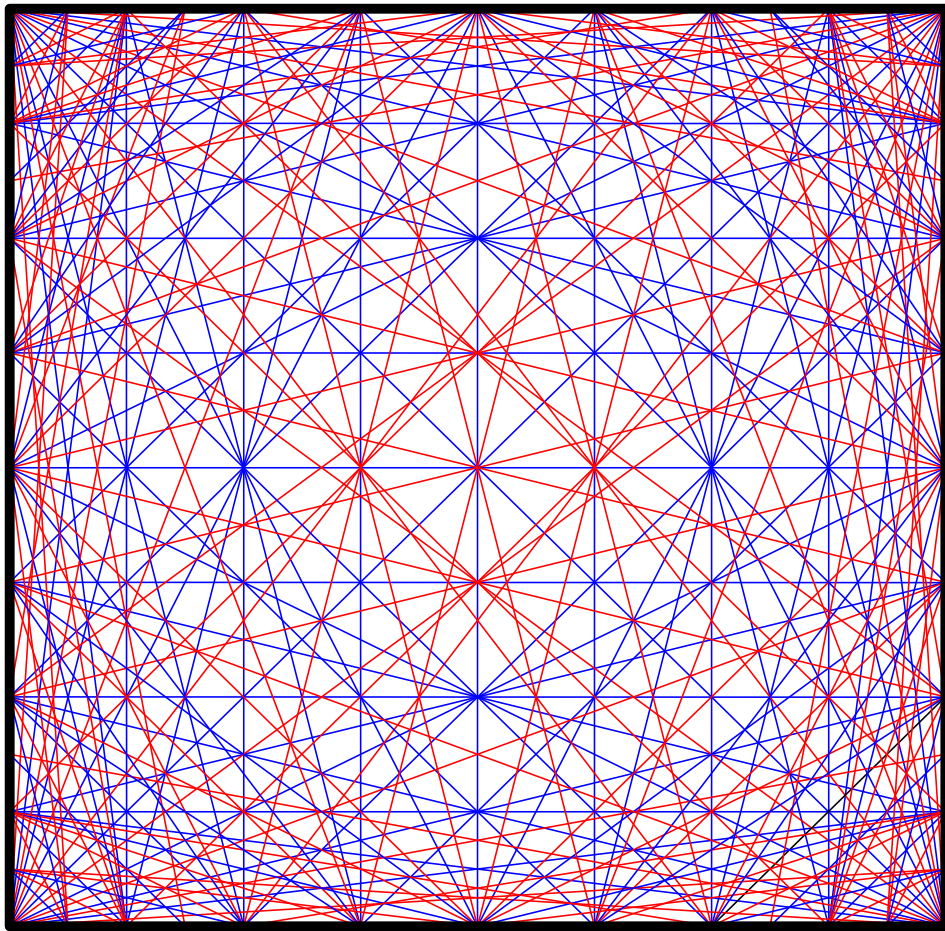


# **GOD'S PURPOSE AND PLAN**



**As Told in the Bible**

**Stuart R. Kerr, III**

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5. Advocacy (Mediation) – Jesus Christ is our intermediary before God.

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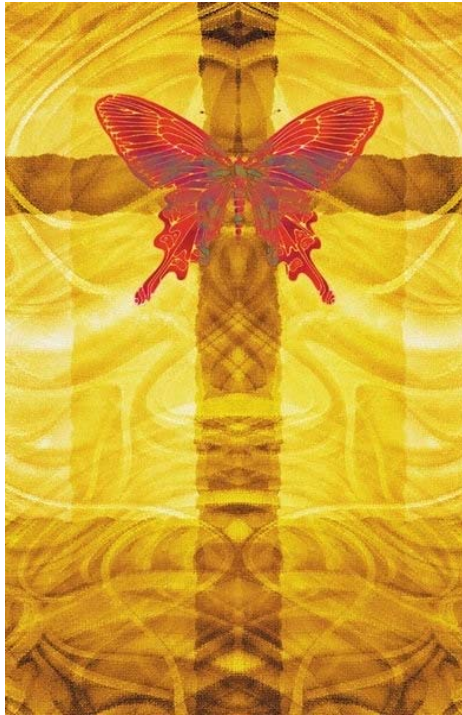
6. Grace (Mercy) – The unmerited favor of God, the gift of God.
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8. Justification – God makes us "right" (righteous) with him.
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10. Reconciliation – God restores us to his presence.

#### **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

11. Salvation – Deliverance from the dominion of sin and death.
12. Regeneration – Spiritual rebirth and renewal, union with Christ.
13. Inheritance (Adoption) – Privilege and responsibility as a child of God.
14. Glorification – The ultimate transformation and completion.

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### ***PAULINE THEOLOGY***

Pauline Christianity is the Christianity associated with the beliefs and doctrines embraced by Paul the Apostle and espoused through his letters to the early churches. It was this outstanding Christian thinker that Christ used as the "Apostle to the Gentiles" to lead the expansion of his church across Asia Minor and southern Europe to the walls of Rome. Paul played an important role in the relationship between Christianity and Judaism as a whole. Paul's influence on Christian thinking is said to be more significant than any other New Testament author. Paul was recognized in the Jewish community as a devout Jew. He was fully intimate with first century Judaism having been a "Pharisee" and student of Gamaliel, a leading authority in the Sanhedrin: "I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors." [Gal. 1:14] Paul was "circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee." [Phil. 3:6]

Paul regularly used the Old Testament as the authority for his teaching. The legacy that Paul received was the Jewish scriptures that he quoted extensively in Greek from the Septuagint. In the New Testament, we have thirteen letters attributed to Paul at different times in his ministry, and these collectively convey Paul's teaching on God, sin, humankind, Christology, salvation, the church, and the nature of the Christian life. Because Paul's letters were written to address specific problems arising among the early churches, none of his letters lays out his theology in an orderly or systematic way. Instead, his epistles contain

pastoral applications of his theology. Paul contributed to a theological framework for understanding that Jesus' death and resurrection triggered a fundamental change in humanity's relationship with God - a relationship in which faith, rather than behavior, was the central element. This framework that he represented is firmly foundationed in the traditions of the Old Testament.

Traditional Christianity relies heavily on these teachings and considers them to be amplifications and explanations of the teachings of Jesus. According to Paul's attitude, his theology reaches back to the days of the Garden of Eden where God enters into a very special and personal relationship with Adam and Eve, our primordial ancestors. God wanted them to fellowship with him just as today God wants to establish a personal relationship with each one of us. Adam's original sin was disobedience against his God resulting in his disenfranchisement from Eden. With the fall of Adam and the subsequent loss of human innocence, all mankind is inevitably born spiritually separated from God's holiness. Man's willful inclination towards disobedience and his recurring tendencies to submit to the temptations of sin offend the dignity of God's goodness. Divine justice is demanded before man can be brought back into God's good grace. In the meantime, all Adam's progeny are subject to mortality and must eventually die a natural death of the flesh.

Jesus paid the ultimate ransom for our salvation by giving his own life on the cross. God has forgiven us all our sins and made us alive through Christ; we are redeemed from the destructive path of sin. Jesus' sacrifice provides for our redemption, justification and sanctification before the heavenly Father. Jesus Christ offered himself once and for all to undertake man's ransom onto his own shoulders. He gave his own life for man's sins and disobedience. We are brought near to God through the precious life-blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was made man for the liberation of the human race from sin and death. In his incarnation as the Son of Man, he united his divinity and humanity in holy perfection. He united the divine nature with human nature in his own person as both Son of God and Son of Man. As a result, Jesus Christ is the living bridge that forevermore crosses the gap between man and God, creature and Creator. Jesus Christ has prepared the way for all of us to enter into the kingdom of God. Upon his resurrection from death and his ascension to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus has prepared a place for all who believe in him and these believers will receive heavenly salvation in his name.

God has entrusted the gift of life and free will to man. God expects us to walk in righteousness and holiness. There is a glorious path that God has ordained for mankind that will, if followed, lead us to a future destiny of joy and accomplishment. God's love reaches out to free us from our inherited state of sin. God offers to all mankind his gift of eternal life through the saving power of his Son, Jesus Christ. By God's grace and with the powerful ministry of his Spirit, we are given the gift of salvation that was made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. By God's grace, we have been made justified by the gift of God's righteousness through Christ. Our personal transformation process for the working out of our salvation is an ongoing process by God's Spirit. We are to be led and empowered by this Spirit, allowing it to transform us as we yield our wills and lives to God. Our walk is to be one in faith, righteousness and holiness. We are to put our confidence in God's promises according to his guidance and his power. God saves us by calling us to a life of holiness



because of his own good purpose and grace. Ages to come will show the incomparable riches of his endless grace.

If we become united with Jesus Christ in his death, we will likewise be united with him in his resurrection. His experience becomes ours through our spiritual baptism into his mystical body. God will raise us up in Christ, seating us with him in the heavenly realms. We are raised in glory, honor, and power with new and incorruptible bodies of spiritual splendor. Our lowly bodies will be transformed to become like the glorious body of the resurrected Christ. As adopted sons of God, we will be delivered into glorious deliverance as God's children. We know that the glory that will be revealed in us will be a magnificent demonstration of God's loving mercy and good grace. In everything we do, we will do it all for the glory of God. Christ within us is our supernal hope of heavenly glory. When our good shepherd re-appears, as he has promised, we will reign with him in his heavenly kingdom forevermore.

## **THE LOVE OF CHRIST:**

### **1. ATONEMENT (Propitiation) – Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sins.**

Satan, the devil, knowing the weakness of man's flesh, used it to deceive Eve and then to turn Adam away from his loving creator when he followed after his fallen wife in sin.

***Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.***

**[Rom. 5:12]**

***Death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.***

**[Rom. 5:14]**

Today, the devil is still at work in the world doing everything he can to turn man away from God. Satan is a supreme tempter and deceiver who will stop at nothing to achieve his destructive ends.

***If you [Cain] do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.***

**[Gen. 4:7]**

***Each one is tempted when, by his own desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after sin has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.***

**[James 1:14,15]**

***Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him.***  
**[1Pet. 5:8]**

***He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.***  
**[1John 3:8]**

With the fall of Adam and subsequent loss of mankind's innocence, man has gained a knowledge of both good *and* evil, thus making him responsible for those many choices of the flesh that separate him from God. God has entrusted the gift of life to man, but man has perverted God's good intentions, becoming his own god of licentious living with his own independent agenda apart from God's purpose and plan. In the process, man has become a slave to the seductions of sin.

***In his thoughts there is no room for God.***  
**[Ps. 10:4]**

***Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.***  
**[Ps. 51:5]**

***The hearts of men, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live.***  
**[Ecc. 9:3]**

***Your iniquities have separated you from God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.***  
**[Is. 59:2]**

***Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.***  
**[John 3:20]**

***Everyone who sins is a slave to sin.***  
**[John 8:34]**

Sin is the transgression of God's law; sin disqualifies us from entering into the presence of a holy God. All mortal beings fall short of God's glorious expectations for mankind.

***There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.***  
**[Ecc. 7:20]**

***All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.***  
**[Rom. 3:23]**

***The wages of sin is death.***  
**[Rom. 6:23]**

***Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.***

**[Heb. 4:13]**

***Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.***

**[1John 3:4]**

The Old Testament law and sacrificial system reveals to us that God is just and will not fail to take notice of sin. God's law reveals his mercy in providing the substitute sacrifice of an unblemished animal. The blood shed from this acceptable offering temporarily covers the sins of all those who continue to trust in God's word and to obey his law and commandments. The life of a living creature is in its blood, and it is this blood that makes for atonement (at-one-ment) with God for one's life, because "for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting." [Gen. 9:4,5]

***Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.***

**[Ex. 24:8]**

***The priest is to make atonement for the whole Israelite community, and they will be forgiven.***

**[Num. 15:25]**

***The law requires that nearly everyone be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.***

**[Heb. 9:22]**

In the days of Moses, this law-derived atonement for sin was temporary. Man continues to transgress because of his sinful nature that he inherited through the blood of Adam. Jesus, as the sacrificial Lamb of God, came to this earth as the Son of Man *and* the Son of God to take upon himself the sins of this world once and for all. God sent his one and only Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a final sin offering, setting all of us free from the law of sin and death. Jesus' death on the cross is the final sacrifice for sin and is the final fulfillment of the practice of sacrificial atonement.

