

Fountaingate Christian Foundation presents...

The King's Table

**Series
So Great Salvation**



***Sending the Word of God
to the Ends of the Earth***

Index

Series: So Great Salvation

1	The Cross – Centre of History
2	The Horrendous Fall
3	The Substitute
4	Shedding of Blood
5	Saved Completely
6	Identified With Us
7	Identified With Him
8	Atonement Made
9	Justified
10	Redeemed
11	Redeemed to be Sons
12	Redeemed to be Heirs
13	Heirs of God
14	The Great Crossover
15	The Old Self – Dead!
16	The New Self – Alive!
17	Making the Truth Mine
18	Living from the Tree of Life
19	The New Covenant
20	The Gospel of Victory
21	The Gospel of Glory

A Personal Letter to You

Dear Friend

The Gospel is God's beautiful gift to us all. Through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection the work has been done, the price has been paid, the judgment has been met for us all.

What a future we have because all of our seamy past has been declared gone. A new life has begun.

Before we were in Adam, born for death and judgment. Now we are born-again in Christ. A totally new beginning - clean, forgiven, recreated and growing in His image.

We are being prepared in our daily walk with God to be a Bride for Christ. By His grace everything happens that is impossible by man himself.

Kind regards,

Paul, Bunty and David

The Collins Ministry Team

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"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Cross - Centre of History

‘ ...The Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. Revelation 13:8

The Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ is the centre-point of all history. It is the pivot of Man's existence on earth. In the Old Testament days, all of God's dealings with Man pointed him to the Cross that was to come. His salvation was through faith in what God promised would happen. Today we look back to that time, nearly 2000 years ago, when the Son of God hung on the Cross between heaven and earth, between God and Man, and receive salvation through faith in the finished work of our Lord Jesus on the Cross.

From the beginning

From the moment the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, sinned (see Genesis 3), God's plan of redemption was set into motion and Jesus was foreordained to die.

The promise of the Saviour

"And I will put enmity between you [the Serpent] and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" Genesis 3:15.

The crushing of the serpent's head (a mortal wound) and the striking of the heel of the woman's offspring (or "Seed" – Galatians 3:16) took place on the Cross.

The shedding of blood

"The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them" Genesis 3:21.

At the moment of sin the glory of God that had

clothed Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:26-27) had now departed (Genesis 3:6-7). The first shedding of blood took place in the Garden of Eden to clothe their nakedness... a prophetic picture of the shedding of Jesus's blood on the Cross, which would bring spiritual clothing for us – a clothing with the righteousness of God (Revelation 3:5; 19:8).

The pivot of history

"...you were redeemed from the empty way of life...with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake" 1 Peter 1:18-20.

From the beginning of time God ordained the sacrifice of a lamb as a substitute to be the only way to receive forgiveness of sins and acceptance by God. It was given as a pre-picture of *the* Lamb of God who would die once for all as the substitute for all mankind (see John 1:29; Hebrews 9:25-26).

- Abel (Heb.11:4; Gen.4:1-7).
- Abraham (Gen.15:1-6; Gal.3:16; John 8:56)
- Isaac (Heb.11:17; Gen.22:1-14).
- Passover (1 Cor.5:7; Ex.12:1-33).
- Brass snake (John 3:14-15; Num.21:6-9).
- Sacrifices of Law (Heb.9:7-28;13:11-12).
- The prophets (Isaiah 53; Acts 3:18).

Today

From the time of the early Church until today we are reaping the benefits of the Cross – as we look back and by faith receive all that was accomplished for us there.

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The Horrendous Fall

“ ...Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12 ”

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3) the choice they made affected the whole human race that was to come from them. When Jesus Christ came into the world He was sent with a specific purpose to fulfil – to undo all the damage that had been done by their action and to make it possible for mankind to get back on course for the original purpose God had created them (read Romans 5:12-21).

Six affects of the fall

Their choice had a six-fold affect on the whole human race.

Self was deified

Adam and Eve were not just tempted by a forbidden piece of fruit that looked delicious (Genesis 2:9, 16-17; 3:1-2). The temptation was what the Serpent said it would *do*.

“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” Genesis 3:5.

The central factor of the temptation were the words “you will be like God” – literally, “as gods in your own right”. In yielding, Adam and Eve were choosing to deify themselves. *Self* became their god. Whereas they were created *God dependent* they chose *independence*. Where they had been *God conscious* they were now *Self conscious*. Where their lives had been *God centred* they were now *Self centred*. The world has been full of “little gods” since that time. This has been the greatest cause of the all the troubles and problems that have filled the earth ever since.

The knowledge of good and evil became the guiding force

The “wisdom” they had desired and gained was the ability to judge between what was right and what was wrong. But this ability, with the god of Self as the one judging, has been the most destructive force in the world.

Sin and death began to reign

“...sin reigned in death...” Romans 5:14 (see also verse 21).

Sin became the very nature of mankind.

Satan gained authority

Adam and Eve had been given authority over the whole earth (Genesis 1:27-30). They sold out that authority the moment they obeyed Satan (see Revelation 12:9; 20:2). He gained dominion (Colossians 1:13) and became the “prince of this world” (John 12:31; 16:11).

