

LIFE IN CHRIST

What Every Christian Needs to Know

By Company Name

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Quotations

The only material quoted in this book is the Word of God in the King James Version. No commentaries or scholars are quoted, because God's Word is important, not man's word. As such, we encourage all readers to be good Bereans by searching the scriptures to see if what is said is true (Acts 17:11).

Goal

The goal of this book is to cast "down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and [bring] into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:5) so that members of the body of Christ may "come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:4).

NOTE: Everything in this book is the truth. Nothing has been embellished.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| PREFACE..... | 5 |
| CHAPTER 1: The Confessions of a Recovering Christian Law-aholic | 7 |
| Church Camp | 9 |
| My Background | 11 |
| My View of Sin | 15 |
| Traumatic Experiences | 17 |
| Being Sanctified Makes Things Worse..... | 19 |
| Learning the Truth | 21 |
| Right Division | 23 |
| Easy-Believism | 25 |
| CHAPTER 2: Man, God, and Churchianity | 27 |
| Adam’s Death and the Curse of Sin | 29 |
| God’s Provision – The Conscience | 29 |
| God Is not Concerned with the Details..... | 30 |
| God’s Answer for Your Sin – Christ..... | 31 |
| The Problem with Grace..... | 32 |
| The Flesh..... | 32 |
| Money..... | 33 |
| Guilt..... | 34 |
| How Churches Operate..... | 34 |
| Churchianity’s Relative Morality | 35 |
| The Conscience Is a Good Thing | 36 |
| The Problem with Churchianity | 36 |
| CHAPTER 3: Life in Christ..... | 39 |
| What God Gives You When You Are Saved..... | 41 |
| Before Christ | 42 |
| In Christ..... | 43 |
| Flesh’s Behavior | 43 |
| Christ’s Behavior in You | 43 |
| Churchianity’s False Teaching..... | 44 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Life in Christ..... | 44 |
| Death in Adam | 44 |
| Christ’s Virgin Birth | 45 |
| David and Saul..... | 47 |
| Dead to the Law..... | 47 |
| The Faith OF Christ..... | 47 |
| What Is Faith? | 48 |
| The Holy Ghost..... | 50 |
| Summary of What God Does for us..... | 50 |
| “Christ...IS Our Life” (Colossians 3:4) | 51 |
| CHAPTER 4: The Battle..... | 53 |
| Why The Vile Flesh? | 55 |
| Suffering..... | 55 |
| Free Will | 56 |
| Conclusion | 57 |
| God Never Intended for You to Obey the Law | 59 |
| The “Hot-Iron” Conscience | 60 |
| Rationalizing Bad Behavior..... | 61 |
| Why Churchianity Hates the Truth..... | 62 |
| My Grandma | 64 |
| CHAPTER 5: The In-Christ Life in its Fullest | 67 |
| The Godhead in Christ..... | 69 |
| The Godhead in Man | 70 |
| The Godhead in the Bible | 72 |
| The Godhead in the Bible in Your Inner Man..... | 73 |
| God Forever Dwelling in Man..... | 74 |
| CHAPTER 6: From Extreme Religion and Drugs to Christ Is My only Life ... | 75 |
| Appendix – What We Have in Christ..... | 79 |

PREFACE

Christianity is simply allowing Christ to live in you, which is what this book is all about. Jesus said, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). John 1:1-2 says that Jesus Christ is “the Word” that: 1) “Was with God,” 2) “Was God,” and 3) “In the beginning with God.” This means that, if we are to live by the words of God, we are to live by Jesus Christ Himself. This is why Galatians 2:20 tells us that “Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God.” The way that we do this is by believing God’s Word to us today and by using the mind of Christ to allow the Holy Ghost to teach it to us (I Corinthians 2:9-16).

The Word of God to us today is only found in Paul’s epistles, as it is the only part of scripture that was “Given to [Paul] for you, to fulfil the word of God” (Colossians 1:25). These are not Paul’s words, but they are the words revealed to Paul by Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:11-12). Once we trust in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection as atonement for our sins (I Corinthians 15:3-4), we are baptized into Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-6), such that our lives are “hid with Christ in God,” making Christ our life (Colossians 3:3-4). Thus, those practicing true **Christianity** are: “Gospel believers who read and believe God’s Word, focusing on the doctrine in Paul’s epistles (Romans – Philemon), so that Christ lives in them.”

Such a definition will not be found in any dictionary and is in very few “Christian” minds. Instead, what most of the “Christian” religion does is they give of their time and money to a church and seek to follow the laws of that church. Very few of these Churchgoers read the Bible on their own. If they do, they rarely believe anything that it says, as they filter their beliefs through the teachings of their particular denomination. (The fact, that I do not even attend a church, makes me an unbeliever in the minds of these people, even though I have trusted in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection as atonement for my sins, and have the Holy Ghost and the mind of Christ to teach me the things of God as I read the Bible.)

To avoid confusion in this book, we will refer to the Christian religion as **Churchianity**, which I have defined as: “Those who claim to be Christians but really believe only what their church or the ‘Christian culture’ teaches them. These churches base their teachings mostly upon the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20 and laws found in Matthew through John that are twisted to build up man’s pride by shunning God’s grace through Christ and lifting up man’s accomplishment of these laws through their own efforts, which they attribute to God, in order to make a fair shew in the flesh.” This is what the Bible calls “imagination, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God” (II Corinthians 10:5). By

using “Churchianity,” instead of “Christianity,” Christ’s name avoids blasphemy, as it is not tied to these idolatrous practices.

CHAPTER 1

The Confessions of a Recovering Christian Law-aholic

Church Camp

“That’s 18 and counting. My record is 22,” I said to the volunteer camp worker. “See if you can break the record,” he said, as a way of trying to cheer me up. I was ten years old and at church camp for the first time. It was a weeklong camp, and I was on day 3. I had been dropped off in the mountains for a week of “fun” with other church kids my own age. Only church events were considered safe activities for me, and so I should have no problem here. But, I WAS having a problem, a big problem. I just vomited 18 times since I had arrived and was in danger of breaking my own record!