***The Lord makes his life a guilt offering.***

**[Is. 53:10]**

***For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.***

**[1Cor. 5:7]**

***Christ loved us and gave himself up as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.***

**[Eph. 5:2]**

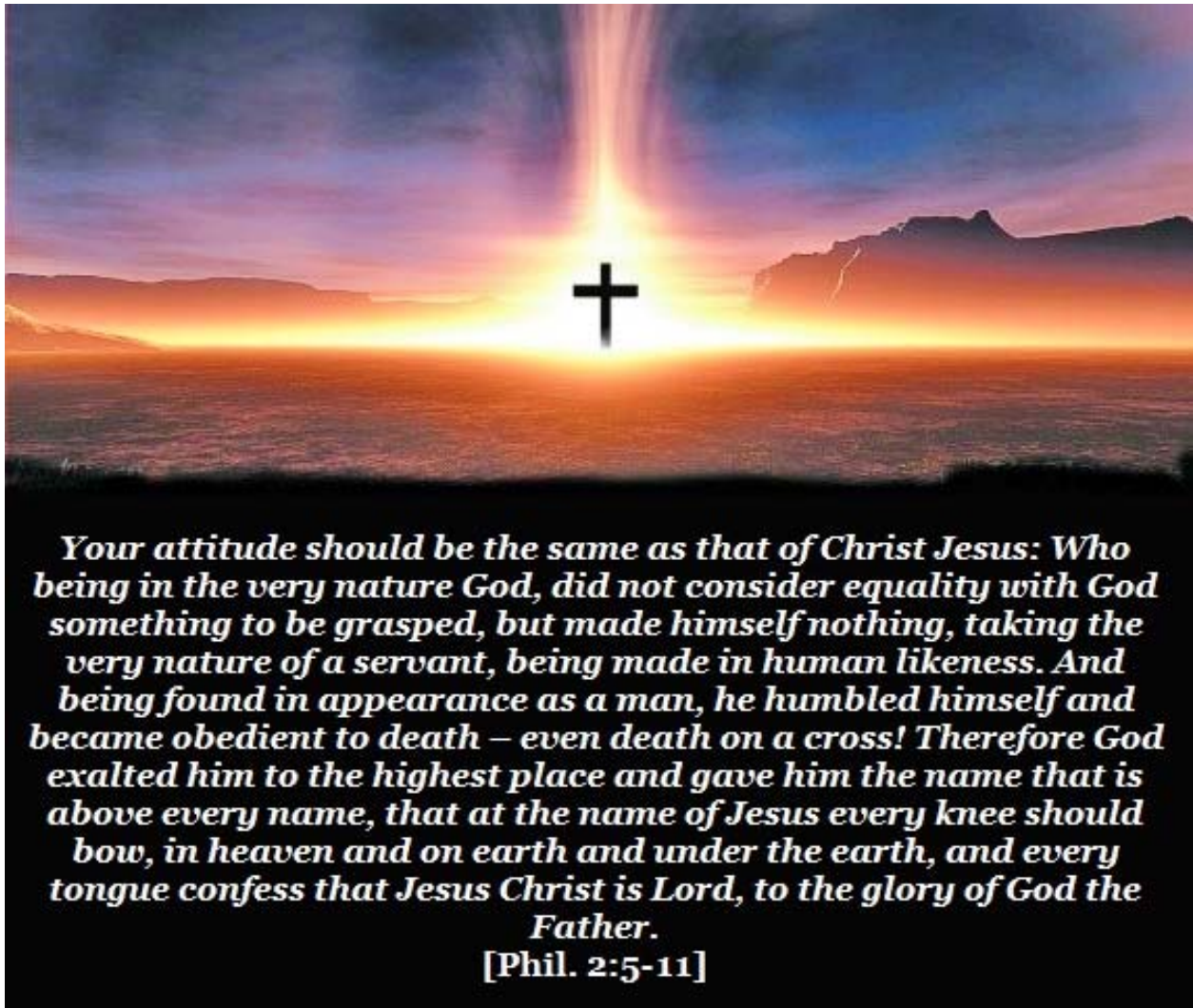
***He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for our sins but also for the sins of the whole world.***  
**[John 2:2]**

We are brought near to God through the blood of Jesus Christ – “God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement through faith in his blood.” [Rom. 3:25] Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. He is now crowned with glory and honor, for he “suffered death so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.” [Heb. 2:9]

Jesus, the Son of God, was made man for the liberation of the human race from sin and death. He assumed full humanity – body, mind, and spirit – all that constitutes man except sin. He unified himself to human flesh: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” [John 1:14] He united his divinity and humanity in holy perfection. Jesus suffered in the flesh, he died, and he was resurrected. He ascended into heaven, taking his seat of glory by the right hand of the Father. One day, he will come again to us in heavenly sovereignty to reign forever.

***Jesus Christ, who has gone to heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.***  
**[1Pet. 3:21,22]**

By uniting to himself in his own person a body animated by rational spirit, the Word became man, man in inexpressible and incomprehensible manifestation. Regarding Jesus' divinity and humanity, the proper character of each nature was kept inviolate yet united in one person. Human lowliness was assumed by majesty, mortality by eternity. His divine nature was united to one that could suffer, making him ideally suitable to become the perfect mediator between God and man.



***Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***  
**[Phil. 2:5-11]**

***Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity.***  
**[Heb. 2:14]**

## **2. SUBMISSION – Obedience to God’s authority, with faith in Jesus Christ.**

***He [Jesus] offered up prayers with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered.***  
**[Heb. 5:7,8]**

God had prepared Eden and placed Adam in the garden to feed from it and care for it. God created Adam pure and sinless, and he gave him relative freedom but for one commandment – to obey, and to refrain from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam’s disobedience, his unwillingness to submit to God’s will and command, caused him spiritual death and a broken relationship with a holy and a righteous God.

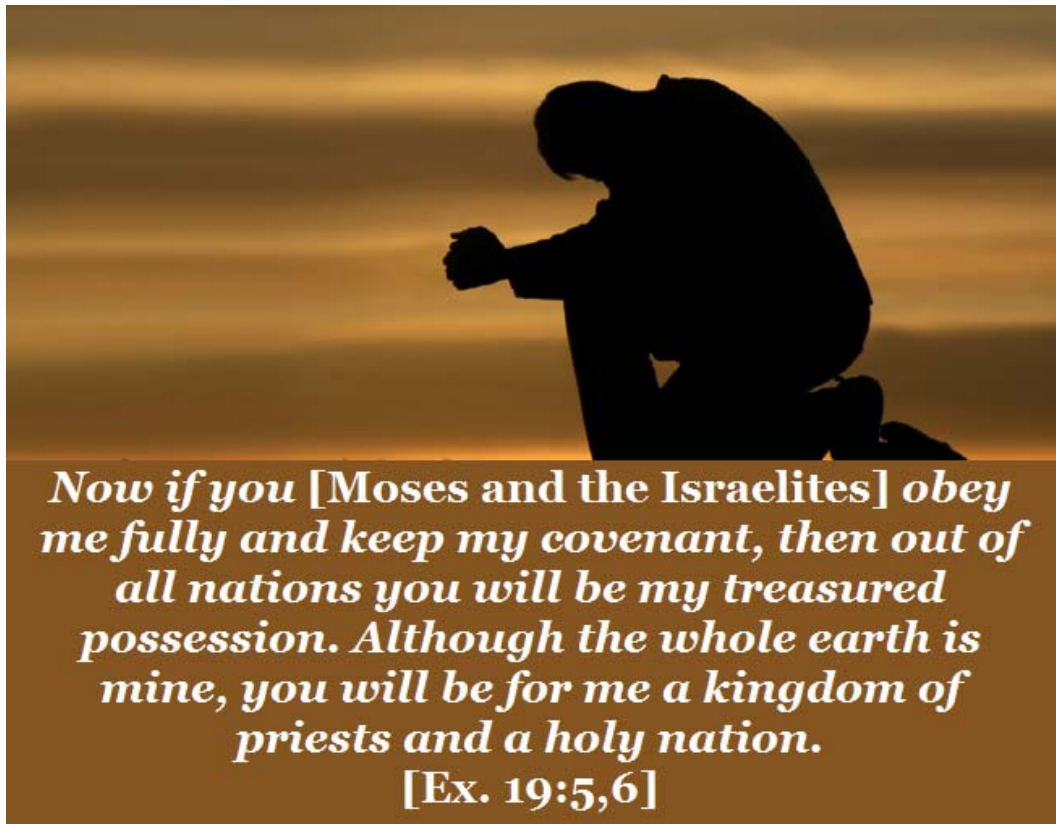
***Submit to God and be at peace with him.  
[Job 22:21]***

***Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make  
your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the  
noonday sun.  
[Ps. 37:5,6]***

***Submit yourselves to God....humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift  
you up.  
[James 4:7,10]***

God expects us to walk in righteousness. By God's covenant, we are required to obey his laws in order to remain in fellowship with him: "Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them." [1John 3:24]

***Noah did everything just as God commanded him.  
[Gen. 6:21]***



***You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the Lord your God. Keep my decrees and laws, for the man who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord.***

**[Lev. 18:4,5]**

***O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands.***

**[Dan. 9:4]**

Abraham, the father of all nations, faithfully obeyed God's commands. His trusting and humble obedience to God's commands was "credited to him as righteousness." [Gen. 15:6] By faith, Abraham submitted to God and obeyed his commands to gather together his belongings and his family, taking them to a strange land he had never seen, a land he was to receive as his inheritance.

***By faith, Abraham when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.***

**[Heb. 11:8]**

By faith, Abraham humbled himself and submitted to God's command to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac as an offering. Abraham proved his willingness to obey, though God held back Abraham's hand at the very last moment, satisfied in Abraham's complete submission of will. More than anything else, God's fellowshiping with Abraham shows that he wants those he loves to submit to him first and foremost.

***To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.***

**[1Sam. 15:22]**

***If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin.***

**[2Chron. 7:14]**

***This is the one I esteem: He who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.***

**[Is. 66:2]**

Being formed into human flesh, Jesus humbled himself to the Father and became obedient to his death on the cross. He taught mankind perfect submission to the Father's will: "Yet not as I will, but as you will." [Mat. 26:39] He taught us that when we offer ourselves to God and obey him, we are dedicating ourselves to an obedience that leads to righteousness and holiness.

***Through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.***

**[Rom. 5:19]**

***Offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life.***  
**[Rom. 6:13]**

***We take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ.***  
**[2Cor. 2:5]**

Jesus told his apostles to teach the world everything he commanded them, and they obeyed him. All those who are tired and burdened by the sufferings of the world are to come to him in submission to his Spirit, “for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” [Mat. 11:30]

### **3. REPENTANCE – Remorse for our sinful rebellion against God**

The Son of God became the Son of Man; he was born of the flesh. Jesus experienced a full life in a world immersed in sin and bondage, and he died on the cross to overcome the power of sin in this world. When he resurrected and walked on this world once again, he was a regenerated man – the first fruit of the resurrection. His experience becomes ours through our spiritual baptism into his mystical body. When the saving faith that is in Jesus Christ enters our hearts, our savior gives us the spirit to willingly and whole-heartedly repent of our sins before God. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into the body of Christ, giving us renewed life and restoration into God’s kingdom.

***Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’ – and you forgave the guilt of my sin.***  
**[Ps. 32:5]**

***“I will frown on you no longer, for I am merciful,” declares the Lord, ‘I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt – you have rebelled against the Lord, your God, you have not obeyed me,’ declares the Lord.***  
**[Jer. 3:12,13]**

***If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me.***  
**[Jer. 15:19]**

Two thousand years ago, John the Baptist prepared the way for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the Judean countryside around the Jordan River, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins: “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” [Mark 1:15] Earlier in Biblical history, the people of Ninevah withstood the judgment of God by repenting at the preaching of Jonah and did not perish. Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, came to repentance before ending his life: “When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse....‘I have sinned,’ he said, ‘for I have betrayed innocent blood.’” [Mat. 27:34]



***Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.  
Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart  
and a new spirit....Repent and live.***

**[Ez. 18:30-32]**

God wants a personal relationship with each one of us, but we must first confess our sins and accept Jesus Christ into our hearts. God created mankind for his own good pleasure. Adam sinned and severed his relationship with God, so all mankind, born of Adam's seed, is brought into inherited sin. God offers to forgive all who confess their sinful condition and ask Jesus to be their personal savior: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." [1John 1:9]



***There will be more  
rejoicing in heaven  
over one sinner who  
repents than over  
ninety-nine righteous  
persons who do not  
need to repent....I tell  
you, there is rejoicing  
in the presence of the  
angels of God over one  
sinner who repents.  
[Luke 15:7,10]***

***Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all  
nations.***

**[Luke 24:47]**

Once we have offered to God the repentance for our sins, we open the door to God's blessing.

***Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times  
of refreshing may come from the Lord.***

**[Acts 3:19]**

***God's kindness leads you toward repentance.***

**[Rom. 2:4]**

***Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.***

**[James 5:16]**

***He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.***

**[2Pet. 3:9]**

It is our supreme desire to conform to God's word and will because of our faith and trust in his benevolent goodness.

***Your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret.***

**[2Cor. 7:9,10]**

#### **4. REDEMPTION – God's forgiveness for our sins, without penalty.**

By introducing sin into the world, Satan delivered mankind to death, the due penalty for their sin. The Son of God became human so that he could destroy the devil's power and release those who were in bondage to sin. Today, the devil's power over death has been taken away from him. Christ's death on the cross releases mankind from the righteous penalty exacted by a just God. By placing our faith and trust in Christ, we become free from Satan's evil grasp. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross has paid the ultimate price for our ransom from sin, redeeming us from God's judgment and punishment: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" [Mark 10:45].

***I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.***

**[Ex. 6:6]**

***Each one must pay the Lord's ransom for his life.***

**[Ex. 30:12]**

***Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him.***

**[Ps. 32:1,2]**

***Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit.***

**[Ps. 103:2-4]**

God's love reaches out to free us from our inherited state of sin. He makes himself known to mankind by his revealed word, and his power and deity are visibly evidenced throughout all

of his creation. His love reaches out for us, but we must first be redeemed of our sins to restore our relationship with him, because the ultimate penalty of sin is death.

***No man can redeem the life of another or give God a ransom for him – the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough – that he should live on forever and not see decay.***

**[Ps. 49:7-9]**

***But God will redeem my life from the grave; he will surely take me to himself.***

**[Ps. 49:15]**

***If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness.***

**[Ps. 130:3,4]**

***I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.***

**[Is. 43:25]**

The power of God to redeem is inexhaustible. God delivered the Israelites, his chosen people, from Egypt, thus redeeming a people for his own self. He redeemed them to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving the Canaanites from the land of milk and honey along with their detestable gods and idols.

***In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.***

**[Ex. 15:13]**

***You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, O Lord, have become their God.***

**[2Sam. 7:23,24]**

***Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say this – those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from the east and west, from north and south.***

**[Ps. 107:1-3]**

***But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.***

**[Is. 35:9,10]**

God has provided a redeemer for all mankind to know – a savior born of a virgin. The birth of Jesus, God's Son, proves to mankind God's love and divine acceptance. God desires that no one should perish because of their inherited Adamic sin, but that all should have

eternal life. That is why Jesus came to earth – to pay a priceless ransom for man's penalty of sin.

***I know that my redeemer lives and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.***

**[Job 19:25]**

***For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.***

**[Col. 1:13,14]**

***He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away and nailed it to the cross.***

**[Col. 2:13,14]**

***You were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.***

**[Rev. 5:9]**

Jesus paid the ultimate ransom for our freedom by giving his own life on the cross. God has forgiven us all our sins and made us alive through Christ. We have been redeemed from the destructive path of sin “with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” [1Pet. 1:18,19] Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, free from sin, then he offered it to the Father as a ransom dear enough to pay for the sins of the whole world. He is now seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will one day return to judge the whole world.



***Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.***  
**[Rom. 8:1-4]**

***We have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.***  
**[Eph. 1:7]**

Jesus' sacrifice provides for our redemption, justification and sanctification before his heavenly Father, the Lord our God. He redeemed us so that by faith we might receive the promise of his outpoured Spirit. Jesus has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into his heavenly kingdom where we find redemption for our sins.

***The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.***  
**[Mat. 20:28]**

Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross satisfies God's righteous judgment over man's fallen state in sin. Man's sin is the breaking of God's moral law. Instead of eternal condemnation, God offers to all mankind his gift of eternal life through the saving power of his Son, Jesus Christ. God's gift is free; it cannot be earned by good works or through religious rituals and practices. It is free to all who are pure in faith, asking for God's forgiveness for their condition of sin. If we confess our sins, God's faithfulness forgives us these sins and redeems us through the blood of his Son back into righteousness and holiness.

***You are not your own; you were bought at a price.***  
**[1Cor. 6:19,20]**

Though we will not achieve personal perfection in our lives on this world, we are at least free from that power of sin that leads us into condemnation through our redemption in Jesus Christ. In the face of temptation to commit sin, we will at least know upon reflection how we should have acted. We may err because of our current state of imperfection, but we have the knowledge not to be led into sinful temptation by the power of God through faith and obedience to his word. Even though we have been redeemed, we will at times continue to yield to sin, but the Spirit of Christ will teach, remind, and empower us to be led onto God's righteous path.

***But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under the law, that we may receive the full rights of sons.***  
**[Gal. 4:4,5]**

After the sin of Adam, man lost the opportunity to attain that supernatural end to which he had been ordained by God. It was to redeem man from this sad condition that the Son of God, the second person of the blessed Trinity, became man himself. By his sacrificial death on the cross, Jesus Christ merited for men their reinstatement as the sons of God. Being baptized into his mystical body, we have regained possession of our supermortal goal forever with him, "when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father." [1Cor. 15:24]

## **5. ADVOCACY (Mediation) – Jesus Christ is our intermediary before God.**

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." [John 14:6] The chasm between sinful man and holy God is otherwise irreconcilable. Because of the fall of Adam, it was impossible for man to find his way unaided into God's kingdom of heaven. The effort sacrifice and suffering by Jesus prepared an acceptable means for man's salvation from sin and death. Jesus Christ is the living bridge that forevermore crosses the gap between man and God, creature and Creator. Jesus Christ has prepared the way for all of us to enter into the kingdom of God.

***Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.***  
**[Mat. 10:32]**

***And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.***  
**[John 14:13]**

***For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.***  
**[Eph. 2:18]**

Jesus Christ is the visible, tangible image of the invisible God. He is the complete revelation to man what God is like. To know Jesus is to know God. Being both God and man, Jesus becomes the only way of finding the Father. Uniting our lives to Jesus is uniting our lives to God. As the “way”, Jesus is the living bridge to finding the Father, the way of salvation and eternal life.

***I and the Father are one.***  
**[John 10:30]**

As the Son of God, Jesus willingly submits to God the Father. As the Son of Man, Jesus willingly submitted to the physical limitations of his humanity, and finally unto his mortal death. Before his incarnation, Jesus was one with God. When his mission on earth was nearly finished, Jesus asked his Father to restore him to his original place of honor and authority: “And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.” [John 17:5] Upon his resurrection, Jesus ascended to his exalted position at the right hand of God.

***Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, he was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.***  
**[Rom. 8:34]**

***He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.***  
**[1Tim. 3:16]**

Because of the incarnation that united the divine nature with human nature in his own person as both Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus Christ is for all time our mediator between God and man, sitting at God’s right hand, presenting our case as our intermediary. As high priest, he offered himself as the Lamb of God in his sacrifice on the cross to atone for men’s sins and to reconcile them back to God. It remains for men to apply for themselves the merits of his sacrifice by their own cooperation with the graces won by Jesus Christ.

As our high priest, forever after the order of Melchizedek, Jesus does not have to prepare sacrifice day after day for the accumulated sins of the people: “He sacrificed once and for all when he offered himself.” [Heb. 7:27] He did not have to enter the Most Holy Place of God’s tabernacle by means of the blood of goats and calves. He entered “once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.” [Heb. 9:12]



Christ has become the mediator of a new covenant, his sacrificial death becoming a ransom setting us free from sins that could not be redeemed under the old covenant established under Moses. Now, those “who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.” [Heb. 9:15]

***Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high. My intercessor is my friend.***  
**[Job 12:19,20]**

***Yet if there is an angel on his side as a mediator, one out of a thousand, to tell a man what is right for him, to be gracious to him and say, “Spare him from going down to the pit; I have found a ransom for him.”***  
**[Job 33:23,24]**

***For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ, who gave himself as a ransom for all men.***  
**[1Tim. 2:5,6]**

In order that Jesus Christ might become a “merciful and faithful high priest in service to God” [Heb. 2:17], he was subjected to mortal flesh, suffering and being tested and tempted, that he might make proper atonement for the sins of mankind. We now have a mediator with God who has gone through the heavens and who is truly able to empathize with our weaknesses, who has been tempted in every way as we are tempted, but he himself committed no sinful offense towards God. His ultimate sacrifice has brought us God’s good grace to help us in our times of trouble. Because Jesus lives forever, he will always be our mediator with God, always advocating our cause.

***For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.***  
**[Is. 53:12]**

***In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.***  
**[Eph. 3:12]**

***He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he lives to intercede for them.***  
**[Heb. 7:25]**

***For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant....now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.***  
**[Heb. 9:15]**

To personally come to know God, and to be assured of eternal life, we must believe in our hearts that Jesus is the divine Son of God, and that he died and was crucified on the cross to deliver us from sin. He rose from the dead and is now our intercessor before God the Father. We must acknowledge that we are sinners, and through faith ask God through



Jesus to forgive us for our sinful condition. We must ask Jesus to come into our heart and save our soul forevermore.



***He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, for by him all things all things were created: Things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him, He is before all things and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy, For God was pleased to have his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things in heaven by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.***

***[Col. 1:15-20]***

With the resurrection of Jesus Christ to the right hand of the heavenly Father, we are witnesses to the assured unfolding of God's purpose and plan for his creation. The will of God will not be thwarted; his plan for creation will be fulfilled. The current of earthly history will have its random ebb and flow, but God's providential aim stays true. Since the olden days of Adam's willful disobedience and default, God holds sway in his desire to reunify himself to his creation. Heaven and earth will be united in the kingdom of God with Jesus Christ at its head.

