of sin.

“The law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did.” Hebrews 7:19.

The law was Israel’s schoolmaster to bring them to Christ that they might be justified by faith. Galatians 3:24. When justified the believer was no longer under a schoolmaster. “By Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which we could not be justified by the law of Moses.” Acts 13:39. “By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight.” Romans 3:20.

Righteousness is God’s requirement and the sinner’s need to have God’s approval. When the sinner receives righteousness as a gift from God, he likewise receives God into his life in the person of the Holy Spirit, and he can therefore fulfill the righteousness of God’s law by walking in the Spirit. Romans 8:4. But if Christ is the end of the law, and he has been crucified with Christ who met all the demands of God against the lawless one, the believer is dead to the law.

## **THE CHRISTIAN NOT UNDER THE LAW**

“For ye are not under the law, but under grace.” Romans 6:14. Certainly as Christians we cannot be under both law and grace. If God is going to judge us under the law, we must remember these solemn words: “Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.” Galatians 3:10. Where is the Christian who loves God with undivided strength, undivided being, undivided intellect, an undivided affection, and his neighbor as himself? This is the great commandment, which is the very essence of the law. Jesus

Christ lived this perfect life, but no other man or woman has or can. But because of the good news of His finished work we enter into His rest and are perfected by the offering of His body on the tree. Hebrews 10:14.

Christ was under the law. Galatians 4:4. This One who was holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners, was tested by the world, by the devil, and by God's holy law. He came not to destroy but to fulfill the law. He is the "fulfiller" of the law and is in every believer. Therefore, the "fulfiller" of the law is in every Christian. Colossians 1:27. Therefore there is, and can be, no condemnation against them that are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1. Jesus Christ the Righteous proved Himself righteous by meeting all the demands of God's holy law, which is the only adequate standard of righteousness. God's law is the one perfect law or code of ethics. Jesus Christ is the one perfect Man, the embodiment and exemplification of that perfect law.

If He was under the law, and the Christian is not under the law, we do not live in the same dispensation as He did. He lived on this earth as the perfect God-man before the middle-wall of partition between the Jew and the Gentile was broken down by His death. This is one of the most important points that Christians must observe in rightly dividing the Word of truth. II Timothy 2:15. Paul began his ministry to Gentiles when the middle-wall was removed—at Calvary.

When you read Matthew 23:1 to 3, you can understand why the Lord Jesus instructed His disciples to observe the teachings of the scribes and Pharisees. It was because they sat in the "seat of Moses." Christ did not unseat those who sat in the seat of Moses, nor did He do away with that seat of Moses, while He was a minister of the circumcision, sent only to the House of Israel. Matthew 10:1 to 6. Romans 15:8. Matthew 15:22 to 27. It was while He was under the law that He said to the lawyer who tempted Him, "What is written in the law?" Luke 10:26. But He put an end to Moses' seat when He cried, "It is finished" and the veil in the temple was rent.

Remember that the Sermon on the Mount was delivered before the middle-wall of partition was broken down, and therefore while there is much in it for the Church, it is peculiarly a kingdom message. But the fruit of the Spirit which is to be manifested by the Christian who walks in the Spirit is the same love, joy, meekness, temperance, long-suffering, gentleness and goodness demanded in the Sermon on the Mount. Galatians 5:22 and 23.

Against such there is no law. Why? Because love is the fulfilling of the law. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor. Love suffereth long and is kind. Love seeketh not her own. Love thinketh no evil. Romans 13:10. I Corinthians 13:4 to 13.

Love is not an attainment. Love is a gift. Romans 5:5. But after it is received, with salvation, as a gift it can be cultivated.

"Now the end of the commandment is love." I Timothy 1:5. And Christ is the end of the law for righteousness. So the imperative and superlative need is Christ and to know His love; and then we love because He first loved us.

"And this is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment." I John 3:23.

Then the Christian's creed is Christ; his law is love.

It is interesting to observe in Romans 5:13, and in Galatians 5:23, "there is no law." Study these verses.

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus sets the believer free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2. The law of the Spirit of life is described in II Timothy 1:10. That same Divine law enables the believer to walk in the Spirit and thus fulfill the righteousness of the law Romans 8:4.

“But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” Galatians 6:14.