Judgment was man's destiny

Sin produced its “wage” (Romans 6:23; 5:16; Hebrews 9:27).

The glory of God departed

They knew that they were “naked” – not only speaking of physical awareness but of their fallen condition. The glory of God that had covered them (Genesis 1:26-27) had gone.

On the Cross Jesus answered the fall-out of everything that had happened in the Garden of Eden.

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"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Substitute

“ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24 ”

The problem

"... There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one" Rom.3:10-12 (read also vs13-23).

The whole human race is in a place of total separation from God (Isaiah 59:2). They are...

- Children of disobedience (Eph. 2:1-2).
- Children of wrath (Eph.2:3).
- Children of the devil (John 8:44).
- Enemies of God (Col.1:21; James 4:4).
- Having no hope (Eph.2:12).

The Bible reveals:

- All have sinned (Rom.3:23).
- None are righteous (Isa. 64:6).
- All deserve judgment (Rom.6:23).

Man's sin, rebellion and disobedience made it impossible for a holy, righteous God to accept him into His presence.

The plan

The only way God could abide by His righteous Law and still bring forgiveness and reconciliation to Man was to find a substitute to die in his place. A suitable substitute had to be one who could stand righteous before God, and yet who could truly represent the human race. It had to be a man who had no sin. But there was no man – for all had sinned. So God Himself had to become man in order to reconcile man to God.

"...Christ Jesus: Who, being in 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!" Philippians 2:5-8 (read also verse 9-11; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Cor.5:21).

The substitute

"Surely he took our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him; and by his wounds we are healed" Isaiah 53:4-5.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, entered fully into the stream of human life becoming the "Son of Man" (Luke 19:10). He lived a perfect life and thus was able to represent us before God, bringing man and God together. He was the only one who could satisfy both the holiness of God and the total needs of mankind (see Heb.4:14-16; 8:6; 1 Tim.2:5).

The Cross

The Cross is the place where God's love and justice meet. His righteous judgment demanded the death penalty for sin – the shedding of blood. His love met His own demands and Jesus, the Son of God, died as our substitute (Rom.5:8-11).

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Shedding of Blood

“...The law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Hebrews 9:22”

The shedding of the Lord Jesus Christ's blood on the Cross was an essential factor for us to receive forgiveness for our sins and acceptance into the presence of God.

Life is in the blood

"For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves...it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" Leviticus 17:11.

The blood represents the very life. Sin demands the death penalty (Ezekiel 18:4). Jesus shed his blood and poured out his life – instead of us – so that by receiving through faith what he did in our place, we are set free from the judgment we deserve.

3-fold impact of the Blood

The blood of Christ fully answers the three-fold impact of sin on man:

Towards God

Sin creates separation between God and man (Is.59:2). The blood of Christ wholly satisfies God.

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" Ephesians 1:7 (see also Romans 5:8-9).

Pre-pictured in the Old Testament...

- Read Exodus 12. The blood on the doorposts of the Israelite homes satisfied God.

"The blood will be a sign for you...and when I see the blood I will pass over you..." (v.13).

- Read Leviticus 16. On the Day of Atonement (the Old Testament ceremony set by God to picture the cleansing of sin) the priest sprinkled the blood upon the mercy seat to satisfy God, when it was presented to Him on behalf of the people. Jesus presented his own blood, which alone truly satisfied God.

"...he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood..." Heb.9:12 (see 7-13).

Towards Man

Sin creates a sense of guilt in man (Gen.3:7-10). The blood of Christ has satisfied God. It satisfies us in the cleansing of our conscience from guilt.

- The Blood cleanses from guilt (Heb.9:14).
- The Blood sanctifies us (Hebrews 12:12).
- The Blood reconciles us to God the Father (Colossians 1:20-21).
- The Blood gives us boldness to enter the Holiest of All (Hebrews 10:19-22).
- The Blood perfects us in the sight of God (Hebrews 10:14).

Towards Satan

Sin creates Satan's ground of accusation of man before God (Revelation 12:10).

- The Blood puts God on man's side against the devil (Romans 8:31-34).
- The Blood dissolves all Satan's legal rights of ownership (Colossians 1:14; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Timothy 2:6).

"...the church of God, which he bought with his own blood" Acts 20:28.

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Saved Completely

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

"But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy" Titus 3:4-5

To be "saved" means to be rescued from certain catastrophe and put in a place of safety and security. A drowning man, helpless in the water and heading for certain death, looks for someone to *save* him. In the same way, God has come to the aid of the human race, floundering in its sin and heading for judgment.

Saved by God's power

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..." Romans 1:16.

The Gospel is the power of God! God has done what we could never do ourselves. It took a power outside ourselves to save us because it is impossible for us to save ourselves.

"... God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace..." 2 Timothy 1:8-9 (see also 1 Timothy 1:15-16).

His power saves us from every area that has been affected by sin and by broken fellowship with Him.