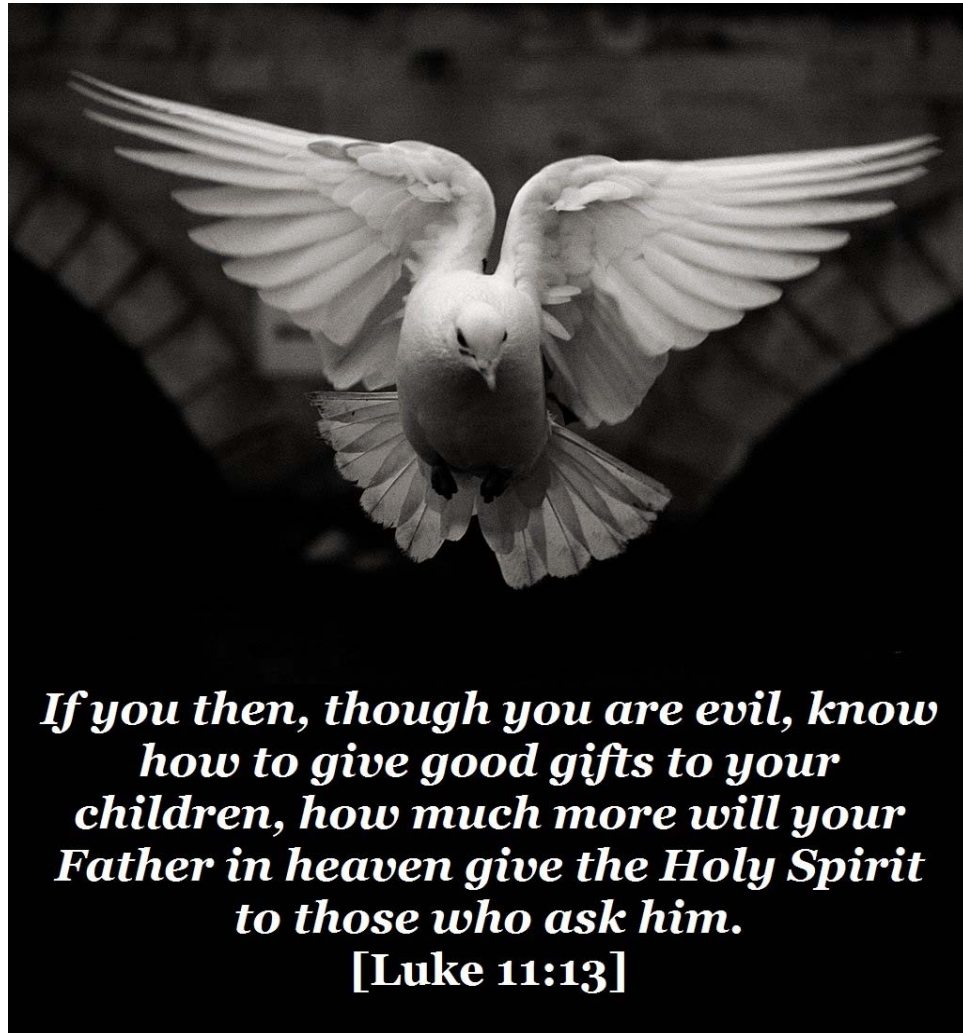
***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.***

**[Matt. 6:9,10]**

***And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.***

**[Eph. 1:9,10]**

## SPIRIT MINISTRY:



Under the old covenant of God with Moses and the Israelites, God's Spirit was available only to certain righteous men who were elected for a specific purpose – prophecy, power, fortitude, and the like. Under the new covenant inaugurated by the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Spirit becomes the seal of God's unending love as promised by the living gospel of his one and only Son – this Spirit, through the outpouring of Jesus Christ, is now available to all mankind.

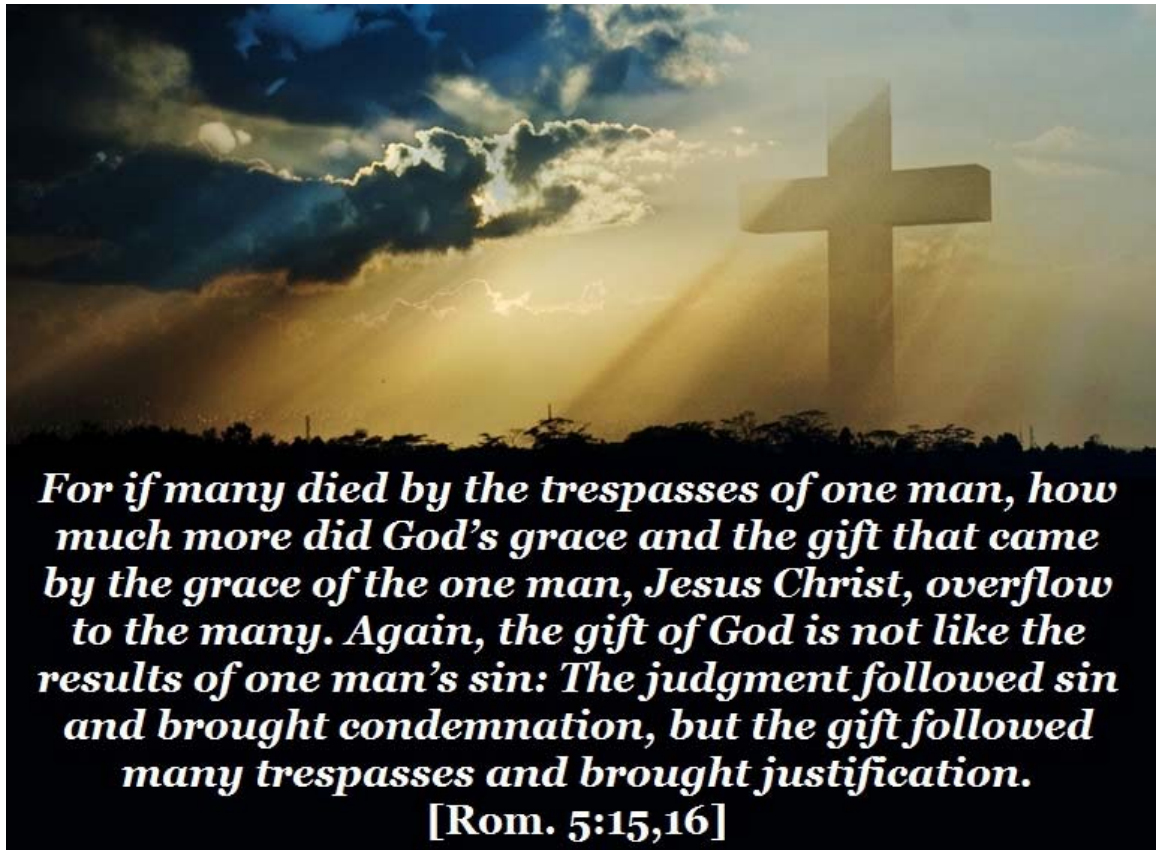


## 6. GRACE – The unmerited favor of God, the gift of God.



*"Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear; the hour I first believed. Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come. 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home."*  
[From "The Olney Hymns" by John Newton]

God's word is truth. When we choose to have faith in God's word, we are accepting God's truth as an act of faith. As we gain experience with God through our acts of faith, we begin to put our boundless trust in him. Our knowledge of God grows as we increasingly put our trust in his promises. We desire to partake of his divine nature. We begin to see him as he really is, a God of love and mercy – our faith becomes a confidence in his grace.



It is the grace of God that turns us away from ungodliness and worldly passions, directing us "to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives" [Titus 2:12], and leading us to our salvation. Grace brings us the unmerited favor of God, the giving of the gift of good things and salvation, to undeserving people who could never earn it by themselves.

***In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you.***  
**[Is. 49:8]**

***God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.***  
**[2Cor. 9:8]**

***In their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.***  
**[2Cor. 9:14,15]**

***We were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.***  
**[Eph. 2:5]**

***For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.***

**[Titus 2:11]**

Grace reigns through righteousness, bringing eternal life through Jesus Christ. This salvation is not by our good works, for then it would no longer be grace. The wages of sin is inevitable death, but God's gift of grace is eternal life in our Lord Jesus Christ. God will raise us up in Christ, seating us with him in the heavenly realms. Ages to come will show the incomparable riches of his endless grace. This grace is ours in abundance "through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." [2Pet. 1:2]

***For sin will not be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.***

**[Rom. 6:14]**

***We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.***

**[Rom. 12:6]**

***Each man has his own gift from God; one man has this gift, another has that.***

**[1Cor. 7:7]**

***And this is not from yourselves, it is a gift from God – not by works. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift from God.***

**[Eph. 2:8,9]**

**7. ELECTION – God's leading of us for a specific purpose.**

Our gracious God chooses an individual or a group of people for a specific purpose or destiny: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." [Rom. 8:28]

***[God] set me apart from birth and called me by his grace.***

**[Gal. 1:15]**

***He has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.***

**[1Thes. 1:4,5]**

Four thousand years ago, God chose a tribal chieftain named Abram and his people, and God brought them out of the land of Ür of the Chaldeans in Mesopotamia to re-settle in the land of Canaan. In response to Abram's willing faith and submission to God's command, God renamed him Abraham, "father of many", and made a covenant to give him and his descendants this promised land forever.

***For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right***

***and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.***  
**[Gen. 18:19]**

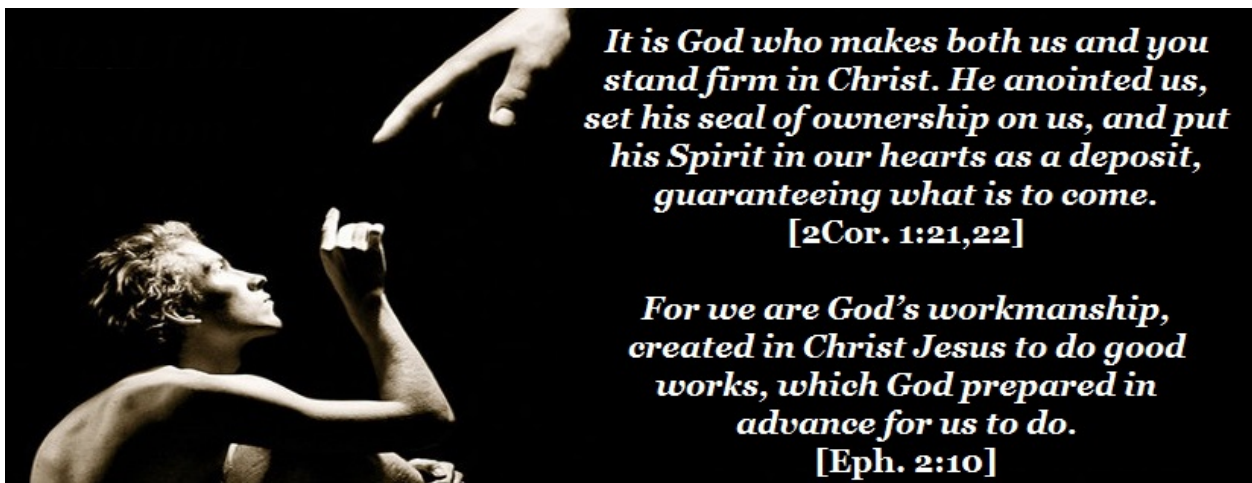
When God took his chosen people out of bondage from Egypt, he told them, “You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” [Ex. 19:6] The Lord chose his people, the Israelites, because he loved them: “You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth.” [Amos 3:2]

***But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.***  
**[1Pet. 2:9]**

By his divine power, Jesus “called us by his own glory and goodness” [2Pet. 1:3] to give us life and godliness through our knowledge of him. We are God’s elect who have been chosen “through the sanctifying work of the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood.” [1Pet. 1:2] With God’s Spirit working within us, God chooses us in Christ “to be holy and blameless in his sight....to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.” [Eph. 1:4,5]

***You do not belong to this world, but I have chosen you out of the world.***  
**[John 15:19]**

***This man [Paul] is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.***  
**[Acts 9:13]**



Soon, the angels of heaven will gather God’s elect “from one end of the heavens to the other.” [Mat. 24:31]

***Many are invited, but few are chosen.***

**[Mat. 22:14]**

***Those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.***

**[Rom. 8:30]**

**8. JUSTIFICATION – God makes us “right” (righteous) with him.**

***I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.***

**[Deut. 32:3,4]**

***The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness.***

**[1Sam. 26:23]**

***Can a mortal be more righteous than God?***

**[Job 4:17]**

***Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.***

**[Ps. 85:13]**

***Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.***

**[Ps. 89:14]**

***He has done what is just and right; he will surely live.”***

**[Ez. 33:16]**

***The righteous will live by his faith.***

**[Hab. 2:14]**

***It is God who justifies.***

**[Rom. 8:33]**

We are justified and forgiven of all our sin – past, present, and future – through the propitiatory work of the cross that makes us acceptable to a righteous God. The precious blood of Jesus atones for our sins. Through the sacrifice of God’s one and only Son, the Lamb of God, God is able to fellowship with those who believe in Jesus Christ.

***Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified by the law of Moses.***

**[Acts 13:39]**

***He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.***

**[Rom. 4:25]**



God declares us not guilty for our sins, making us “right” (righteous) with him on account of our faith in Jesus. God judges us to be free from all repercussions from breaking his law; he justifies us, acquitting us of all charges brought against us by our reckless acts of sin. This is a merciful example of God’s grace freely granted. Through righteousness, Jesus justifies many by bearing our iniquities. By God’s grace, we are freely justified through the redemption that came by Jesus Christ. Sinful man is no longer under automatic condemnation; he is now entitled by faith through Christ to rise to a new status of righteousness.

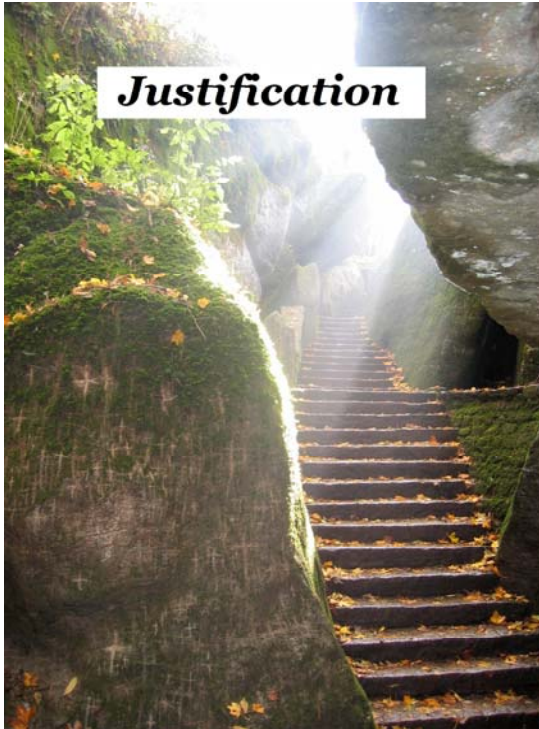
***For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’***  
**[Rom. 1:17]**

***God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.***  
**[2Cor. 5:21]**

The Lord deals with us according to our righteousness, and we are justified by our faith. For keeping the ways of the Lord and keeping our focus on God’s righteousness, he rewards us by justifying us. When Abraham turned his faith towards his righteous God, his trusting allegiance was credited unto him as righteousness. He was strengthened in his faith, trusting fully in God’s faithfulness to keep his promises.

***This is why it was credited to him as righteousness. The words ‘it was credited to him’ were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness – for us who believe in him who raised Jesus from the dead.***  
**[Rom. 4:22-24]**

Man is justified by faith, not by observing the Law of Moses. This faith is credited unto us as righteousness. By being justified through the blood of Christ, we are saved. It is through the law of Moses that we become conscious of sin, but God now imparts righteousness to all who believe and have faith in Jesus through the blood he shed on the cross giving us the redemption of his sacrificial atonement.



## **Justification**

***He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.***

**[Rom. 3:25,26]**

***We who are Jews by birth and not ‘Gentile sinners’ know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.***

**[Gal. 2:15,16]**

By God’s grace we are given the gift of salvation that was made possible by the sacrifice of Christ, and by God’s grace we are justified by the gift of God’s righteousness. Jesus’ life-blood has justified us in God’s righteousness and sanctified us in God’s holiness. Having been justified by his grace, God saves us “through the washing rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.” [Titus 3:5]

In the doctrine of justification, man cannot save himself. Our good works and observance of the Law are not sufficient for a justification that leads to salvation. God himself is the effective cause of our justification through the extension of his good grace that is freely given us once we accept in faith and dedication his Son as our personal savior.

## **9. SANCTIFICATION – God makes us “clean and pure” (holy).**

Sanctification relates to our personal transformation process for the working out of our salvation. This is an ongoing process by God’s Spirit whereby our inner lives reflect more and more that of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us. We must purify our inner temple of the Spirit from all influences that contaminate the body, mind, and soul. We must become perfect even as God is perfect. We must become holy even as God is holy.

***Be holy, because I am holy.***  
**[Lev. 11:44]**

***I am the Lord who makes you holy.***  
**[Lev. 20:8]**

***To be pure, you show yourself pure.***  
**[2Sam. 22:27]**

***Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.***  
**[Is. 6:3]**

***I will put an end to your uncleanness.***  
**[Ez. 22:15]**

***Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.***  
**[Mat. 5:48]**

***It is God's will that you should be sanctified.***  
**[1Thes. 4:3]**

***Without holiness no one will see the Lord.***  
**[Heb. 12:14]**

***Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.***  
**[Rev. 4:8]**

Under the old covenant, the sins of the Israelites required cleansing with sacrificial blood: "In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness." [Heb. 9:22] The sons of Aaron were anointed and consecrated as priests unto God. As such, they were not allowed to defile themselves with anything classified as being unclean. Through the Levite priesthood, God sprinkled the clean water of his Spirit on his people so that they may be clean.

***You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.***  
**[Ex. 19:6]**

***Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart.***  
**[Ps. 24:3,4]**

The Lord God had Moses go to his people and consecrate them and to have them wash their clothes. Moses prepared the people for God's descent from heaven in a dense cloud and fire to the top of Mount Sinai and then down into their midst in a majestic presentation of himself before their assembly. God wants us to be cleansed, to sanctify ourselves and be holy as he himself is holy.

***So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, ‘Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes.***

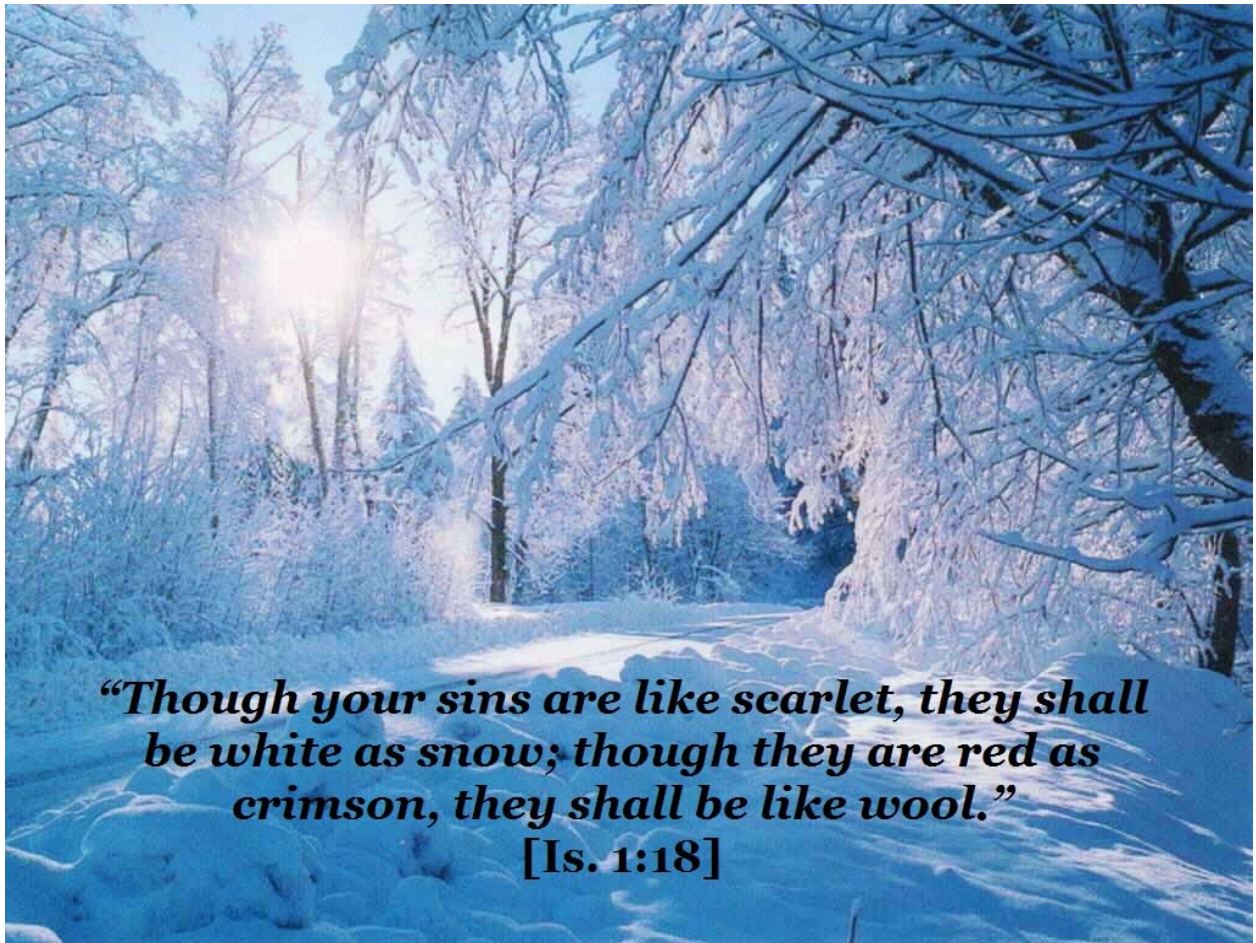
**[Gen. 35:2]**

***Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.***

**[Ps. 51:10]**

***Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight!***

**[Is. 1:15,16]**



***“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”***

**[Is. 1:18]**

God’s Spirit indwells us to create in us a new heart so that we may faithfully follow his decrees and keep his laws. He will gather us unto himself and blow on us with his “fiery wrath” to melt us and purify us as in a furnace.

***I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities.***

**[Is. 1:25]**



***As men gather silver, copper, iron, lead and tin into a furnace to melt it with a fiery blast, so will I gather in my anger and my wrath....to melt you. I will gather you and I will blow on you with my fiery wrath, and you will be melted inside her, and you will know that I the Lord have poured out my wrath upon you.***

**[Ez. 22:20-22]**

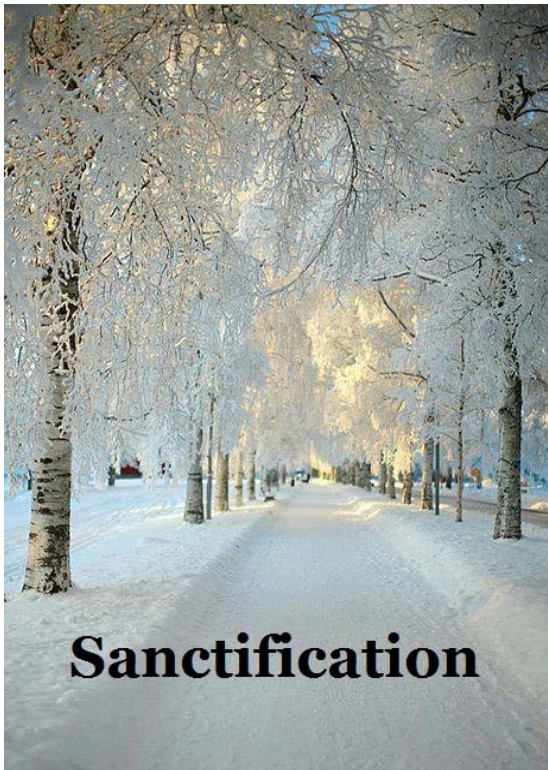
***I will cleanse you from all your impurities.***

**[Ez. 36:25]**

***Many will be purified, made spotless and refined.***

**[Dan. 12:10]**

We are to discard our former way of life, a way that can be corrupted with deceitful desires. We are to renew the righteous attitude of our minds, "to put on a new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." [Eph.4:24] God himself will sanctify us "through and through" with his Spirit, making us blameless before his presence.