## **THE CHRISTIAN AND THE GOVERNMENT**

The Christian’s relation to the government is set forth in the Bible.

The government is just as much an institution of God, as is the Church. As imperfect as human government is, responsibility of governing was placed upon the shoulders of man by God. Genesis 9:1 to 15. Some day that responsibility will be lifted from imperfect humanity and placed upon the shoulders of the Lord Jesus Christ, who as the Prince of Peace, shall sit on the throne of His father, David. Of the increase of His peace and government there shall be no end. Isaiah 9:6 and 7.

Included in this Divine institution is capital punishment: “Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man.” Genesis 9:6. There are many well-meaning people who think they are justified by the Sermon on the Mount in voting for the abolition of capital punishment. They say it was part of the Old Testament law, but it is against the teachings of the New Testament Scriptures. The Law does say, “He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.” Exodus 21:12. But when God made His covenant with Noah, as recorded in the ninth chapter of Genesis, it was more than eight hundred years before the law was given to Moses. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, and was not under the Mosaic law.

But when we turn to the New Testament Scriptures for our instruction we read these words in the thirteenth Chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, which was written more than twenty year after Christ taught the Sermon on the Mount.

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good and thou shalt have praise of the same. For he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is a minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.” Verses Romans 13:1 to 4.

In these verses we see that the government is an ordinance of God, a minister of God for Christians as well as sinners. There must be law and a penalty for its violation. There must be those who enact and enforce the law. It is the function of the government to apply the law to the law-breakers. It is the function of the Church first of all to give the gospel to the law-breaker. And certainly it is the duty of every Christian to support the government in the enforcement of its righteous laws.

“God changeth the times and the seasons: He removeth kings and setteth up kings.” Daniel 2:21. Some few kings have been godly, but for the most part: “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers, take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his Anointed.” Psalm 2:2. Caesar certainly was no friend of God, and yet Christ said, “Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s.” Mark 12:17. Caesar represented the Roman government and very few, if any, of its officers were saved men; but the government was ordained of God.

Paul was an ideal Christian and when pressed by his religious persecutors who tried to take his life, he said, “I appeal to Caesar.” Acts 25:11. Certainly he had a right to pay taxes to the

government to which he looked for protection. What would Paul have done, had Caesar called him to arms? Some people think that Paul would have refused, but we have no assurance of it. This nation which offers us so many blessings and privileges, and which gives the Christian such protection, has been established through the shed blood and sacrifice of our fellow-countrymen, and while it is difficult to reconcile war with the teachings of Jesus Christ, surely no one has the right to call on this government for protection and to enjoy its prosperity who is unwilling to respond to the nation's need in time of war, especially a war of defense.

To the soldiers John the Baptist said, "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages." Luke 3:14. John did not tell them to mutiny or refuse to go to war.

But how about these words of the Lord Jesus Christ? "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Matthew 26:52. When the individual bears the sword for his own selfish gain and sheds the blood of his brother-man, or when any mob of men takes the law into its own hands, they are lawbreakers. But the rulers of organized government are ministers of God, revengers to execute the wrath upon him that doeth evil. "He beareth not the sword in vain." Romans 13:4.

To the government the Church is the pillar and ground of the truth. I Timothy 3:15.

To the individual Christian, God says: "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake; whether it be to the king, as supreme, or unto the governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers." I Peter 2:13 and 14.

In Romans we read that Christians are to be subject unto the government.

The Christian's attitude toward the government therefore is one of subjection and submission; and not one of dictation. Some religious people today say that because we have a republic instead of a kingdom, our attitude toward the government is not clearly outlined in God's Word. But this is not true.

The Christian should be the most law-abiding citizen in the nation, but as the Church of Jesus Christ is an international institution, the believer's position in the Body of Christ and his relation and obligation to other members of that Body, regardless of their nationality, might keep him from being as aggressive a patriot as the unsaved citizen. Assuredly a believer's responsibility to his fellow-believers, in God's sight, is to be considered before that toward his fellow-countryman, as he renders unto God the things that are God's and unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's.

"For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." Hebrews 13:14.