From judgment

"Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" Romans 5:9 (also 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

From being "lost"

Jesus told several parables to describe the condition of the "unsaved". He said that person was like a sheep who had strayed from the fold (Luke 15:3-7), or a man who had left home and wasted his life and inheritance (Luke 15:11-24). We had strayed away from God onto the wrong road – a road that led to death – and we had no way of finding the right path home. Jesus brought us back, uniting us with the Father again (Luke 19:10).

From Satan's dominion

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves..." Colossians 1:13 (Acts 26:18).

Saved by God's love

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" Romans 5:6-8 (see also John 3:16; Ephesians 5:2; 1 John 3:16).

Saved by God's grace

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast" Ephesians 2:8,9.

Grace is God's love and power in action. We have been saved by His grace!

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Identified With Us

“...Christ Jesus...stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity] so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men... Phil.2:5-7 (Amp)”

The Lord Jesus became totally identified with what we were. Read Hebrews 2:9-18.

“..Christ Jesus...was born a human being. And after He had appeared in human form He abased and humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of [the] cross!” Philippians 2:5-8 (Amp).

Jesus became one with us

He became the Son of Man. He tasted of the very depths of the human condition (read Isaiah 53). He became totally identified with us...

In our humanity

“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” Romans 8:3.

In our experience

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin” Hebrews 4:15.

Jesus was fully identified with our human experiences. He did not live an isolated life, but faced life as it is – and overcame on every point. He experienced temptation on every level, yet remained sinless. He constantly encountered the enemy and always was victorious over him (see Luke 4:1-13). He faced storms, angry mobs, disappointments and apparent failure, but always

maintained a sense of victory, overcoming each and every situation he came across (read Luke 4:28-30; 8:22-25; 19:41-44; 23:33-43).

In our sin

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us...” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Having lived a perfect, sinless life, he then offered himself to God as an offering for our sin (Hebrews 9:14). In so doing, he “became sin” for us. His sinless spirit was “immersed” in the sin of humanity, “spiritual death” enveloped him, and his own Father turned away from the sin that rested upon him (Matthew 27:46).

In our judgment

“About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ – which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’” Matthew 27:46.

As the sin of mankind came upon him it had its awful affect, cutting off the eternal Son of God from the presence of his Father which he had enjoyed from all eternity. He descended into the depths, suffering the wrath of God’s righteousness against the sin of mankind until the debt of all men had been paid in full.

“...Jesus...was handed over to you...and you...put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him” Acts 2:22-24 (read through to verse 27; Eph.4:8-9; Matt.16:4).

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Identified With Him

“...One died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should...live...for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Cor.5:14-15”

Jesus became totally identified with what we were, so that we could share in what He is. He became the Son of Man, so that we could become the sons of God. He tasted of the very depths of the human condition so that we could share in His glories.

“In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering” Hebrews 2:10 (see also 1 John 3:1-2; Romans 8:15-17).

We were in Christ

Jesus was our representative. In God's sight he became *us*. In every aspect of his work we were identified with Him.

In his death

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin” Romans 6:6-7.

Christ's death was our death. The righteous Judge of all the earth accepts that “in Christ” that old sinful person we were died. In God's Book of Life (Rev.20:12,15), the Christian has no history going back before his salvation.

In his burial

“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death ...” Romans 6:4 (see also verses 1-3; Colossians 2:11-12).

In God's eyes, when they took the Lord Jesus down from the Cross and laid him in the tomb, we were laid in that tomb in him. Only one who is already dead is buried. When we go down into the waters of baptism we are declaring our identification with him in his death and accepting this fact as our own experience. It is our burial service.

In his suffering

“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hid their faces he was despised and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows...” Is.53:3-4

Jesus' suffering on the Cross and in the grave was acceptable to God as fulfilling all the demands of justice that were against us. God accounts Jesus' suffering as being our suffering, and we have no further debt to pay (John 19:20; Col.2:13-15).

In his resurrection

“... God...made us alive with Christ...” Eph.2:4-5 (see also Romans 6:5-11).

When Jesus rose, totally triumphant over sin, Satan, and death, we were in Him. His triumph is ours.

In his ascension

“And raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” Ephesians 2:4-6.

God now sees us seated at His right hand, on the throne, in Christ. From this position we now “reign in life” through Christ (see Romans 5:17) Jesus became identified with us in our degradation for us to be identified with him in his glory.

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Atonement Made

“ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice...”
Romans 3:25

Meaning of atonement

Atonement literally means “reconciliation” or “exchange”. It speaks of the bringing together of two people whose fellowship has been broken because a wrong has been done by one towards the other, and this restoration of fellowship is done by a “change mutually” (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance).

“Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation” Romans 5:11 (see also 2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

The great exchange

Mankind was created for fellowship with God, but fellowship was broken by sin. An exchange took place to bring reconciliation.

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Taken by Christ

- Punishment (Isaiah 53:5-10).
- Sickness and pain (Matt.8:17).
- Curse (Deut.28:15-61; Gal.3:10,13).
- Spiritual Poverty (2 Cor.8:9).
- Sinful nature (Rom.6:6; Eph.2:2-3).
- Death (Rom.6:23; Heb.2:9).

Given to the believer

- Forgiveness (Eph.1:7).
- Righteousness (Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.1:30).