***According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.***

**[Ps. 51:1-4]**

***Let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates the body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.***

**[2Cor. 7:1]**

***According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.***

**[Ps. 51:1-4]**

***“Let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates the body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.  
[2Cor. 7:1]***

God saves us by calling us to a life of holiness “because of his own purpose and grace” [2Tim. 1:8,9], his grace being given us in Christ Jesus. Whereas we once were alienated from God because of our sinful ways and evil behavior, Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross has reconciled us to God, presenting us “holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.” [Col. 1:22]

***May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holiness.  
[1Thes. 3:13]***

***May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
[1Thes. 5:23]***

Under the auspices of the new covenant, we are privileged members of a spiritual kingdom of priests dedicated to the service of God. We are to live sanctified lives within the mystical body of Christ. We are to become holy and living temples for the indwelling presence of God. We, who were once of the world and were dead in our trespasses as children of Adam in the flesh, have had our earthly flesh put to death with Christ – our new life is in the Spirit. We have been sanctified by the power of the Spirit as children of God.

***How much more, then, will be the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!  
[Heb. 9:14]***

Jesus sanctified his apostles with the truth because God’s word is truth. He sanctified himself in truth so that those who believe in him may be sanctified. We are called to be holy and to be sanctified in Christ Jesus.

***After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.  
[Heb. 1:3]***

***Because of one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.  
[Heb. 10:14]***

Being no longer of this world, we are still subject to its trials and tribulations. We have been raised with Christ in the newness of sanctified life having been cleansed from the power of sin. Our own death with Christ has set us free from the present power of sin over us. Our

heavenly Father has redeemed us from the consequences of our sinful choices, placing his living Spirit within us. We are cleansed by God's Spirit of judgment and fire. We are to be led and empowered by this Spirit, allowing it to transform us as we yield our wills and lives to God. Sanctification is that spiritualizing process of our becoming holy that assuredly leads to our salvation and eternal life. Our walk is to be one in faith, righteousness and holiness. We are to put our confidence in God's promises according to his guidance and his power.

***But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.***

**[Rom. 6:22]**

Because God desires to bring many sons to salvation and glory, God proved his own Son perfect and holy through suffering and death, so that we may also be made holy in the body of Christ. Through Christ, we can "draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water." [Heb. 10:22] Just as Jesus Christ is pure, we are purified by placing our hope in him, for "when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." [1John 3:2,3]

## **10. RECONCILIATION – God restores us to his presence.**



***Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.***

**[Ps. 51:11,12]**

***We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.***

**[2Cor. 5:20]**

Because of Adam's original sin, man's first disobedience against God, all mankind is born spiritually separated from God's holiness. Divine justice is demanded before man can be brought back into God's good grace. Jesus Christ offered himself once and for all to undertake man's punishment onto his own shoulders. He gave his own life for man's sins and disobedience.

***But now in Jesus Christ you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.***

**[Eph. 2:13]**

The gospel of Matthew reports that at the moment of Jesus' death on the cross, "the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom." [Mat. 27:51] The function of this curtain had always been to maintain a separation between sinful man and his Holy Father. God's majestic presence was to remain hidden and immaculate, but Jesus' atoning sacrifice on the cross reconciles man to God by eliminating all barriers that kept them apart. With the barrier of man's sin removed, the path to reconciliation has been cleared.

Adam severed mankind's relationship with God; Jesus becomes our living bridge that forevermore spans the chasm between man and God. Through Jesus Christ, we become blameless and sanctified before the presence of the Lord. Jesus Christ poured out his promised Spirit to cleanse our inner temple making us right with God and presenting us pure in his holy presence. Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross reconciles us back to God.

***Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.***

**[Rom. 5:1,2]**

***For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!***

**[Rom. 5:10]**

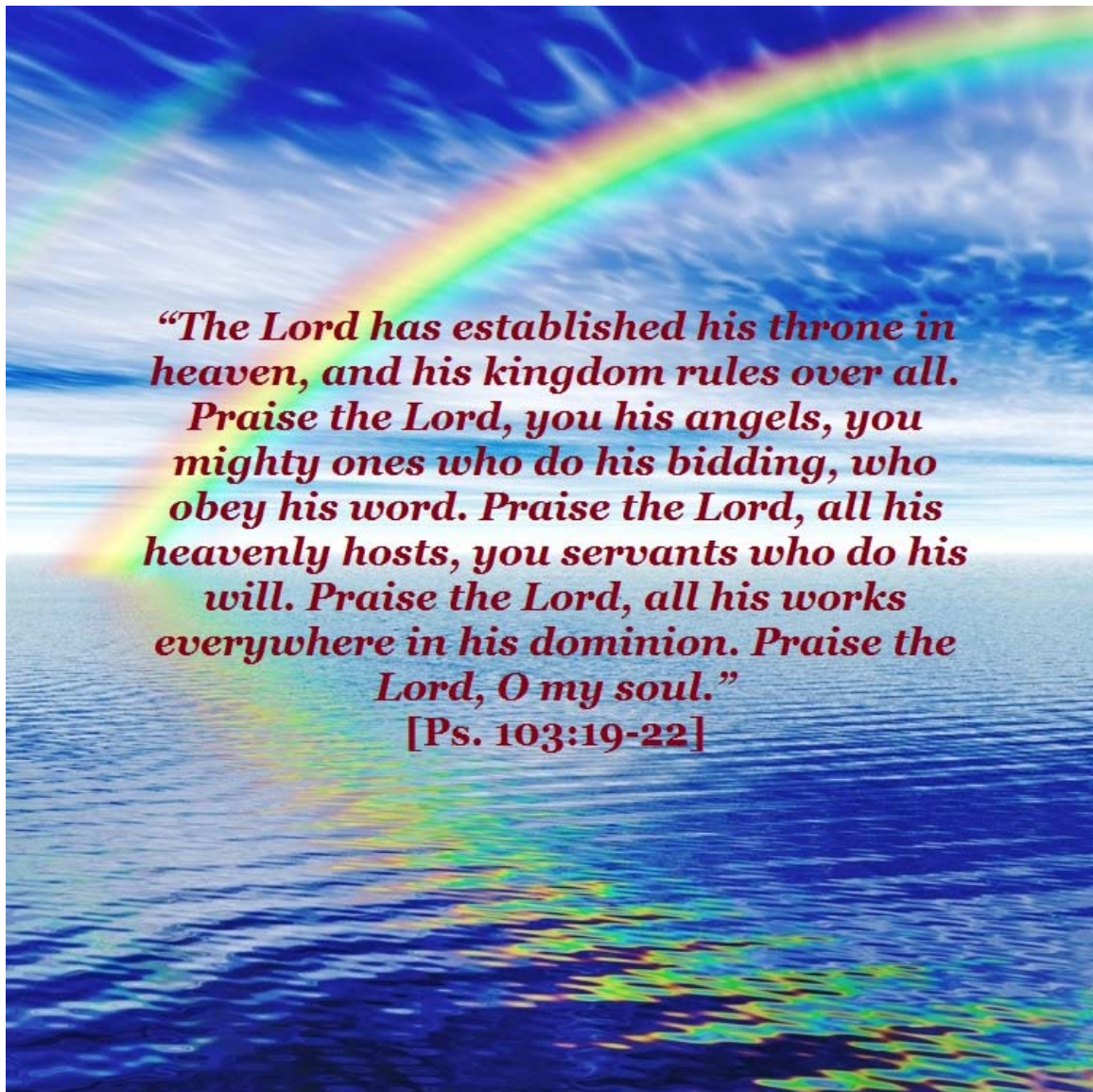
God provides his children the spiritual ministry of reconciliation through the life of his one and only Son. Through the atonement brought about by Jesus Christ, men's sins are no longer accounted against them. Jesus Christ is the eternal firstborn over all creation, the living Word of God, through whom the heavens and the earth were created. Through the Son, all things are reconciled to God through his blood that was shed on the cross: "He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death." [Col. 1:22]

***His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.***

**[Eph. 2:15,16]**



## THE KINGDOM OF GOD:



**11. SALVATION – Deliverance from the dominion of sin and death.**

***The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.  
[1Sam. 2:6]***

***He prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.  
[Ps. 50:23]***

***Our God is a God who saves; from the sovereign Lord comes escape from death.***

**[Ps. 68:20]**

***In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.***

**[Prov. 12:28]**

***Surely God is my salvation.... With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.***

**[Is. 12:2,3]**



***Salvation***

***He will swallow up death forever.... Surely this is our God, we trusted in him, and he saved us.***

***This is the Lord; we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation***

**[Is. 25:8,9]**

***The Father raises the dead and gives them life.***

**[John 5:21]**

***He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness.***

**[Is. 61:10]**

***Salvation comes from the Lord.***

**[Jonah 2:9]**

In the Bible, Hades [Greek] [Sheol (Hebrew)] indicates “the place of the unseen,” embodying the general place of the invisible world of the dead. All people, good and evil, are destined to eventually pass through this shadowy destination upon their mortal death. All mortal beings die and pass from the visible world of the living to the invisible world of the dead. Hell (Gehenna [Greek]) is literally representative of the notorious valley of Hinnom on

the south side of Jerusalem that served as a garbage dump and was a foul and noxious place where dogs roamed and fires burned. It has been figuratively used to epitomize a specific place traditionally designed for eternal punishment of the wicked.

We cannot avoid containment after life in Hades, but we can escape confinement in Hell by believing in Jesus and receiving eternal life. Hades encompasses all intermediate abodes of the dead subject to God's inevitable judgment over the dead. On the basis of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross in the place of mortal sinners, he is the author and provider of our eternal salvation from the grasp of death.

***But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.***

**[1Cor. 15:20-22]**

If we become united with Jesus Christ in his death, we will likewise be united with him in his resurrection. Our death with Jesus liberates us from the power of sin, and thus from the power of death. All those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will also reawaken into his holy presence. This is the first resurrection: "They will be priests of God and will reign with him for a thousand years." [Rev. 20:6] After these thousand years, there will be a final judgment at the end-times, and there will be a second death. The book of life will be opened and all will come to a final reckoning. For those whose names that are found written in the book of life, "the second death has no power over them" [Rev. 20:6], but, "if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life he was thrown into the lake of fire." [Rev. 20:15]





You will be saved if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead; God will make alive with Jesus all those who have fallen asleep in him. For all those who hear the words of Jesus Christ and believe in the heavenly Father who sent him, these believers will not be condemned for their sins; they will cross over from death and gain eternal life: “The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.” [John 5:25] Jesus’ living gospel “is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” [Rom. 1:16]

***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***  
**[John 3:16]**

***For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day.***  
**[John 6:40]**

Jesus Christ is the only name under heaven through whom we can be saved: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” [Rom. 10:13] Jesus was made perfect and holy; he is the only source of salvation for all who obey him.