I first arrived at camp on a late Sunday afternoon after church. My church only had about 30 people in it, which meant I was one of only three kids from my church there. When we were dropped off, I started playing catch with one of these kids and was having a good time. Then, we were all called to one place to have dinner. I do not know how many kids were there—maybe 200. While my church was small, there were many other churches of my denomination in the area. Plus, there may have been kids there from other churches; I don’t know. Regardless, the only kids I knew were the two from my church, since this was my first time ever attending church camp. I never wanted to go before because the kids at school always picked on me for being such a good boy, but my mom said this would be different. It would be fun because all of the kids were like me, i.e., good Christians. So, I agreed to go.

Shortly after dinner, I started getting sick. I told the adults in charge, and they asked if I had been to camp before. “No,” I said. “Have you spent the night away from your family before?” “I have, but only one time,” I said. “Oh, then you’re just homesick. You’ll start to feel better tomorrow,” they said. So, off I went to my assigned cabin for the night.

I believed them. I always believed everything adults told me. Why? Because my mom never lied to me, and I mean NEVER. No little white lies, no pretending there is a Santa Claus or a Tooth Fairy—no lies. She also never said anything sarcastically, and she never was joking. So, when I asked her a question, she always gave me an honest answer. I naturally assumed that all adults behaved in this manner. So, if someone told me something, I believed it, end of story. For example, as a young child, I asked my dad how to say the days of the week in Chinese, he said, “Sunda, Monda, Chick-a-loc-a-funda, Hoy Hoy Hunga, Hi!” He only said that to me once about 35 years ago, and I still remember exactly what he said. Why? Because I committed it to permanent memory through spending a great deal of time over the next few weeks analyzing what he said, trying to figure out what each day of the week was. I figured Sunda and Monda were Sunday and Monday and that Saturday was Hi, but I couldn’t figure out how to break up the rest of the syllables into Tuesday – Friday. Why did I do this? Because I thought he was telling me the truth. All you readers out there probably think I was stupid for thinking so, but, when most of my adult interactions were with my mom and she always told me the truth, I assumed everyone else did the same, no matter how bizarre that truth sounded.

This truth-telling assumption continued for me until I became an adult. For example, when I was in my late teens, the going rate for a gym membership was about \$15 per month. I once called Gold's Gym and asked them how much their membership was. The man said, "\$200 per month." I said, "okay, thanks." Just before I hung up the phone, he said, "Wait a minute. I was only kidding. How could you not know that?" "I don't know," I said. The truth was that I did not know he was kidding because my mom never kidded with me. She was always serious, always told me the truth, and so I believed everything that adults told me.

Therefore, when the adults at the camp said that I was homesick, I was 100% confident that that was why I was sick. I did not think they were guessing. I accepted what they said as fact. However, in hindsight, I now know that was not the case. The truth was that I was scared, and, as time went on, it only got worse.

There are a few reasons why I was scared. First, I had been separated from the other two kids from my church—they were assigned to different cabins. Plus, they did not want to hang around with me anyway, because I did not know how to have any fun. Therefore, everyone around me was a stranger. Second, contrary to what my mom said, the other kids were not like me at all. I hated going to school because of how mean the kids were to me there, and these kids were even worse than the kids at school. I attended a pentecostal holiness church, which taught me that, if I committed just ONE sin, I would lose my salvation and have to get saved again. My family went by the old rules of the church—the ones that were in place when my grandma joined the church in 1928. And, I probably followed those rules better than any other kid alive. When you are a 10 year-old kid at church camp, following the rules is not a good thing, and following 60 year-old rules is even worse!

When I went to the dinner, I found out the kids there were not interested in following any rules, regardless of when they were created. They were now outside of parental supervision, which meant they could go hog wild. They were normal kids who did whatever they could get away with. I was an abnormal kid, who lived entirely by my conscience as much as possible, and I had more rules stored in my conscience than anyone else there did, including the adults! I started hearing the kids talking about how fun it is to raid the other cabins and how they brought supplies for such an occasion. In other words, these kids went to this camp every year, and it was their best opportunity to break the rules. They were not going to let this opportunity go to waste! They talked about sneaking out in the middle of the night, going to the other cabins, and filling kids' sleeping bags with shaving cream, toothpaste, and other items they had brought for "raiding" purposes. I knew such things were sinful and would cause me to lose my salvation. Therefore, I would have no part in them. I was afraid of telling them this because I knew they would just pick on me like kids at school always did (I knew the routine by now.). Therefore, I kept quiet about it and prayed that I would not be expected to get involved. If I was asked, I would have to tell them that going raiding would be against the camp rules, which would be a sin that I could burn in hell for, which is why I could not go. "Why not make up some excuse so that they would not pick on

me?” you ask. Because that would be lying, which would also cause me to burn in hell. Therefore, not only was I afraid of going raiding, but I was also afraid of being asked to go raiding.

As much as I was bothered by the idea of raiding, something else bothered me even more. At dinner, some of the kids told me that there would be a dance at the end of camp. The 1928 rules of the church prohibited dancing, which meant that, in my mind, I would lose my salvation if I even attended this dance, and there certainly was no way I would actually dance there. (A couple of years later, I would be the only child at my Baptist-run school who would not sign a request by the students to hold a dance there, which brought persecution from my peers. It is a difficult life being a “goody two shoes.”) This scared me even more because there was no way I could get around it. In the case of the raiding, I could stay behind and tell the camp counselor. He would then try to put a stop to it. Granted, I would be ridiculed and picked on for the rest of camp, but at least my salvation would be intact. However, the dance was something I could not get out of. Since the Bible says I am to submit to those who have the rule over me (Hebrews 13:17), I would lose my salvation if I did not go to the dance. I would also lose my salvation if I did go to the dance. Therefore, I had to find a way out of that dance.

My mom, in her naivety, thought I would have fun, when I had actually been placed into the den of hell in my mind with no escape. So, basically, at the dinner, I learned that this “fun” week at camp was really the church leading all of its kids into the pit of hell. I felt trapped, like there was no way out for me.