- Peace (Rom.5:1; John 14:27).
- Healing (Matt.3:23-24; 8:16).
- Blessing (Eph.1:3).
- Abundance (2 Cor.9:8).
- New nature (Eph.4:22-24; 2 Peter 1:3-4).
- Life (Eph.2:4-5; John 10:10).
- Hope (1 Cor.15:20-26, 51-57; Rom.5:1-51).

Purpose of atonement

God’s purpose in atoning for mankind was far more than just that they could experience forgiveness, freedom from sin, and abundant, eternal life. The Lord Himself desires:

Fellowship

“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ” 1 John 1:3 (John 17:20-26).

A family like His Son

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers” Romans 8:29 (2 Corinthians 3:18).

A bride for His Son

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless” Ephesians 5:25-27 (see also Rev.19:7; 21:2, 9-27).

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Justified

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1

Meaning of justification

To be justified means more than to be forgiven. It literally means to be cleared of all blame and to be free from every charge. In the natural, a person cannot be forgiven *and* justified at the same time. If he is *forgiven*, it means he is guilty. But if he is *justified* it means he isn't guilty and therefore doesn't need to be forgiven.

How can we be justified?

There is no question of our guilt before God (Rom.3:23) and our need for forgiveness. How then is it possible that we can be justified before God?

Not by our works

No good works or resolutions of our own can contribute anything to our justification. It is like a person who has committed a serious crime. All the good deeds that he could ever do would not cause him to be justified in the eyes of the law.

"...a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified" Galatians 2:16 (see also Acts 13:39; Galatians 3:11).

By His work

Only by the atonement of Christ (the exchange of Him for us) was it possible. In Christ we stand before Him as a *new* creation... and are declared justified!

"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice...so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus" Romans 3:22-26 (see also Romans 4:5).

We are justified...

- By God (Romans 8:33; Galatians 3:8).
- By grace (Titus 3:5-7).
- By Christ's blood (Romans 5:9).
- By our faith (Romans 3:28; 10:10).
- By the resurrection of Jesus (Rom.4:25)

Evidence of justification

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" Ephesians 2:10.

Our good works after we have believed in Christ are the evidence of the reality of us being justified by God. They, themselves, don't gain anything for us, but they are the product of our release into the new life God has given us (read James 2:14-24).

"Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men" Romans 5:18 (read through verses 1-20).

The King's Table

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Redeemed

“ 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... Colossians 1:13-14 ”

The need of redemption

The word “redeem” in the New Testament literally means “to purchase in the slave market with a view to setting free”.

When Adam sinned, believing the lie of Satan and choosing to be independent from God (Genesis 3), he, in actual fact, sold out his life and that of all the following generations (Rom. 5:12-19). The human race became enslaved to their own selfish desires and weaknesses.

“These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm...they mouth empty, boastful words...they themselves are slaves of depravity – for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him” 2 Peter 2:17-19 (see John 8:34).

The taskmaster of this slavery was Satan himself.

Jesus – the ransom

“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 (Hebrews 9:15).

Jesus Christ entered the scene of history with one great purpose in mind – to buy back mankind from Satan’s power and set him free into God’s kingdom. The price he paid for us was his own life.

“... You are not your own; you were bought at a price...” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (also 1 Cor. 7:23).

Set free

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” John 8:36.

The ransom paid by Jesus has set us free from . . .

Sin – the work of Satan

“He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work” 1 John 3:8.

Christ’s death loosed us from:

- The guilt of sin (Romans 3:23-24).
- The penalty of sin (Ephesians 1:7).
- The power of sin (Romans 6:6-22).

Death – the strength of Satan

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death” Hebrews 2:14-15 (see also 1 Cor. 15:54-57).

The curse – the tyranny of Satan

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree’” Galatians 3:13.

The “curse of the law” is described in Deut. 28:15-68. As we receive by faith what Christ has done, the curse over our lives is broken (read Num. 23:8-12).

The world – the dominion of Satan

“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” Galatians 6:14 (see 1 John 5:4-5; Colossians 1:13).

The King's Table

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Redeemed to be Sons

☪ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Romans 8:29 ☪

There are two sides to redemption. To be redeemed not only means to purchase but to purchase for a purpose. We have not only been redeemed to bring us *out* of our fallen sinful state but to bring us *into* all that God has planned and purposed for us.

The purpose for which God has redeemed us is revealed clearly in Romans 8:15-30.

"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship [adoption]. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father'" Romans 8:15.

The picture of adoption

Paul is using a familiar event in the Roman society of that day – the adoption of a child – to picture what has happened to the believer in Christ.

If a Roman citizen had no heir it was quite customary for him to go to the slave market and buy a young slave. He would pay the price of a slave but was not purchasing him to be a slave but to be his son (1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23). For the ceremony of adoption seven witnesses would be called to testify to the fact of the adoption. This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer in Christ (Romans 8:16).

This adoption meant three dramatic changes for the slave-child and these picture three dramatic changes for the believer in Christ:

A change of relationship

He was no longer a slave, but a child of the Roman. The adopted one became, in the eyes of the law, a

totally new person. He was born again into a totally new family.