***The water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.***  
**[John 4:14]**

***I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life.***  
**[John 6:47,48]**

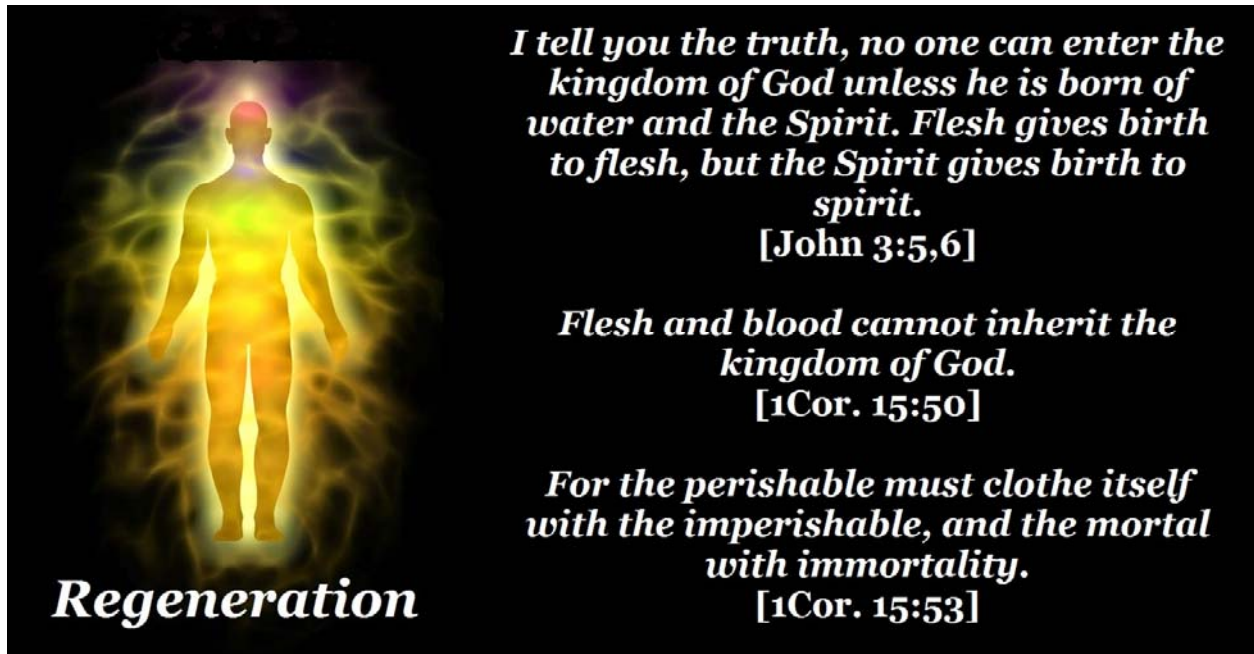
***I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.***  
**[John 11:25,26]**

The Spirit of the Father who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. It is this Spirit who gives life and resurrection to our mortal being. When the apostles of Jesus asked him who can find salvation, Jesus answered, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." [Mark 10:27] As Jesus Christ was raised from the dead "through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." [Rom. 6:4] It is through the grace of God in the person of his Son Jesus Christ that we are saved: "The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." [Rom. 6:23] The promise of salvation is heralded by God's signs and wonders and various miracles, and by the "gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will." [Heb. 2:3,4]

Upon his resurrection from death and his ascension to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus has prepared a place for all who believe in him and these believers will receive heavenly salvation in his name. Upon his promised return to this world, he will receive all the faithful into his life-saving care in the Father's kingdom. Jesus Christ will return to this world a second time in all his heavenly glory to receive those who await his salvation.

***I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.***  
**[John 14:3]**

## 12. REGENERATION – Spiritual rebirth and renewal, union with Christ.



Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” [John 3:3] We need to be born again because we are spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins and we need vital regeneration. God’s Spirit gives us new spiritual life through faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit joins our spirit to himself through baptism into the body and life of Christ. The Holy Spirit brings us into the Father’s holy family.

***He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our savior.***  
**[Titus 3:5,6]**

***You have been born again through the living and enduring word of God.***  
**[1Pet. 1:23]**

As potential children of our heavenly Father, we are challenged to put off our former way of life and our old self which is corrupted by the sins of the flesh. We are also compelled to renew the righteous attitude of our mind and to invigorate the nature of our spirit, “to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” [Eph. 4:24]

***Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.***  
**[Rom. 12:2]**

***Inwardly we are being renewed day by day.***  
**[2Cor. 4:16]**

***You may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.***  
**[2Pet. 1:4]**

Our resurrection into the Father's kingdom necessitates the giving up of our earthly bodies of the mortal flesh. God prepares for us new bodies that will be suitable to our new state of being.

***The splendor of the heavenly bodies is of one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another.***  
**[1Cor. 15:40]**

We are sown on this world as perishable seeds of mortality, planted in our bodies of flesh for a purpose – we are offered God's gift of eternal life through faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ. If we accept this gift of immortality, in obedience to God's will, God responds by saving us from the dominion of sin and death through faith in his Son. We are raised in glory, honor, and power with new bodies of the spirit: "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body." [1Cor. 15:44]

***You have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed with knowledge in the image of its Creator.***  
**[Col. 3:9,10]**

Adam, our primordial ancestor, was formed from the dust of the earth to become a living being. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, comes from heaven as a life-giving spirit. Just as we bear the stamp of Adam's nature during our sojourn here on earth, "so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven." [1Cor. 15:49] In a flash, we will change into imperishable being.

***They can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection.***  
**[Luke 20:36]**

***Now we know if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.***  
**[2Cor. 5:1]**

God plants within us a yearning for immortality "so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life." [2Cor. 5:4] Our spiritual regeneration occurs as a result of our being brought into spiritual union with Jesus Christ through faith in the good news of his gospel. As a result of Jesus' propitiatory atonement for the sins of mankind, God's Spirit is able to bring mortal beings into Jesus' holy body – the Spirit baptizes us into his mystical body, and this produces in us the spiritual fruit God desires. We become new creatures in Christ through the gift of salvation and eternal life. God provides us "new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade." [1Pet. 1:3] God fathers us into new being as children of God.

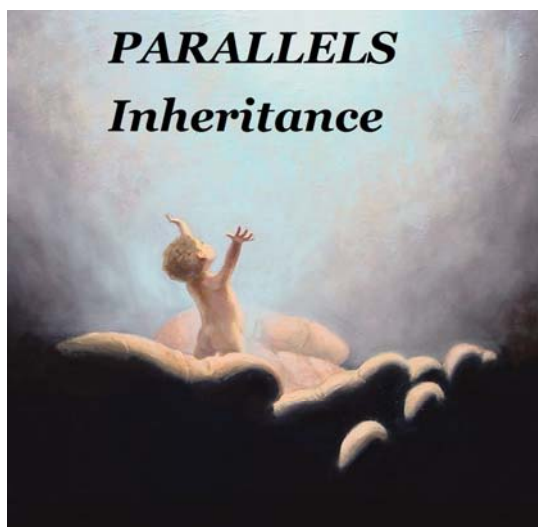
***They are not of the world any more than I am of the world.***  
**[John 17:14]**

***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.***  
**[2Cor. 5:17]**

***When we appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.***  
**[1John 3:2]**

We are to be transformed, our lowly bodies will become like the glorious body of Jesus Christ. We become one with Jesus in his death, and we receive his everlasting life through the Spirit of God within us. Our spiritual rebirth and regeneration occur as a result of being brought into union with Christ through our faith in his living word. There is no re-birth and eternal life apart from union with Jesus and belief in Jesus. The Holy Spirit unites us to Christ in a living union. Christ is the vine where life flows and we are the living branches. [John 15:1ff] New birth is the creation of new spiritual life, and it is created through union with Jesus Christ. The Spirit vitalizes our connection with Christ who is the way, the truth, and life. The gift of salvation and eternal life is a consequence of the Holy Spirit's taking up residence within us alongside our own inner spirit. We begin to drink freely of the living water of Christ as a result of our incorporation into his spiritual body.

### **13. INHERITANCE – Privilege and responsibility as God's child.**



*Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. [Mat. 25:34]*

*Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now, if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. [Rom. 8:14-17]*

*You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [Gal. 3:26-28]*

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! [1John 3:1]*

*You are sons of spiritual promise, faith sons; you have accepted the status of sonship. You believe in the reality of your sonship, and thus does your sonship with God become eternally real. [UB 40:6:4 (445:3)]*

***Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God.***  
**[Mat. 5:9]**

***“I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters,” says the Lord Almighty.***



**[2Cor. 6:18]**

The Lord God took his chosen people – the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (“Israel”) – out of Egypt to be the people of his inheritance. Today, if we belong to Jesus Christ, then we too are accorded as Abraham’s seed and thus heirs according to God’s covenant. Jesus Christ was born of woman and under the Law of Moses, and he redeemed us once and for all by his sacrifice on the cross so that “we might receive the full rights of sons.” [Gal. 4:5] God adopts us “in accordance with his pleasure and will.” [Eph. 1:5]

***Through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Jesus Christ.***

**[Eph. 3:6]**

Both men and women are adopted as “sons of God” and thus equally heirs of his heavenly kingdom. The nature of being a “son” in this sense is to be one of those given the rights of inheritance as God’s child regardless of gender.

God’s plan for creation was frustrated by the disobedience of Adam in the Garden of Eden. Mankind has since been burdened with ensuing bondage to sin and death. While our present condition is characterized by suffering, we are encouraged to anticipate our liberation from the weakness of the flesh and our hopeful resurrection. As the sons of God, we will be delivered into the “glorious freedom of the children of God.” [Rom. 8:21]

***For in him we live and move and have our being... We are his offspring.***

**[Acts 17:28]**

Only the righteous can inherit the kingdom of God. As God’s adopted children, we are justified in the name of Jesus Christ, and we are sanctified by the outpouring of his promised Spirit of Truth. For all those who are sanctified in God’s Spirit, they are given an inheritance from our heavenly Father by the grace of his word, “an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.” [1Pet. 1:4]

***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.***

**[Col. 3:23,24]**

When Jesus was asked what must be done to inherit eternal life, he endorsed a summary of the Ten Commandments: “Love the Lord with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” [Luke 10:27] Through the power of his living gospel, Jesus becomes the author of our salvation, bringing to the heaven Father many sons in glory. He does not hesitate to call us his brethren.

***Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.***

**[Heb. 2:11]**

Here on earth, we are subject to suffering in the cause of Jesus Christ: “Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?” [Heb.12:7] The recognition of who we once were in our hopelessness and the truth of who we are now in Christ compels us to praise God and to serve him forever. We, who were in darkness, are now in the light of the Lord, the children of our glorious Father.

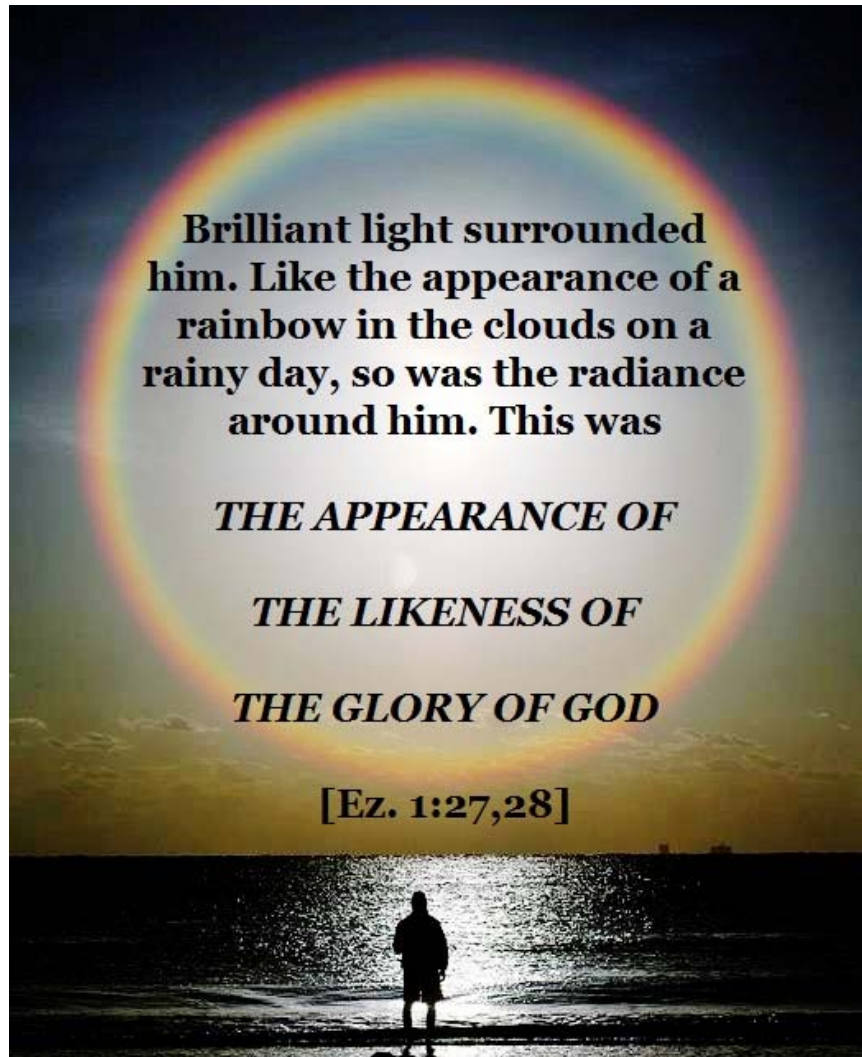
***As for you, go your way to the end. You will find rest, and then at the end of days you will rise up to receive your allotted inheritance.***  
**[Dan. 12:13]**

***Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.***  
**[John 1:12,13]**

***Are not angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?***  
**[Heb.1:14]**

Through adoption, we enjoy a relationship with other believers as brothers and sisters, and with God as our Father in Heaven. Thus is forever established the ultimate truth of the fatherhood of God and its necessary corollary the brotherhood of man.