Therefore, I wasn’t really homesick, but I was sick over thinking that it would be impossible to keep my salvation during this church camp. Since the counselors thought I would be better in the morning, I went to my assigned cabin. Things only got worse there. At dinner, we were in mixed company. Now that I was in the cabin, I was surrounded by other 10 year-old boys with one adult supervisor, who, since he was a volunteer, was not exactly gung-ho about keeping order. The kids were making fun of my Winnie-the-Pooh sleeping bag; I was scared into thinking that we could be raided or we would go raiding at any moment; and I was humiliated by having to take a shower in the shower area for the cabin at the same time as the other boys. I never took showers at home. I only took baths. So, I did not know how they were operated, and the other boys were more interested in laughing at me than helping out. I also had never stood naked among other boys before in my entire life. The whole experience was very frightening to me. So frightening, in fact, that I do not remember much about that night. I just remember not sleeping at all, because I was terrified that another boy would sneak up and fill my sleeping bag with shaving cream. I also was terrified of the other boys trying to get me to sneak out with them to go raiding. If I went and did not do anything, I would still lose my salvation, because I disobeyed someone in authority over me. If I did not go, I would be ridiculed, made fun of, and picked on even more so for the rest of the week. I was sure to have my sleeping bag filled with shaving cream and toothpaste then, and I would have to try to explain to my mom what happened, which I dreaded having to do, because I was afraid that she would blame me for it.

I don't remember if I survived the night in that cabin or not. However, I do know that, by the next day, I had convinced the camp counselor that I was too sick to stay in camp with the rest of the kids. (By the way, the church also had camp at a separate time for the men. This was not any better, because the pastors there spent most of the time making the men feel guilty about how they treated their wives, which resulted in the women getting expensive gifts afterward that the men could not afford to buy and they stressed out over how they would pay for them. I imagine many people in the church went bankrupt because they lived by "faith.") Now, I spent all of my time in the main building with an adult or two. Mostly, I was lying down in bed all day because I was vomiting so much. But, at least I did not have to worry about raiding. However, the adults really wanted me to get better so that I could have "fun" at camp with the other kids and I would be out of their hair.

So, while lying in bed, I was afraid that, eventually, I would get better and have to spend my nights in that cabin with the other kids, which was, in my mind, the scariest place I had ever been to in my life. Also, remember that I was 10 years old and knew no one in the cabin. Then, there was the matter of that dance that I would be forced to attend at the end of the week. I kept thinking about these things (I can have laser-sharp focus on one or two things at a time, as seen by my memorization of my dad's Chinese days of the week.). The result was that I just got more and more nervous and more and more sick. I kept vomiting, over and over again. I wanted to go home, not because I was homesick, but because I was in the pit of hell in that camp. The counselors did not have a clue about this and thought I would get over my "homesickness" soon and have fun the rest of the week. If they only knew that the most fun I could possibly have at the camp was to vomit constantly in the safe environment of the adults. The camp full of kids felt like some cruel and unusual punishment to me. I never wanted to return to that!

So, I kept begging to go home. The problem was that my mom was working, and my grandpa did not feel comfortable driving up the curvy mountain road to pick me up. So, I stayed there. Eventually, on day 3 of the camp, my pastor and his wife drove up the mountain and took me home. I had never been so relieved in all of my life! I don't remember if I set a new vomiting record during those three days or not, but I do know that I did get up to 20. No matter, because I set a new record of 24 vomits in a sickness a couple of years later. Yes, it was a proud moment!

So, why was I not able to live in my world without getting sick all of the time? The answer to that is my beliefs.

My Background

My parents separated when I was 2 years old. My mom took me to live with her parents, and we started attending the church of her youth, which was a pentecostal holiness church. Pentecostal means that they spoke in tongues, moved in the Holy Ghost, and anointed people with oil and prayed over them, believing in divine healing of physical ailments. Holiness means that they taught that you

must live a perfect, holy life in order to enter heaven. (I was constantly reminded that “sin can never enter there.”)

We attended every time the doors were open, which was Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, an occasional home service, two weeks of revivals each year with service every night, and all-day services for two days at the annual state convention. I cannot remember a time when I was not attending services at that church during my childhood.

One teaching of the church consumed my thought life and was a big part of my conscience. That teaching was that, while you are saved by Jesus’ death on the cross, you keep your salvation by living a holy life, which means that you must live perfectly. If you commit just one, little sin, you lose your salvation, and you must ask God to forgive you in order to re-gain your salvation.

Living a sinless life may seem like an impossible task, but the church assured me that it was not. There were several people in the church who would claim that they had not sinned in many years. Never mind that scripture says, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (I John 1:8). The reason they could go for years without sinning is because the church said that there are three “definitive works of grace” in the believer’s life: 1) Salvation, 2) Sanctification, and 3) Filled with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

Salvation is believing in Jesus’ death as atonement for your sin. As the church defined it, sanctification is the eradication of the Adamic sin nature. In the church’s view, if you are sanctified, you will never sin again, because you cannot sin, since the sin nature is gone. (This was a literal application of I John 3:9 “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he **cannot** sin, because he is born of God.”) Being filled with the Holy Ghost is the “power for service.” You will never serve God in your full capacity without being filled with the Holy Ghost. The church would say that, when you are saved, you receive God’s Spirit, but you do not receive the Holy Ghost until you speak in tongues. Speaking in tongues is the evidence that the Holy Ghost is now in you.

Although it was a small church, numbers were a very big deal to my church. Each business meeting would have the whole church in attendance where all the numbers were told. The most important numbers of all were given at the annual state convention, where each pastor and evangelist would report to the thousand or so people in attendance how many people had been saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost during the services they conducted in the last year. Usually, all three numbers would be the same. For example, Brother Davis (All believers were called “brother” or “sister.”) might report that there were 5 people saved, 5 people sanctified, and 5 people filled with the Holy Ghost in his services. This meant that 5 people received all three, definitive works of grace during the year.

Now, because the church was pentecostal, speaking in tongues and moving in the Holy Ghost were the primary reason that a lot of people attended services. For an

evening service, the pastor would finish preaching and then invite everyone to come to the altar and pray. All of the regulars, including myself, went to the front, knelt at the altar, and prayed. Usually, there would be a handful of people who would speak in tongues, and two or three would speak in tongues for a long time. (It was usually the same people each time.) Prayer time would usually begin about 90 minutes into the service, and tongue talking would go on for at least 30 more minutes, but usually more like 60 to 90 minutes. Therefore, if a service started at 7 PM, it was over no earlier than 9 PM, but it could go on until 10 or 11 PM, depending on how “the Spirit moved.” Now, I should say that it was extremely rare that an interpretation of the tongue talking was given. Typically, you would hear someone speaking in tongues aloud with a few people around her praying, and the people around her would also speak in tongues on occasion. Thus, they tongue talked over each other.