Of course war is altogether inconsistent with the teachings of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount. But those teachings cannot be applied to nations while Satan is the prince of this world. When Christ comes to reign on earth, peace will prevail. "Neither shall they learn war any more." Isaiah 2:4. But until then there shall be wars and rumors of war. And our Saviour is a man of war. Exodus 15:3. During this present evil age, every Christian must be subject to the powers that be.

As one outstanding servant of the Lord has said, "this is not the day of the Prince of Peace." Neither is it the day for God's people to encourage the Congress of this land to scrap the navy and reduce the number of men in the army or permit our fighting paraphernalia to become obsolete, while other nations are preparing for war on such a gigantic scale. Christians who are political pacifists are generally Christians untaught in the Scriptures. Permanent peace on this earth will begin at Jerusalem. Therefore, pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

## THE CHRISTIAN AND GIVING

“Honour the Lord with thy substance, and the first fruits of all thine increase.” Proverbs 3:9.

Giving unto the Lord is not only the blessed privilege of the child of God; but it is his duty. Yea, the Christian can honour the Lord with his substance, if he will give unto the Lord his very best, willingly and cheerfully.

“The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the Lord thy God.” Exodus 23:19.

“And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of the corn, wine and oil and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly. And concerning the children of Israel and Judah, they also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of holy things which were consecrated unto the Lord their God and laid them by heaps.” II Chronicles 31:5 and 6.

Thus we see that God’s command to His Old Testament people was to give the first, the best and one-tenth. To His New Testament saints, He says, “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.” I Corinthians 16:2.

God not only wants the first and best from His children, but He wants it given willingly and cheerfully.

“Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord; whatsoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold and silver and brass.” Exodus 35:5.

“For God loveth a cheerful giver.” II Corinthians 9:7. Therefore He says, “He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity.” II Corinthians 9:6 and 7.

With Israel, giving was a part of their worship and was an expression of gratitude to Jehovah for the many gifts He had bestowed upon them. Nehemiah 10:35 and 36. If they gave unto the Lord for what He did for them, what should the Christian do? The gifts that God bestowed upon Israel are not to be compared with His Divine gifts which are ours in this day of His marvelous grace.

“He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” Romans 8:32.

“Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3.

“Heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.” Romans 8:17.

The Christian’s resources in Christ Jesus are unlimited. Some Christians are like a man whose vault is filled to capacity with riches, but the vault door is locked and he has lost and forgotten the combination. Here is the Christian’s combination to his riches in Christ Jesus:

“If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” John 15:7.

When I was in business down south, I went to the home of a very rich man to secure from him the release of a forty thousand dollar mortgage which he held on the property our company had purchased from him. What a home it was! It looked to be the home of some poverty-stricken owner. There sat the rich man clad in trousers that were cheap and that had seen better days, a

well-worn shirt, and a jacket which matched the other garments. He sat at a table and before him was a scanty meal which he had prepared himself. The furnishings were very cheap and ordinary. In an adjoining room an unskilled laborer was hanging some paper which the rich man boasted he had picked up for six cents a roll on the bargain counter. He was quite proud of his purchase. His fortune was well up in six figures and every cent that came in was hoarded up. He had no relatives to whom he could leave his money, and his chief joy was in accumulating his wealth. He knew not how to enjoy the use of it. He had all the marks of a pauper. How like this man are so many Christians; acting like paupers when they are joint--heirs with Jesus Christ to all of God's great riches.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?" Matthew 7:11.

From the very moment that the sinner gives himself to Jesus Christ and in exchange receives from, God the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ, the mutual giving should continue. God is always ready to give and always ready to receive the humblest gift from His child when given in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ; even a cup of cold water. Matthew 10:42.

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." Colossians 3:17.

"That thine alms may be in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:4.

Because the glories of our Lord Jesus Christ are indescribable, and the value of His offering and sacrifice incomparable, the Christian says, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." II Corinthians 9:15.

Because of this priceless gift, the child of God is "not his own; he is bought with a price." I Corinthians 6:20. Not with silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. I Peter 1:18 and 19. Therefore the Christian belongs to God, body soul and spirit. Everything that he has belongs to God.

The old miser that I met down south may be dead by this time. If not, he will be within a few short years, and then God will say, "Then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Luke 12:20.

The richest land-owner is but a tenant; for every inch of this planet belongs to the Lord. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." Man may temporarily possess, control and improve it, but when his spirit goes to God which gave it and his body back to the dust, another tenant will hold it till death loosens his grip.