"...God sent his Son...to redeem those under law that we might receive the full right of sons...So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir" Galatians 4:4-7 (see also 1 John 3:1).

A change of heritage

The "new born" son lost all connection to his old family, and gained all the rights of a son in his new family. According to Roman law, his old life was completely wiped out – all his debts were cancelled and any known crime was pardoned. It was as though his past had never been. He was literally looked upon as a new person, entering into a new life. He now took on the heritage and family reputation of his new father. His "past" became the honour and glory attained by his new father to that date. So it is in Christ!

"For if a man is in Christ he becomes a new person altogether – the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new" 2 Corinthians 5:17 (Phillips).

A change of status

The adopted ("new born") son now became a fully-fledged citizen of Rome and could enjoy all the special rights that citizenship gave. As new-born children of God we have become citizens of Heaven.

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household" Ephesians 2:19.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Redeemed to be Heirs

☪ The Spirit himself testifies...that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ... Romans 8:16-17 ☪

God has redeemed us not only to be in relationship with Him as His children but to be His heirs – to share in all that He is and has (Galatians 4:6-7). This is pictured so well in the Roman custom of adoption in Bible days.

Our adoption as sons

Read Romans 8:15-23. Verse 15-16 state definitely that we *have received* the Spirit of adoption, and *we are* the children of God – a finished fact. Verse 23 declares we are eagerly *waiting* for our adoptions as sons. Two different Greek words are used here. Verse 16 speaks of us being little children ("tekna"). Verse 19 speaks of adult sons ("huiioi"). There were two different phases involved in adoption in Roman society. The first phase was the private and legal arrangement where, in the presence witnesses, the slave-child became the child of the Roman. The second phase took place when the child had grown to full maturity. It was a formal public declaration of who he was.

The public ceremony

The father would hold a grand celebration and, before all the friends and neighbours, would publicly declare that this was his son and heir. The son was not now being adopted into *relationship* – that was already his. This adoption ceremony was for public recognition of his rank and position. It was the day he entered into the full expression of all his father had planned for him as his son and heir. This is the "glory" awaiting us!

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies" Romans 8:22-23.

Redemption of our bodies

The day the Lord Jesus returns for us – when our mortal bodies will put on immortality (1 Cor.15:51-55) – will be the day when all the world and all of God's creation will recognise and acknowledge that we, through God's wondrous grace, are the sons and heirs of God. It is the day we enter into all that God has prepared for us throughout eternity.

The Spirit of adoption

"...the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express..." Romans 8:26-27.

The work of the Holy Spirit within us causes us to grow in Christ and brings us to maturity (Eph.4:11-16). On that great day of universal declaration, we shall be revealed to all as the fully-mature sons of God (2 Cor.3:18). Thus the Cross of Christ shall be manifested as totally sufficient and victorious.

"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!...Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" 1 John 3:1-2.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Heirs of God

...He has given us new birth into a living hope...and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you. 1 Peter 1:3-4

As an heir of a natural father, the greatness of *his* wealth would determine the greatness of *mine*. The glorious dimension of our inheritance in Christ is that we are "heirs of *God*"...

"To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it" Deut.10:14 (see also Ps.50:10-12; Is.66:1).

...and "co-heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17).

Co-heirs with Christ

Because of His wonderful love and grace we are now seated at the Father's right hand in Christ – a co-heir with Him. A "co-heir" literally means "one who is an heir along with another". In other words, we inherit what Christ inherits!

"...His Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe..." Hebrews 1:2 (read also Colossians 1:16; Ephesians 1:10-11).

An heir is one who inherits four things:

Possessions

When we step into Christ, we step into every spiritual blessing there is in heaven! (Ephesians 1:3). We are not waiting to possess these – they are ours already, simply because we are in Christ.

"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. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises..." 2 Pet.1:3-4

The Scripture is full of "great and precious promises" that God has given to His children. They are ours to enjoy now. Faith takes them from promise form and puts them into tangible reality (Hebrews 6:1).

Position

As co-heirs with Christ, we have received a position of authority and power in His Kingdom.

"...I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father" John 14:13 (read vs.12-14; Ephesians 1:21-22; 2:6; 1 Peter 3:21-22; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3).

Privilege

Whereas our position as heirs has to do with our status towards the rest of God's creation, our privilege as heirs has to do with the Father's attitude toward us.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God..." 1 Peter 2:9.

Responsibility

Our Father has given us the keys to His Kingdom (Matthew 16:19). These speak not only of power and authority and privilege, but also of tremendous responsibility! As Jesus said...

"...As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you" John 20:21.

We now say, as our Lord Jesus did...

"...I must be about My Father's business" Luke 2:49 (NKJV) (see also John 17:18-22; 9:4).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Great Crossover

☪ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 1 Cor.15:22 ☪

The old ancestry

Adam had been created in the image of God. But sin marred that image. When he sinned, it was not just a personal thing between him and God. He was representing the whole human race. He passed down that marred image to the following generations – right down to us (Romans 5:12).

The first Adam

"...*'The first man Adam became a living being'...*" 1 Corinthians 15:45 (Gen.2:7).