While my grandmother, grandfather, mom, uncle, and myself attended services, my grandmother was the only one who was into the tongue talking. My grandfather, mom, and uncle all claimed to be saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost, but I never actually heard any of them speak in tongues. Personally, I think they just said that so that no one would bother them. After all, if you have all three, you will never sin again and you have the power for service with the Holy Ghost. So, there is nothing left for you to pray to get, which means no one will try to get you to pray for those things, since they cannot add you to their numbers for the business meeting.

Because my mom was not into tongue talking, she never tried to push me into it. She believed that, if God wanted to give me the Holy Ghost, He would. If not, He would not. Still, my whole upbringing had taught me that speaking in tongues was the most important thing you could ever do in this life. Therefore, it was something I desired. At the same time, it really scared me that I would lose control of my tongue, and God would magically speak through me. So, I never pursued it. I figured that, if I was holy enough, the Lord would cause it to happen. That was another thing about the church. They put a lot of guilt on you. If you did not speak in tongues, then you must have an unconfessed sin on your life that is keeping you from being a holy vessel for the Holy Ghost. Still, I had never heard my mom speak in tongues and she was perfect as far as I could tell, so, it was not a big deal, except to add a little guilt to my conscience (as if I did not have enough guilt already!), wondering why I never spoke in tongues.

When it was time to pray after the sermon was over, I did the same thing every time. I would go to the altar (Everyone went to the altar if they were physically able to do so.) and pray for a few minutes, and then go back to my seat. I prayed for about two to three minutes at every altar call. I was always the first one back in my seat. I wanted to pray longer so that I would not be the first one done, but I really did not know of anything else to tell God, so, I would quit and go back to my seat. My mom would do the same thing, except she prayed a little longer than I did. Then, we both sat there and waited for the service to end. If someone started feeling the Spirit as she prayed, we would know it because a few people would gather around her, and start praying along with her. (Everyone prayed aloud in

this church at all times, except for my mom and me. So, if several people were praying, you could not understand what they were saying because they were all talking over each other.)

If a few people started praying over someone, this would be our cue to start praying silently in our pew while that person was praying. If we were down to one tongue talker praying, I would secretly pray that the person would stop the tongue talking soon, because, the longer the person prayed, the greater the chance that someone else praying would also start talking in tongues. Then, I would have to wait for that person to finish before the service was over. Alas, God often did not answer my prayer. So, my mom and I sat in our seats, silently praying for the tongue talkers for about 60 to 90 minutes twice per week. (Tongue talking usually did not delay the end of the Sunday morning service, except on rare occasions. I guess the Spirit doesn't move well when people have lunch plans.)

My View of Sin

Before I get into my view of sin, keep in mind that I believed everything I was told, because my family was always truthful with me. For example, one time my Baptist-run school took the class on a field trip. Because I was so worried over sinning and/or being picked on by the other kids, I got sick and vomited at least once per week during those years. Since I was going to be on a field trip, which meant I could not lie down at school should I get sick, my mom gave me Pepto-Bismol tablets to take with me. On the car ride back to school, one of the kids told me to give him a tablet so that he could fart and really stink up the car. I told him that the tablets were only for sick people. He then said, "I feel sick," so, I gave him a tablet and he farted up the car. It never even occurred to me that he could be lying about being sick.

Since I believed a snot-nosed kid was telling the truth, I certainly believed everything that the church told me, since they spoke for God. Now, I do not remember the exact time when I asked for forgiveness of sins for the first time. I was probably about 5 years old. My family said that was the greatest decision I would ever make, because I would now go to heaven. However, that is when I started feeling bad, because, from then on, I had to live perfectly, or else I would lose my salvation. Compounding the problem was that my view of sin was the Bible's presentation of it, rather than most people's view of sin.

Most people think of sin as breaking one of the 10 commandments, or doing one of the "deadly" sins, whatever those are. However, the Bible says that sin is in the heart, and not in your actions. Jesus said, "'Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart' (Matthew 5:27-28). Jesus also said, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark

7:21-23). From these two passages, I knew that sin is not me telling a lie, but I had already sinned in my heart when I had the mere thought of telling a lie.

While the people in the church, for the most part, were concerned with not letting people see them sin so that they could appear to be perfect to the rest of the church, I was concerned with not actually sinning so that I would actually be perfect so that I could actually go to heaven. In other words, I was concerned with what God thought of me, since He is the only One Who will decide if I go to heaven or hell. Since God says that the sin comes from within, I knew that, if I even thought about telling a lie, I needed to quickly ask God for forgiveness, or else I would go to hell if I died before doing so. You may think there is no harm in telling a “little, white lie.” However, I knew my Bible very well because I read it often, especially the legalistic parts that had been hammered into my brain. I knew that, “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23), and that “whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10). Therefore, as far as God is concerned, if I even thought about telling a lie, it was just as bad as being a serial killer. Therefore, I was constantly asking God for forgiveness, so that I could maintain my salvation.

But, my sin/guilt problem goes even deeper than what you probably think. Not only did I know that I sinned when I thought about doing something wrong, but I also had a much longer list of wrongs built in my conscience than most people have. That is because the church added their own sins to what the Bible defined as sin. The church had teachings that they adhered to that were more important to the church than the Bible itself. In my mind, if I disobeyed any of these teachings, I had sinned. These teachings said, among other things, that it was a sin to: 1) Wear any kind of jewelry or makeup, 2) Not tithe, 3) Drink any alcohol, 4) Smoke a cigarette, 5) Join a lodge, or 6) Curse. In addition to these teachings, the church also had a separate list of advice that was even stricter. Things included in this separate list as sin were: 1) Going to a movie theater, 2) Participating in co-ed swimming, and 3) Going to a bowling alley.