Therefore God says, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Matthew 6:19 and 20.

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matthew 6:21. Surely the Christian's treasure is the Lord Jesus Christ who is now at God's right hand in heaven, and that is where his heart should be.

God does not ask a sinner to give, for the sinner has no treasure in heaven. His destiny is eternal separation from heaven. Before he gives anything to God, he must first receive a gift from God. the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

"Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing." I Corinthians 13:3. Love is the fruit of the Spirit, Whom the world cannot receive. John 14:17.

Gifts to God must be from God's redeemed people. Many sinners are far more benevolent and generous than are God's saints, but quite often these sinners are trying to buy favor and standing with God, which cannot be purchased with gold and silver. Doing humanitarian works is not laying up treasures in heaven unless the doer's name is first written in heaven. We must first give ourselves to God. II Corinthians 8:5.

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord."

Proverbs 19:17.

"But whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother hath need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" I John 3:17.

Israel brought to God the blind for sacrifice, and the lame and sick. They offered polluted bread upon His altar. Malachi 1:7 and 8. Therefore God said, "Ye have robbed me: Ye are cursed with a curse." Malachi 3:8 and 10.

Just think of a child of God robbing his Father, and yet the Church of God is filled with such robbers, who are robbing God of time, talents and money.

God does not expect any Christian to give above his ability: "For if there first be a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." II Corinthians 8:12.

Remember the poor widow and her two mites and the commendation of the Lord. Mark 12:42.

God has ordained that those who are set apart by the Holy Spirit for special ministry are to be supported by the liberality of the saints. "The labourer is worthy of his hire." Luke 10:7.

"The firstlings of our herds and our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, unto the priests that minister in the house of our God." Nehemiah 10:35 and 36.

"Let him that is taught in the Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things." Galatians 6:6.

Not only for the support of the ministry of God's Word, but to the necessity of the saints who are in need, are Christians exhorted to give:

"Distributing to the necessity of saints, given to hospitality." Romans 12:13. I Timothy 6:18.

It is hard to understand how any saint of God can hoard up his wealth with more than a half billion heathens yet unevangelized, and scores of missionaries ready to go when the money is forthcoming; and with thousands of poor saints, widows and orphans all about us.

As to how much any New Testament saint should give, no specific amount is laid down, and to say "tithing" might tend to make a legalist out of a Christian, which is contrary to the will of God. But surely no consecrated Christian will give any less than Israel was required to give under the law.

Most Christians do not take God into consideration in the spending of their money, and very few of them know much about the real joy of sacrificial giving. Every Christian should give to the Lord's work prayerfully, systematically and cheerfully.

As for the tithe, let us bear in mind that God established the tithe principle in the days of Melchisedec, 400 years before God gave the law through Moses. Read Hebrews 7:9 and 10.

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." I Corinthians 16:2.

## THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We have briefly considered the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, "I will send the Holy Spirit." This promise He has fulfilled. Another promise, "I will come again," is awaiting fulfillment

The Christian is instructed to "come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 1:7. Waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is not waiting to die and go to Him. The Lord Jesus Christ does not come when the saint falls asleep; the saint departs to be with the Lord. Philippians 1:23, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15. The Lord Jesus Christ died and abolished death that He might deliver us from the fear of death. Hebrews 2:14 and 15. Surely He is with every saint in the hour of death. But the second coming of Christ is something entirely different, and the saint who is not awaiting His coming is a disobedient child of God. Many people, who are ignorant of this precious doctrine, think that Christians who are waiting for the coming of the Lord have the date of His coming all set. Comparatively few Christians who know the Bible are unwise enough to try to fix the time of the Lord's return. He may not come for many years; but He may come within a few moments. We have no right to say that He is not coming this day, this very hour. We do know that He is coming and every Christian should be watching and waiting for His return.

The fact of the second coming of Jesus Christ is stated in such plain language in the Bible. If we believe in salvation and heaven, because of our faith in the Bible, why should we doubt when Paul says For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep?" I Thessalonians 4:15. This was not some theory or opinion of one who was deceived; but a glorious reality revealed to the same apostle who delivered unto us the glorious gospel of Christ whereby we are saved. "This we say unto you by the Word of the Lord." Remember these are the words of the Lord:

"That we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord."