When we were born into this world we were born "in Adam". In other words, we were part of the fallen Adamic race. In His great act of salvation on the Cross, God did far more than make provision for the forgiveness of my individual sins, wonderful as this is. He dealt with the root problem – my ancestry! (Romans 5:18).

The last Adam

"...*the last Adam, a life-giving spirit*" 1 Corinthians 15:45.

There was no way fallen humanity could be "patched up" (Luke 5:36). To fulfil His original plan and purpose for man (Genesis 1:26-28), God had to start all over again. He needed to put an end to the race of Adam and begin a whole new race of humanity. So Jesus became God's new representative of the human race. In the same way that the problem came through one man, Adam, so the answer would come through one man, Christ.

When Jesus hung upon the Cross, an eternal transaction was taking place between heaven and earth. Jesus was representing mankind. When Jesus died, he was dying as the Last Adam – the last of Adam's des-cendants! In fact, in Him God was putting to death the whole of fallen humanity! We were "in Adam" so Christ's death on the Cross was *your* death. All the connections with your ancestry in Adam were severed forever. Everything you had inherited as part of the Adamic race – your sin, your hurts, your curses, your judgment – all went to the death in the *one* man, Christ.

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died" 2 Corinthians 5:14.

A new ancestry

But Christ did not stay in the grave. God raised him to life – not as the Last Adam, but as the Second Man, the beginning of a whole new humanity.

The second Man

"The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven..." 1 Corinthians 15:47 (read also verses 48-49).

We were raised together with Christ. He represented us in his resurrection – the beginning of a new creation! (2 Cor.5:17). In Him we rose to a new ancestry, a new beginning, a new life, a new future.

"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus..." Ephesians 2:6 (read also verse 7; 3:10-11).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Old Self – Dead!

“ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. Romans 6:6 ”

Our old self

On the Cross, Jesus not only dealt with our sins but he also dealt with the “factory” that produced the sins – our old self. Our old self is everything we were “in Adam” – everything we were as part of the fallen Adamic race. Three things make up my “old self”...

What I have received

All I've inherited from Adam down through my generational line until I was born into the world – all the accumulated sin, curses and personality defects inherited from past generations.

What I have done

My sins, my self-justification, unforgiveness, self-centredness, everything that displeases God and its effects upon me – the effects of shame, guilt, fear, pride etc.

What has been done to me

The effects of others' sins on me – all the abuse, hurts, rejections, wounds of every kind that others have done to me have effected me and the kind of person I have become.

Wretched man!

Read Romans chapter 7. Paul describes what the old self is like under the Law – the “I” still with the “law of sin and death” as a reality on the inside trying to fulfil the standard of God's righteousness that is on the outside.

“For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of

my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin... What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?” Romans 7:22-24 .

The body of death

The body of death Paul refers to was a well-known terminology in his day. It spoke of a particular means of execution devised by an ancient king against his enemies. If a man was found guilty of murder the body of the victim was chained to his back. The corruption and decay of the dead body would eventually work through the live body, causing an excruciating death.

Who will rescue me?

“Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!” Romans 7:25.

Our body of death – the old self – was chained to the back of Jesus on the Cross. In God's eyes he became *us*. He died – that was the old person I was in Adam dying. He was buried – that was my old self being buried. He rose, leaving the “body of death” in Sheol where it belongs. He unchained us forever from our old selves! I rose in Him, a whole new creation, a new self.

“The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus” Romans 6:10-11.

The fact about Jesus' death is that he died to sin *once* – count it the same for you!

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The New Self – Alive!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Power of the resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead was not only the demonstration of God's power in and for His Son, but was for us – His new creation people.

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know...his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms" Eph. 1:18-20.

The same exertion of power that God used to raise Jesus from the dead He is now using for us! It is so great no other power in the world can be compared to it! This same miracle working power of God raises us to a whole new life.

"...just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" Romans 6:4.

Alive to God

"...the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way count yourselves ...alive to God in Christ Jesus" Romans 6:10-11.

The new creation in Christ is "alive to God". He is now the focus of our life, the centre-point of our whole existence.

"And he died for all, that those who live should not longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again" 2 Cor. 5:15.

Born into a living hope

"...he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" 1 Peter 1:3.

The new creation is back on the track of God's original purpose again – to have a people in His own image, like His own Son (Gen.1:26-27; Heb.1:3; Col.15-20). Like little babes born in the image of the father we are growing more and more like Him (see 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18).

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers" Romans 8:29.

The new self

The new creation is all that is "in Christ":

Its character

- The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- Unity (Ephesians 4:11-13; John 17:20-23).

Its law

- Love (John 13:34).
- The Spirit of life (Romans 8:1-4).

Its authority

- The Name of Jesus (Mark 16:17).
- The Word of God (Colossians 1:25-29).

Its power

- The Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 4:33; 5:32).

Its clothing

- Righteousness (Revelation 19:8; Isa.61:10).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Making the Truth Mine

“...I died on the cross with Christ. And my present life is not that of the old “I”, but the living Christ within me...”
Galatians 2:20 (Phillips)

In the light of all that has been accomplished for us by the death and resurrection of Jesus, how does it become reality in our lives?