Therefore, I was trying to obey the Bible’s teachings and also the church’s teachings and advice. The list of possible sins seemed endless! For example, one time, I received a green, plastic ring as a prize in a Cracker-Jack box. Romans 3:20 says that “by the law is the knowledge of sin.” Romans 7:13 says that our sin nature works with our conscience to cause us to disobey our conscience. Since my conscience told me it was a sin to wear that plastic ring, my sin nature tried to get me to wear that plastic ring. So, I got away by myself and tried the ring on. Then, I was overwhelmed with guilt. So, I took it off, threw it away, and begged God to forgive me. Without the church’s teaching against wearing jewelry, this never would have happened. Therefore, not only was I always feeling guilty for not being perfect, but I also had more rules to be not perfect in than most everyone else did. (How many kids, other than myself, were genuinely afraid that they would go to hell for wearing a plastic ring for a few seconds?!)

Therefore, I was under a great deal of stress just attending a Baptist-run school. I hated field trips, because I would always get sick due to some temptation that I

would be forced into. For example, on the aforementioned field trip, I got sick because the place we went to had a little recording studio where several kids could sing a popular song and then hear it played afterward for everyone else to listen to. Because I was a good singer of the hymns in school, a few kids convinced me to go into the studio with them, which I thought would be fun, too. I assumed we would be singing a good song like “The Old Rugged Cross,” “Amazing Grace,” or “Joy Unspeakable.” Then, I found out the song was the most popular song of the day—“Beat It”—by Michael Jackson. My church viewed all secular music as being of the devil, and so I had never heard the song, or any other secular song, for that matter, save a few Christmas songs, like “Jingle Bells.” I stayed in the back, playing a drum, while the other kids sang. While they were having fun, I was stressed out that I had lost my salvation by participating in such a vile activity, which made me sick the rest of the day. Therefore, while most kids looked forward to field trips, I dreaded them because there would probably be more opportunities to sin there and to be picked on by the other kids.

Not only was I worried about my sin, but I was also worried about other people sinning. When my dad re-married, he wore a wedding ring. I tried several times to take the ring off of his finger, because I was afraid he would go to hell for wearing it. He also drank the occasional beer, and I honestly thought he would go to hell and would probably die within a few years from alcohol poisoning, even though I never saw him drunk. Suffice it to say, my relationship with my dad was not that good.

My third-grade teacher, at the Baptist-run school that I went to, wore fingernail polish sometimes. It would be hard for me to concentrate on what she was trying to teach me, because I would get nervous looking at her, thinking that she could die at school and go to hell for wearing makeup. I went to a vacation Bible school at a Baptist church for one week when I was about 8 years old. The pastor spoke to us for a little while every day. That was over 30 years ago, so, I have no idea what he said, but I still vividly remember staring at the multi-colored ring he wore and wondering how in the world he could be the pastor of the church, since he was obviously backslidden and bound for hell, due to that ring he wore. Even to this day, I cringe whenever I hear a four-letter word uttered, and not just the “major” curse words, but the “minor” ones, as well. Therefore, the battle between the sin nature and the conscience within my mind has always been greater than anyone could imagine, unless you grew up in a similar circumstance, which very few have, I suppose.

Traumatic Experiences

You probably already feel sorry for me for the internal suffering I went through over such “trivial” things. But, I have only begun to tell you my story. The following experience was the worst of all. It caused me many sleepless nights and many sick days over the next 10 years or so.

When I was around 8 years old, I played little-league baseball during the summer. I would walk to the local school whenever we had a practice or a game. If we had a

game that was not at the local school, a bunch of us would pile into the back of the coach's car and ride to the other park, which was never a long distance away. (This was before the seat-belt law, so, we would literally be jammed into the back of her car.) Now, when I say "coach," think "babysitter," because that is what she was. She was probably about 17 years old, working part-time for the city's parks and recreation department.

One day, I got into her back seat like normal, and I was surprised that it wasn't crowded like normal. The reason was because she told everyone (except me and another boy) that they would have to ride with one of the parents that day. (I did not associate with the other boys that much, because I was afraid they would try to get me to sin. So, I rarely had friends in school or talked to anyone unless I had to. Therefore, I did not know that I could not ride with her that day.) Because she failed to tell me and the other boy about getting another ride, we were the only two allowed to ride with her. The reason she did not want boys riding with her that day was because she had three of her male friends, probably around 18 or 19 years old, riding with her. That car ride to the other park would prove to be the most traumatic 15 minutes of my life. Those men were cussin' up a storm. "F this" and "F that" was all I heard from them. I do not recall ever hearing anyone use the "F" word before that time, since we never went to the movies and we only had network television at home. The only time I had even heard the word was when it was etched into a student desk seat, I said it aloud at age 4, not knowing what it meant, and my mom scolded me, telling me never to say that word again. Therefore, the only time I had heard the word was when it came out of my own mouth! Now, I was hearing constant cursing for about 15 minutes.

This was such a traumatic experience for me that I just could not get it out of my head. For years, I could hear their voices, spewing forth all of those curse words. Remember that the Bible says that the sin nature works with the law to cause you to sin. Therefore, when I went to bed at night, I heard those curse words in my head. Since I knew that sin comes from my thoughts, hearing those words internally was just as much of a sin to me as if I was shouting them out at the top of my lungs. Therefore, I would quickly ask God to forgive me of my sin, and I would tell myself not to think of those curse words. However, the more I told myself not to think of those words, the more I thought of them, causing me to sin and ask God to forgive me of my sin again. This would happen several times each night for several years before I went to sleep. Therefore, I had asked God to forgive me and re-save me thousands of times before I was an adult.

But, it gets worse from here. Not too long after this, the church had someone make a presentation on demon possession and Satanic influence on music. This presentation included graphic pictures and the playing of music backwards (backmasking) to reveal hidden Satanic messages, such as, "Satan, he is God." The speaker warned us that we have to be very careful, because we could easily be possessed by demons by listening to this music. (If that were the case, why did he play it for us in church?!) Before, I had trouble going to sleep because I had to get re-saved several times every night and keep thinking of what I am not supposed to think about so that I do not sin and have to get re-saved again. Now, I have

something else to worry about, which is being possessed by a demon. So, now, I was asking God to forgive me of my sin and re-save me, and, if I were to sin again, for Him to keep a demon from possessing me. Because the church taught that Satan, demonic activity, and sin are attached to the dark, I began sleeping, or should I say “not sleeping,” at night with either my bedroom television on, the light in the hallway on, or both (my bedroom door was open so that I could see the light). I still vividly remember staring at that hallway light with the orange, plastic cover on it, thinking that, by doing so, I could somehow spot a demon if he were to come in so that I could quickly ask God for forgiveness so that the demon would not possess my body. After all, a boy bound for hell is certainly susceptible to demonic possession. Therefore, being in darkness now scared me because I thought a demon would possess me.