"Shall not precede them which are asleep."

The Word of the Lord is, that many saints will be alive when the Lord comes. The Word of the Lord further states that these same saints will go to heaven without dying. But they will not go before, or without, the saints who up to that moment have departed to be with the Lord.

"The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I Thessalonians 4:16 and 17.

With such plain language, the child of God should not need to accept any man's theory of the second coming of Christ, and certainly he should not be persuaded by any man's argument that Christ is not coming the second time.

God says, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1:11. Who is coming? The same Jesus. The same Jesus Who died on the cross for our sins and rose again; the same Jesus Who went into heaven after His resurrection. This same Jesus is coming back from heaven.

We should learn the difference between the coming of Christ to earth as the Son of man, after the rapture of the Church and His coming for the Church, which is the blessed hope.

The coming of the Lord is called, "The blessed hope." Titus 2:13. It is also the purifying hope. I John 3:3. Why any Christian should be identified with the scoffers who are crying, "where is the promise of His coming," it is hard to understand. II Peter 3:4. No doctrine is more clearly taught in the Scriptures than is the second coming of Christ. None should be more precious to the saint who loves the Lord, and who certainly should rejoice at the thought of going to heaven without dying. "For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened; not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life." II Corinthians 5:1 to 4.

Saints who fall asleep before the second coming of Christ will be unclothed until He comes, at which time they will be clothed upon with their house which is from heaven. Those who are alive and are caught up when the Lord comes will have the unspeakable joy of being clothed upon without having been unclothed. Some Bible teachers think the house from heaven is received immediately at death, and differs from the incorruptible body when Christ comes.

If you say that you are not interested in having such an experience, it is because this glorious hope has never filled your soul.

Read these promises of the Lord's coming:

Matthew 24:27 to 30	I Thessalonians 4:15
Matthew 25:6	I Thessalonians 5:2
Matthew 26:64	I Thessalonians 5:23
Mark 13:26	II Thessalonians 1:10
Mark 14:62	II Thessalonians 2:1
Luke 21:27	I Timothy 6:14
John 21:22	II Timothy 4:1
Romans 11:26	I Peter 1:7
Philippians 3:20 and 21	I Peter 5:4
Colossians 3:4	I John 2:28
James 5:7	I John 3:2
I Corinthians 11:26	Hebrews 9:28
I Corinthians 15:23	Hebrews 10:37
I Thessalonians 2:19	Jude 14
I Thessalonians 3:13	Revelation 1:7

"For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body." Philippians 3:20 and 21.

Man has a body as well as a soul. When Christ saves the man, the redemption of that man's body is included in his salvation. Our souls are saved here and now, when we receive the end of our faith. I Peter 1:9. Because the Christian's saved soul is dwelling in an earthly tabernacle, a body of humiliation, which is decaying day by day, we which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to-wit the redemption of our body. Romans 8:23. We are not waiting for death. We are waiting for the redemption of our bodies. We have been begotten into an inheritance that is incorruptible, for which we must have an incorruptible body. This body, we can never receive until the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. I Peter 1:1 to 8. Therefore if the second coming of Christ is not included in our message, we are not preaching the full story of salvation.

Nineteen hundred years ago the Lord Jesus Christ received His resurrection body, and became the firstfruits of them that slept. I Corinthians 15:20. "Christ the firstfruits; afterward that they are Christ's at His Coming." I Corinthians 15:23.

"If ye then be risen with Christ seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things of the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Colossians 3:1 to 4.

## **AT HIS COMING**

They that are Christ's will receive their resurrection bodies at His coming or appearing for the Church. They that are Christ's will not receive their bodies before His coming; but at His coming. They that are not Christ's will not receive their resurrection bodies at His coming for His saints."

They that are Christ's at His coming shall not come into condemnation. John 5:24. "He that believeth on the Son is not condemned." John 3:18. Romans 8:1. The believer's judgment is in the past. When Christ went to the cross, He said, "Now is the judgment of this world." John 12:31. When the sinner acknowledges that the judgment which God pronounced upon the Saviour was the sinner's judgment, and by faith accepts that Saviour and His finished work, the judgment due that sinner is lifted, and he passes out of death into life.