The Spirit of revelation

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better” Ephesians 1:17 (read also vs 18-23).

In response to the hunger of our heart (Matthew 5:6) the Spirit of God gives us revelation of the wonder of what He has done. It's like the lights suddenly going on! We see it! We then respond to the revelation we have received in two ways:

Repent

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out...” Acts 3:19.

To repent means to change direction. It's a definite decision. It's a total change of focus from ourselves to God – from trying to fix ourselves up (an impossible task) to realising He has already done it for us (see Hebrews 6:1; 9:14).

Believe

“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known... This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe” Romans 3:21-22 (see also Romans 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:6).

Faith is important to God because it restores what

was lost by the choice of Adam. It makes us once again *God-conscious* and *God-centred* and brings us back to total *dependence* on God.

Faith has action

“The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus” Rom.6:10-11.

To “count” means to add up all the facts and reckon it to be so. Although what Christ has done is a finished work, it does not become ours personally until we count it as ours. We do this by faith. We are to count ourselves dead to sin in the same way as Christ died to sin! Once! In one act 2000 years ago on behalf of us all! It is a finished, completed work! Believing is receiving. In the same way He now lives to God we now live our new life. Responding to our faith the Holy Spirit works a miracle in our lives. He takes what has been done 2000 years ago and makes it *reality* in us today. We can now...

- **Put off the old self!** (Ephesians 4:22)
- **Put on the new self!** (Ephesians 4:24)

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self... and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” Ephesians 4:22-24 (see Colossians 3:9-10).

This is repentance and faith in action. From this point we then can live day by day in its reality (Galatians 5:25; Isaiah 50:4).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Living from the Tree of Life

“ Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Revelation 22:14 ”

The Tree of Death

“...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die” Genesis 2:17.

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil represented independence from God. It imparted a lower expression of life – the ability to judge between right and wrong from a self-centred position. It symbolised Death. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit of this tree what the tree represented became part of them and was passed on, through them, to the generations which followed. Read Genesis 3:8-24. They experienced broken relationship with God (v.8); broken relationship with one another (v.12); blame, unforgiveness and self-justification (v.12-13); a cursed life (v.16-19); and spiritual death (v.22-24).

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is the cause of every argument, every war and every broken relationship. We can be *right* about something but if we are coming from the wrong Tree it will always result in “death” in relationships. Read Jonah chapters 3 and 4.

The Tree of Life

“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom... She is a tree of life to those who embrace her...” Proverbs 3:13.18.

This tree represented the Life of God Himself. In it was God's nature. It offered the highest expression of life. The knowledge of good and evil was also

there, but with it was also the love, wisdom and power of God – the vital ingredients to do something with the knowledge. This tree imparted the fullness of all that God is. It symbolised Life.

Expressed in Jesus

If God had expressed the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil to us, we would have all been judged guilty because of our sin. He would have been right. But, instead, because of His great love, He sent His Son to take the punishment we deserved so that we could go free even though we were in the wrong. His wisdom devised the plan and by His great power He saved us.

Now in us

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life...” Proverbs 11:30.

The work of Christ on the Cross and in His resurrection has dealt with the impartation of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil to us. God has made the Tree of Life available to us again in its reality in Jesus. This is what we now minister to others from. In Christ we have “eaten” of the Tree of Life. We have experienced...

- Forgiveness and relationship with God restored (Revelation 22:14; 2:7).
- Healing of relationships (Proverbs 15:4; Revelation 22:2).
- Fulfilment of the longings of our heart (Proverbs 13:12).

The Tree of Life always ministers “life” to others, even if they are in the wrong. Read John 8:3-11.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The New Covenant

“ For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance... Hebrews 9:15 ”

A covenant is a contract between two parties in which each promises to fulfil certain conditions in order to enjoy the benefits of the agreement. In Christ God has made a brand new covenant with us (Luke 22:20).

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” Ephesians 2:8.

- **God's part – grace**
God doing everything that needs to be done!
– undeserved as it is by us.
- **Our part – faith**
Believe and freely receive!

New way of the Spirit

“But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code” Romans 7:6.

The New Covenant is not only the way we enter God's Kingdom, it is a whole new way of living and serving Him. Our day by day relationship with Him is now all by grace and by faith (1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

The old way

3,500 years ago God made a covenant with Moses and the Children of Israel.

“Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: ‘The man who does these things will live by them’” Romans 10:5.

- **Their part – works**

They had to fulfil *all* His commandments.

- **God's part – give life**

This was conditional on their *doing*, and therefore *deserving*.

Under a curse

“All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law’ Galatians 3:10.

There was only one result that could come from this covenant – judgment. It was given for one purpose only – to prove that sinful man could not keep even the lowest expression of God's righteousness (Matthew 5:21-22; 27-28). It was given to reveal sin (Romans 3:20; 7:7-13). It was for a short period of time to show mankind their need of salvation, and to point to the One who would come to make us clean (Galatians 3:15-29). The Old Covenant ended at the Cross (Romans 7:1-6).

The foolish Galatians

“O you dear idiots of Galatia... Surely you can't be so idiotic as to think that a man begins his spiritual life in the Spirit and then completes it by reverting to outward observances?” Galatians 3:1-3 (Phillips).