Being Sanctified Makes Things Worse

And, it gets worse from here. Remember back to the three, definitive works of grace that the church taught could take place in a person’s life. Remember also how pastors like to have numbers to report at the state convention. Well, Bro. Davis preached a revival at our church. At the end of the service, I went through my usual routine of going to the altar, praying for two or three minutes, and then sitting back down. Since I was the first one to get through, Bro. Davis came over to me. He asked me if I was saved, and I said that I was. He asked if I was sanctified, and I said that I was not. Then, he explained what sanctification is and asked if I would like to go back to the altar to ask God to sanctify me. While I was scared of tongue talking, I was not scared of sanctification. After all, I was struggling so much with sin, it would be great to have the Adamic nature eradicated so that I would not have those bad thoughts any more.

So, I went to the altar. Bro. Davis went with me and started praying over me. He did not tell me what to pray or how I would know I was sanctified. All I knew was that I was supposed to be praying for God to sanctify me. I did not know what to say. I was too shy to pray aloud, so I kept praying over and over within my heart, “Lord, sanctify me. Lord, sanctify me. Lord, sanctify me.” I kept saying those words over and over to myself, hundreds of times. After a while, other people were at the altar with their hands laid on me, praying aloud. My mom was even up there praying. I could actually hear her, which shocked me, because I had never heard my mom pray aloud before. She was a Bible believer like me. Therefore, she tried to follow Matthew 6:6 which says, “Pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” But, I guess she was just too excited to follow that verse that day.

Meanwhile, I did not know what to pray or how I would know that God had sanctified me. I had never asked anyone about it, and no one had ever told me. However, everyone, who was sanctified, was absolutely sure about it, so I figured that somehow God would make it clear to me that He had sanctified me. So, I kept praying, “Lord, sanctify me. Lord, sanctify me.” I had no idea how long I had been praying (It turns out that I had been repeating that phrase in prayer over and over for about an hour.), but I did know that I was the only one kneeling at the altar

and that the whole church was praying for me. I had become the person who was making everyone stay late, which is what I did not like other people doing to me! I kept waiting for something to happen, but nothing ever did.

I began thinking that I was now in a bind. I did not feel any different, but I did not think praying any longer would help matters. I also did not want to disappoint all the people around me, especially my mom, who I had just heard pray aloud for the first time. I knew I was supposed to tell the truth, but I could not just get up after an hour and tell everyone that nothing happened. So, I calmly got up and, through tear-filled eyes, pronounced that God had sanctified me. Now, Bro. Davis could add me to his state-convention report, and everyone in the church, except for me, was happy about it.

At the next service, I heard my Sunday-school teacher tell my mom that I had always been a good boy, but now I would be even better. That statement absolutely crushed me. I had been the best boy I could possibly be before, and yet I was having to get re-saved multiple times every single night, and I could not sleep because I was afraid a demon would possess me. The latter was a much worse fear to me than the former, because, since I was young, I thought dying in my sleep was highly unlikely, but I could always unconsciously go to sleep with an unconfessed sin on my life and wake up the next day as a demon-possessed boy. (The church also talked about sins of omission, where you can sin by failing to do something you were supposed to do. I was not sure what those were, but I was pretty sure that I was probably committing those, too, which means that I could go to hell and not even know why!) At the same time, I now had to be an even better behaved boy than I already was so that no one would really know that I was really was not sanctified. Therefore, I had to keep from committing any sin, because, if I did sin, everyone would know that I was not sanctified, since sanctified people cannot sin, since they no longer have the Adamic nature. Therefore, I now had an incredible amount of pressure on me at night to stay saved and keep a demon from possessing me while I slept, and during the day to keep people thinking that I was really sanctified, when I knew that I was not, because I did not feel sanctified because I still had bad thoughts. Therefore, those “F” words haunted my thought process both day and night now, because I thought even more of how I needed to keep from thinking about them.

Remember that I went to a Baptist-run school. Because I was trying so hard to maintain my salvation, I was considered the teacher’s pet. I also had a very high IQ, which meant that I always did what the teacher wanted me to do, and I always got straight “A”s, even though I was usually absent from school at least once per week due to illness. The result was that I was constantly picked on by all of the boys, who would hit me and talk mean to me. Even some of the girls did the same thing! To give you an example, in the last quarter of 5th grade, the teacher brought out advanced reading books with the idea that they would help us improve our reading. Everyone, including myself, hated those books. The teacher kept the books locked in his filing cabinet in the classroom and would bring them out in the afternoon each day for us to read. One day, the teacher had to step out of the classroom and left us alone for 10-15 minutes. When he did, one of the boys said

he could pick the lock of the filing cabinet with a paperclip. He was successful. The boys quickly took the reading books out of the filing cabinet and hid them. Later in the day, when the teacher discovered that the reading books were not in there anymore, he looked right at me and asked where the other kids had hidden the reading books.” Since I did not want to go to hell, I told him where the books were, and what the other kids had done. So, they got in trouble, while I did not.

Of course, this meant that the kids would pick on me even more. On many mornings, I could not open my locker to get my books out until all the boys had went back inside, because they would mess up my combination so that I would have to start all over again. Now, the teacher did intervene on my behalf occasionally, but he really wanted me to learn how to fight my own battles. However, I would not fight back, because Jesus said, “Resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also” (Matthew 5:39). Therefore, if I fought back, I would be sinning and would go to hell if I died right then. So, I would not fight back.

Suffice it to say that I hated being at school, because the kids made fun of me and picked on me the whole time for being teacher’s pet. Meanwhile, I did not have any rest at night, because I was afraid of losing my salvation and going to hell by thinking of a four-letter word and dying in my sleep. Even if I did not die, I was afraid that a devil would possess me while I was asleep, because I had an unconfessed sin on my life. On top of this, I was fake sanctified, which meant that I still had the Adamic nature and still sinned, but I had to put on an act to everyone that I would never sin again, because the church folks thought I would be perfect, because I told them I was sanctified.