**14. GLORIFICATION – The ultimate transformation and completion.**



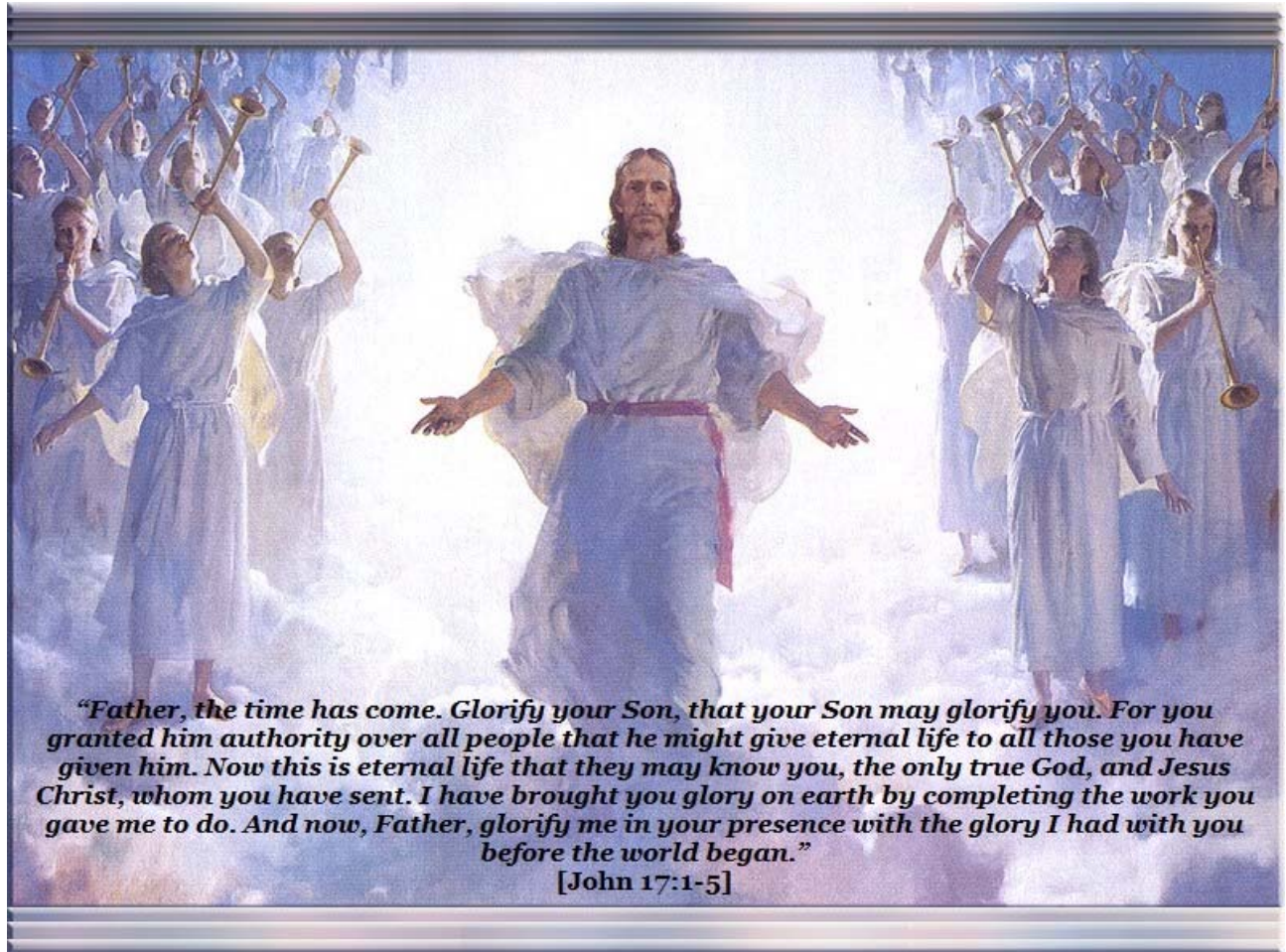
**Brilliant light surrounded him. Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was**

***THE APPEARANCE OF  
THE LIKENESS OF  
THE GLORY OF GOD***

**[Ez. 1:27,28]**

***The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.  
[Mat. 13:43]***

***There he [Jesus] was transfigured before them. His face shown like the sun,  
and his clothes became white as the light.  
[Mat. 17:2]***



Through our sharing in the crucifixion of Christ, our fleshly selves have been put to death. If we choose to have faith in God, we will live according to his truth and receive the precious blessing of his promises. We will consecrate our bodies, minds, and souls to God; we will align our spirit with his Spirit. We have been called according to God's purposes, and God's Spirit has justified and sanctified us. Our final glorification will be the completion, the consummation, the perfection, and the full realization of our salvation. Our glorification will be our return to the perfection that God had always intended for us. We have died in Christ, and we will rise in him. His Spirit of Truth has been poured out upon us, transforming each one of us into his glorious body.

***Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.***

**[John 17:24]**

***God made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.***

**[2Cor. 4:6]**

Jesus lived a perfect life in the flesh, sinless and in complete submission to the Father's will. Everything he did, he did for the glory of his heavenly Father. Any glory given to the Son of Man, Jesus would clearly attribute as having come from his Father as the one who glorifies him. When Jesus made his claim as being the resurrection and the life by bringing his friend Lazarus back from death into life once more, he claimed that he performed this miracle "for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." [John 11:4]

Towards the end of his earthly ministry in the service of his Father, Jesus knew that he would enter Jerusalem for the last time; he knew that he would be arrested and crucified to the death. He willingly obeyed his Father's will "to drink of this cup", to suffer death at the hands of man.

***The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.***  
**[John 12:23]**

***Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him.***  
**[John 13:31]**

Christ within us is our supernal hope of heavenly glory. His name is to be glorified in us, and we are to be glorified in him. Before dedicating our lives to loving service in the name of Christ, we were all sinners and fell short of the glory of God. We know that the glory that will be revealed in us will be a glorious freedom as the children of God. In everything we do, we will "do it all for the glory of God." [1Cor. 10:31]

***For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.***  
**[2Cor. 4:17]**

A great and wonderful anticipation is given to us: "Being confident in this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." [Phil. 1:6] God will transform us to be like his Son. We will conform to the character of Christ which is God's ultimate purpose for his children. We will no longer "fall short of the glory of God." [Rom. 3:23] We are gradually changing into the likeness of Christ; the Lord progressively moves us from "glory to glory" with ever-enhancing holiness. God continuously sanctifies our being to prepare us for entering into his overwhelming presence of supernal holiness and perfection.

God's great plan for the salvation of man will succeed perfectly. We have been justified and sanctified by the awesome power of God's Spirit, and our glorification in Christ is certain in God's perspective. The apostle Paul speaks of it as having already taken place. Our future glory is assured in the eternal graces of God. Therefore, nothing can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Since God is for us, all things work together for our good and his glory. The eternal purpose of God is constantly driving toward the fulfillment of that one goal.

***His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.***  
**[2Pet. 1:3]**



Jesus has promised one day to return to earth in the company of angels and in all his heavenly glory: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.” [Mat. 25:31] Because Jesus Christ is the life of those who believe in him, upon his promised return we too will “also appear with him in glory.” [Col. 3:4] When our good shepherd appears, we will “receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.” [1Pet. 5:4] We will reign with him in his heavenly kingdom forevermore.

***I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation awaits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.... Creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.***  
**[Rom. 8:18-21]**



***And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.***  
**[2Cor. 3:18]**

### **Summary**

With the willful disobedience and sinful fall of Adam, our primordial ancestor, there ensued the subsequent loss of human innocence. By inheritance of Adam's nature, all mankind is accordingly born spiritually separated from God's holiness. All Adam's progeny has thereby been subject to mortality and must eventually die a natural death of the flesh. Man naturally exhibits a willful inclination towards disobedience. His habitual tendency to yield to the temptations of sin offends the dignity of God's goodness and righteousness. Divine justice is demanded before man can be brought back into the sanctity of God's good grace.

Still, God's love reaches out to free us from our inherited state of sin. God offers to all mankind his gift of eternal life through the saving power of his Son, Jesus Christ. By God's grace and with the powerful ministry of his Spirit, we are offered the gift of salvation that was made possible by the sacrificial blood of Christ. By God's grace, we can be justified by the gift of God's righteousness through Christ "according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord," [Eph. 3:11] "according to his own purpose and grace given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." [2Tim. 1:9]

In accordance with God's plan, Jesus of Nazareth paid the ultimate ransom for our salvation by giving his own life on the cross. He was released into the hands of his accusers in accord with God's eternal plan of grace for the salvation of mankind: "This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross." [Acts 2:23] It was the resurrection of Jesus from the dead that made possible the survival and salvation of man: "They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead." [John 20:9] Jesus was "declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead." [Rom. 1:4]

***He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.***  
**[Rom. 4:25]**

***Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.***  
**[Heb. 7:25]**

God forgives us all our sins and make us alive through Christ; we are redeemed from the destructive path of sin. Jesus' sacrifice provides for our redemption, justification and sanctification before the heavenly Father. Jesus Christ offered himself once and for all to undertake man's judgment onto his own shoulders. He gave his own life for man's sins and disobedience. We are brought near to God through the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

In accordance with God's eternal plan of divine grace, God's own Son was made man for the liberation of the human race from sin and death. In his incarnation as the Son of Man, Jesus Christ united his divinity and humanity in holy perfection. He united the divine nature with human nature in his own person as both Son of God and Son of Man. As a result, he is the living bridge that forevermore crosses the gap between man and God, creature and Creator. Jesus Christ has prepared the way for all of us to enter into the kingdom of God. Upon his resurrection from death and his ascension to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus has prepared a place for all who believe in him and these believers will receive heavenly salvation in his name.

Our personal transformation in receiving our gift of salvation is an ongoing process driven by the Spirit of God. We are to be led and empowered by this Spirit, allowing it to transform us as we yield our wills and lives to God. Our walk is purposed to be one in faith, righteousness and holiness. We are to put our confidence in God's promises according to his guidance and his power. God saves us by calling us to a life of holiness because of his own good purpose and grace. He has given us "the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness – a



faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.” [Titus 1:2] Ages to come will show the incomparable riches of his endless grace.

If we become united with Jesus Christ in his death, we will likewise be united with him in his resurrection. His experience becomes ours through our spiritual baptism into his mystical body. God will raise us up in Christ, seating us with him in the heavenly realms. We are raised in glory, honor, and power with new and incorruptible bodies of spiritual splendor. Our lowly bodies will be transformed to become like the glorious body of the resurrected Christ. As adopted sons of God, we will be delivered into glorious deliverance as God’s children. We know that the glory that will be revealed in us will be a magnificent demonstration of God’s loving mercy and good grace. In everything we do, we will do it all for the glory of God. Christ within us is our supernal hope of heavenly glory. When our good shepherd reappears, as he has promised, we will reign with him in his heavenly kingdom forevermore.