There will be another judgment of the world by the same One who died on the cross. Acts 17:31. All judgment has been committed into the hands of the Son. John 5:22. Every sinner who does not meet Jesus Christ as Saviour must meet Him as judge, at the White Throne.

"And death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:14 and 15.

Therefore, there is no such thing as a general judgment day for saint and sinner.

Christians must all appear before the judgment-seat of Christ. II Corinthians 5:10.

As the sin question was settled by Christ for every believer, God's purpose in bringing Christians to the judgment seat of Christ is to reward them for their works. II Corinthians 5:10. Matthew 16:27. I Corinthians 3:14. The judgment seat of Christ, before which saints shall appear, should not be confused with the White Throne before which sinners shall appear.

"There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust." Acts 24:15. But a thousand years at least will intervene between the resurrection of the just, which will take place at Christ's coming, and the resurrection of the unjust, which will take place after Satan meets his final doom. Revelation 20:5. John 5:28. Matthew 24:41.

Between the resurrection of the just and the unjust, the Messianic kingdom of heaven shall be set up on this earth with Israel, God's ancient people, in their own land of Palestine. Amos 9:11 to 15. There are several hundred prophecies in the Bible concerning this coming earthly kingdom, which is not the Church, or Body of Christ. Christians would have been saved from much confusion and misunderstanding, had they been clearly taught, that Israel is not the Body of Christ, and the earthly promises to the former are not to be confused with the heavenly promises to the latter.

At the judgment seat, the Saviour will dispense the crowns for faithful service.

1—The Incorruptible Crown . . . . . I Corinthians 9:25

- 2—The Crown of joy ..... I Thessalonians 2:19)
- 3—The Crown of Life ..... James 1:12. Rev. 2:10
- 4—The Crown of Glory ..... I Peter 5:4
- 5—The Crown of Righteousness ..... II Timothy 4:8

“Thou shall be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.” Luke 14:14. The Lord will come for His Church. This we call “the rapture.” Then later He will come to earth. This is really the Second Coming of Christ. Israel shall be saved. Romans 11:25.

It is rather difficult to state all the details of the Lord’s coming for His Body and His coming to Israel, but both facts are declared in God’s Book.

## **THE VERY HEART OF CHRISTIANITY**

The Christian’s calling was given him in Christ Jesus before the world began.

“But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and incorruptibility to light through the gospel.” II Timothy 1:9 and 10.

In the death, resurrection, and coming again of our Lord Jesus, we have this gospel which brings to the believer, life and incorruptibility.

Christ was made after the power of a deathless life. Hebrews 7:16. He could truthfully say, therefore, “I have power to lay my life down and power to take it again.” John 10:17 to 19. Through death He destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. Hebrews 2:14. By His resurrection from death we have the hope of incorruptibility. I Peter 1:3 and 4. This incorruptibility which He hath brought to light in this gospel, will be realized by believers at the coming of Christ.

“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.” Colossians 3:4.

Our life is a Person; so also is our resurrection. John 11:25.

He is our peace, our hope, our holiness, our righteousness, our redemption. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made us free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2. This law of life nullifies the law of death in Adam.

When we sit with the saints at the Lord’s table and break bread, we should always remember; “As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till He come.” I Corinthians 11:26.

The Lord’s command to the Christian is, “Occupy till I come.” Luke 19:13.

“Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping, And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.” Mark 13:35 to 37.

Watching and waiting for the Lord’s return should be the attitude of every believer.

Two young women were in the station waiting room, each waiting the arrival of a train which would bring home a lover.

The first woman was sitting calmly in the waiting room reading, lost in the story of her book, until suddenly aroused by the announcement of her train and walked leisurely to the exit-gate and met her lover. To be sure she was glad to see him. But the other young woman walked up and down the platform, several times her eyes were fixed on the board which indicated the time of arrival of trains; now and then she would shift her gaze down the track. As

she saw the train approaching she rushed to the gate and was all ready to greet the one whom she loved. The first woman was waiting; the second one was watching and waiting.

The Christian who is truly watching and waiting will also be working till He comes. "Occupy till I come."

"Even so! come Lord Jesus."

The Antichrist is coming. The Great Tribulation is coming. Before the reign of Antichrist and the Great Tribulation, the Lord Jesus Christ shall call His own to glory.