Therefore, I was always worried about sinning and about the boys at school mistreating me. The result was that I got sick at least once per week with vomiting several times. I was so skinny and so sick that my mom spent a great deal of money, taking me to all kinds of doctors over a period of several years. I had every exam possible done on me, and they found nothing wrong. I just kept getting sick because I had worried myself to sickness over my sin.

The funny thing is that, to the world, I was a saint. The Baptist-run school gave out citizenship awards each year to the most well-behaved students. I always won one of those awards. However, in the fifth grade, I did not get one. Instead, they decided that, because I always did my homework, got good grades, obeyed the teacher, and did not misbehave among the other kids, I deserved a special award. They created the Christian Maturity Award just for me. I was the only student ever to receive it. And, yet, I could not sleep much at night, I was always scared of sinning and having a devil possess me and then going to hell when I die, and I was very sick and skinny for many years. I had about 4 percent body fat and had dangerously low potassium levels due to the vomiting.

To top it all off, I was also scared that I had committed the blasphemy of the Holy Ghost for which there is no forgiveness (Matthew 12:31-32). The church taught that this is the unpardonable sin. They interpreted the blasphemy of the Holy

Ghost as mocking someone who is speaking in tongues or moving in the Spirit. In other words, it is mocking what the Holy Ghost was doing in a person in a church service. Because of this, I never would make fun of or mock those things. However, I hated it when someone spoke in tongues during prayer time after the sermon because it meant that I would be sitting quietly in the pew for another 30-60 minutes, and I wanted to go home. Since sin comes from the heart, perhaps, during just one of those times, I had mocked the Holy Ghost in my mind for a few seconds. Perhaps that is why I did not get sanctified, because I had lost my salvation and could never regain it because I had committed the unpardonable sin! So, no matter how hard I tried, I would still end up in hell! All I had then was “a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries” (Hebrews 10:27).

I should note that things got better for me once I started the eighth grade. While I was still very skinny (In my second year of college, I had a body-fat analysis done, and I only had 4% body fat. Such a low percentage is usually only found among bodybuilders who intentionally do things to get that skinny in order to show off their muscles. While I did lift weights, I also drank weight-gaining shakes, ate pure pasta, and ate cans of tuna fish, and I still couldn't gain weight. I was 5' 7" and 119 pounds.), I stopped getting sick and throwing up every week. That is because I was home schooled from 8th – 12th grades. During that time, I stayed by myself, having no interactions with other kids, except at church. I also could not wait to graduate from high school so that I could live in a world of adults, thinking that would be a lot better. HA! Therefore, I did all of my work as fast as I could and ended up passing the high school proficiency exam, which is the equivalent of getting a high-school diploma, when I was 15 years old. I started college when I was 16. Because I was so mistreated by kids, I have always hated being around kids, even when I was one, and have never wanted to have kids of my own, even to this day.

Learning the Truth

When I was about 17 or 18 years old, my uncle took his Sunday-school teacher's challenge to read the Bible through in a year. When he got to Romans, he had a Martin-Luther like transformation. Romans 3:28 says, “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” This verse makes it clear that our works are not necessary to maintain our salvation. Romans 5:9 says, “Much more then, being NOW justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” Romans 5:11 says, “We also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom we have NOW received the atonement.” If we have justification and atonement now, it stands to reason that we cannot lose our salvation. Therefore, Romans teaches salvation by faith alone, and it teaches that you cannot do anything to keep it or lose it.

My uncle knew that I studied my Bible a lot, and so he asked me if I agreed with those conclusions. I told him that those verses appear to be saying that. He said he would find a church that taught these things. He started attending a non-denominational church. One of the men from that church came over to his house

and taught these truths to three generations—my grandmother, my uncle, and myself. My grandmother did not have a Biblical argument to use against him, but she refused to believe what he was teaching. I knew that salvation by faith alone and eternal security were very much opposed to what I had been taught. However, there was no denying that the Bible said these things.

Because my church taught that salvation was kept by continuing not to sin, I did not remember ever hearing these eternal-security verses that the man brought up to us. However, I knew plenty of verses that taught that you could lose your salvation. Hebrews 6:4-6 says, “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.” Revelation 2:5 says, “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” In fact, in the Baptist-run school that I attended through seventh grade, I once debated against a fellow classmate, taking the stance that you can lose your salvation. I brought up Revelation 2:5 as proof that you could lose your salvation. The teacher said, “Well, the verse does not say you lose your salvation. It says your candlestick is removed out of its place. That could mean anything.” That answer taught me nothing, except it made me more confident that I was right. Therefore, when the Bible teacher from my uncle’s new church brought up his salvation by faith alone and eternal security verses, I was not going to believe them, unless he had an answer for my verses which say that you can lose your salvation. Surprisingly, he did have an answer!

Right Division

He explained that, in order to understand the Bible, we must rightly divide the word of truth, as we are commanded to do in II Timothy 2:15. In other words, although the whole Bible is FOR our learning (II Timothy 3:16-17), only a small portion of it is actually written TO us for us to follow today. This is contrary to what every Christian church denomination teaches, but it makes perfect sense in light of scripture.

First, we know that God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Therefore, all of God’s Word is true (John 17:17). Second, we know that God has promised to preserve His Word forever without error (Psalm 12:6-7; Matthew 24:35) even down to the very letters (Matthew 5:18). Therefore, the Bible, that I hold in my hands, is God’s inspired, perfectly preserved Word, and it is true. This means that we cannot change a single verse, a single sentence, a single word, or a single letter of God’s Word. It is 100% accurate without error as it stands.

With this in mind, let’s look at what the Bible says about the most important question that it answers: “How do I receive eternal life?”

- Genesis 6:13-14 says that salvation comes by building an ark.
- Genesis 15:5-6 says that eternal life comes by believing that God will make your seed as the stars in heaven.
- Acts 2:38 says that remission of sins comes by repenting and being water baptized.
- I Corinthians 15:1-4 says that the gospel is to trust in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection as atonement for sin.

Since we know that there are no errors in those verses, we know that all of them are true as they stand. Since they all give different methods for salvation, we must conclude that God spoke those salvation messages to different audiences, such that each message is true ONLY to its intended audience. Thus, we must rightly divide among the salvation messages to determine which message was spoken to whom. Building an ark was a salvation message to Noah only. Believing his seed would be as the stars in heaven was a salvation message to Abraham only. Repenting and being water baptized was a salvation message to Israel only. Trusting in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection as atonement for sin is the salvation message for us today. Thus, we should believe all salvation messages are true, but we should not believe they are all applicable to us today.