The new way

“And 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” 2 Cor.9:8 (2 Cor.3:6-18; Ephesians 2:10).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Gospel of Victory

“ I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes... ”
Romans 1:16

The old English word “gospel,” translated from the Greek “euangelion,” literally means “good news”.

Good news of victory

When the army was victorious in the days of the Roman Empire there was only one means of communicating its victory to the people back in Rome...a runner would be sent. He would run all the way from the defeated city, burst through the gates of Rome and shout for all to hear “gospel!...gospel!” – “good news!!... good news!!” It was the declaration of the good news of total victory over the enemy!

Victory over the devil

“He who does what is sinful is of the devil...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” 1 John 3:8

The purpose the Son of God came into the world was to undo the victory that had been won by Satan, handed to him by man’s decision to sin in the Garden of Eden. Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil and make his victory over Satan available to all mankind.

Won by Jesus

“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” Colossians 2:15 (read Ephesians 1:17-23).

The Cross of Christ affected Satan and all the spiritual powers of darkness in three ways: By it, the Lord Jesus...

- ***Triumphed over them***

He answered every ground of the Enemy’s right over mankind.

- ***Disarmed them***

He stripped them of all their weapons used against us.

- ***Made a public spectacle of them***

He proclaimed His victory throughout the heavens...and commissioned us to proclaim it throughout the earth!

Enjoyed by us

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him” 2 Corinthians 2:14 (read Ephesians 2:6; 6:10-20) .

In Roman days, when the victorious army arrived back in Rome, the general would lead his soldiers, and the captives they had taken, in a “triumphal procession” through the streets, throwing out to the people all around gifts taken from the spoil of the victory (Ephesians 4:7-13). It was a very festive occasion as the people cheered and applauded and the air was filled with the sweet smell of spices burning in the streets.

We are rejoicing in the great victory won by the Cross! As we proclaim it wherever we go, and display the triumph of His finished work in people’s lives, His victory will spread around the world (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Gospel of Glory

“ ...The light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4 ”

The desire of Moses

“Then Moses said, ‘Now show me your glory’... ‘I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you...But,’ he [the Lord] said, ‘you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.....’” Exodus 33:18-20 (read through to verse 23).

Moses had seen the “arm” of God – His power and miracles displayed (Deuteronomy 26:8; Isaiah 59:1). He had seen His “feet” as God had led them out of Egypt (Psalm 77:19), but His great desire was to look right into the “face” of God. In other words, to see and know Him in the fullness of His glory. But this was not possible for it would have destroyed him. God hid him in the cleft of a rock, held His hand over the cleft to veil him until He had passed by and then took away His hand so that Moses could see His “back”. So glorious was this that Moses had to veil his face to protect the people from the reflection on it of the trailing off of the glory of God! (Exodus 34:29-35).

The torn veil

In all God’s dealings with Israel under the Old Covenant there had been a veil over His glory. Only the High Priest, once a year and after much cleansing ceremony, could pass through that third curtain in the temple into the presence of His glory. Then came the Cross!

“And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top

to bottom” Matthew 27:50-51.

At the exact moment of Jesus’ death the veil in the temple was torn in two – from top to bottom. In other words, by the hand of God.

Jesus became the veil

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body...let us draw near to God...” Hebrews 10:19-22.

Jesus hung upon the Cross, between Heaven and earth, as the veil – as everything that separated us from the presence of God in all His glory. He took it all in himself and when he died the veil was gone!

The way is open

“But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away...And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with every-increasing glory...” 2 Corinthians 3:16-18.

There are no more barriers between us (the believer in Christ) and God! We can come into His presence and behold Him with *unveiled* faces and what we behold (by the Spirit) changes us! We grow more like Him!

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ 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” 2 Corinthians 4:6.

Making the Truth Mine

Write out in full the scripture from this lesson which means the most to you. We encourage you to commit this verse to memory.

Write out one statement from the study which you feel is most significant for your life.

Write in your own words how you believe you should respond to the truth of this study. Are there any decisions you should make?

You can make a difference!

For this study to have its full effect in your life, we encourage you to:

- Read and digest the study – meditate on the Word of God.
- Put into action what you have learnt (James 1:22).
- Share the Word of God with others.

Your places of ministry have been pre-arranged by God: your home, the street you live on, your place of work and your church.

“I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free” Psalm 119:32.

Food for Thought

Sending God's Word to the Ends of the Earth

The Word of God made available in a
clear, simple layout for personal study
and for use in sharing with others.

The King's Table is designed to help...

- ***Every believer for personal study***
- ***Parents to teach their children***
- ***Leaders of home groups***
- ***Ministers of congregations***
- ***Christian schools and home schooling***
- ***Missionary projects to other nations***

Our Project 21 series for leaders has been widely received and multiplied throughout Asia and the Pacific. The reports from many places of growth and blessing encourage us greatly in the spreading of the life-giving Word of God. It is something that for us never loses its excitement.

The King's Table is an extension of the Project 21 teaching program, where people like yourself can receive a different series of 21 lessons each month. Our prayer is that this series might be a great blessing to you.

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