If you do not rightly divide, you will never see this. The man from my uncle's new church taught me how to rightly divide. He showed me that the only part of the Bible written directly to us today is Paul's epistles—Romans through Philemon. This is because Paul was the apostle of the Gentiles (Romans 11:13) to whom the mystery was revealed (Ephesians 3:3-5). This mystery was kept secret from the beginning of the world (Romans 16:25-26) until revealed to Paul by the Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:10-11). Since God is saving the Gentiles right now (Romans 11:25), this is the message that is applicable to us.

Therefore, those passages in Romans, that talk about eternal security (Romans 5:9,11), are true to us today. In fact, God would have to damn the Lord Jesus Christ to eternal hell in order to send me there (II Timothy 2:13), and God's justice precludes Him from doing that (Psalm 9:7-8). Meanwhile, passages, like Matthew 10:22,33, Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-29, 12:25-29, II Peter 2:20-21, and Revelation 2:5, are all applicable to Israel before the mystery was revealed to Paul and after the rapture of the body of Christ. I finally had an explanation of how passages about losing your salvation and about eternal security can both be true. In other words, my salvation today is eternally secure, while Israel, in their program, can lose their salvation. (That is not to say that Jews today can lose their salvation, since God treats both Jews and Gentiles the same today. See Romans 2:6-12 and Ephesians 2:14.)

However, at the same time, this "right-division" explanation just did not seem right. After all, if it is true, then why doesn't any Christian church denomination believe it? The answer is that "it is the glory of God to conceal a thing" (Proverbs 25:2), because He is only a rewarder of those who DILIGENTLY seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). In other words, only true Bible believers will ever discover and believe right

division. Those, who casually attend church and believe what Churchianity tells them, will not discover the truth.

On the other hand, I had been attending an established church denomination, which had made me a complete mess mentally. So, believing something that a lot of people believe is not necessarily a good thing. At the same time, I did not want to go from one cult to another cult. Therefore, I decided that I would believe right division, as long as the Bible supports it. That was about 25 years ago, and I still have not found one error in right division. Rather, it is the only explanation that lets God be true and every man a liar (Romans 3:4).

Easy-Believism

Words cannot even begin to explain what a relief it was that I no longer had to worry about what I did in order to maintain my salvation! Although it took some time to get out of the mindset of saying, “Lord, please forgive me for that bad thought I just had and save me again,” I had stopped getting sick and I could now sleep through the night.

As far as Churchianity is concerned, I had gone from one extreme to the other. I soon found out that, the belief of eternal security is seen by most church denominations as being “easy-believism.” In other words, they see it as an excuse to sin, rather than as being the truth of God’s Word for today. It turns out that no Christian church denomination believes in eternal security. Granted, the Baptists SAY that they believe in eternal security, but they really do not believe it. For example, if I became a member of their church, was there every Sunday, had a “godly” lifestyle, and then murdered someone, they would say that I was never saved in the first place, because I never had “saving” faith or “true” faith. Therefore, although Baptists claim to believe in eternal security, they really do not, because they would condemn to hell anyone who does not meet their standard of living.

However, eternal security means that there is nothing I can do to lose my salvation. Therefore, even a mass murderer and child molester, if he has trusted in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection as atonement for sin, has the gift of eternal life, even if he continues to live as he did before he believed. That is why Paul told the Corinthians four times in the same letter that all things were lawful for him to do (I Corinthians 6:12, 10:23). The objection is, “But, God did not save him to continue in sin.” Yes, that is correct, but it still does not mean that he loses his salvation if he sins.

So, what should we do after we are saved? Sadly, no Christian church denomination today has the correct answer for this. That is okay, because God has given us the answer in His Word. We need to make the Bible our final authority, or else we can get mixed up in many ungodly things that are cloaked in godliness (II Timothy 3:5), as the church that I grew up in did. In order to understand what we need to do, we need to have correct thinking. In order to understand your mind, we need to start at the beginning with Adam.

CHAPTER 2

Man, God, and Churchianity

Adam's Death and the Curse of Sin

God told Adam, "In the day that thou eatest [of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil] thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). In Genesis 3:6, Adam ate of the tree. Yet, he lived another 900 years or so afterward (Genesis 5:5). Since God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), we know that Adam died the very day that he ate of the wrong tree. Therefore, we must conclude that it was his soul, not his flesh, that died that day.

Romans 6:23 says that "the wages of sin is death." Romans 3:23 says that "all have sinned." Therefore, we "were all dead" (II Corinthians 5:14). This means that all of us deserve to spend eternity in the lake of fire. The problem is that, if God did not tell us this, we would not know it.

To understand this, let's use an example. When you grow up poor, you do not really know that you are poor, because everyone around you is poor. It is only later in life, when you move up in life, that you realize that you were poor as a child. Similarly, when you are a sinner, you do not realize that you are a sinner, until you see life without sin. The problem is that, "there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). Therefore, if you compare yourself with others, you will not see your sin. That is why Paul said that those "measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves are not wise" (II Corinthians 10:12). Yet, that is what most people do. They say, "I will have eternal life, because I am a good person. I obey the 10 commandments as best I can, and I do not intentionally hurt anyone."

However, the way to have eternal life is not to do more good deeds than bad. Because God is holy, if we were to try to dwell with God with even one sin on our lives, it would mar God's holiness. Therefore, only those with sinless perfection earn the gift of eternal life. Romans 2:7 calls this, "Patient continuance in well doing." This is why God said, "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Peter 1:16). Since "there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Romans 3:12), if a person were to base his eternal destiny upon what he observes, he would conclude that he is okay. Therefore, he would go to hell in ignorance. (Ignorance is no excuse for the law.)

God's Provision – The Conscience

When Adam ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he now had a sin nature. The sin nature is why all of us sin. Romans 5:12 says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Because God loves us, "not willing that any should perish" (II Peter 3:9), He gave us the conscience, which is the knowledge of good and evil. Thus, contained within the sin that Adam committed is also God's provision to recognize sin. This is why, even though God gave the Mosaic law to Israel, the Gentiles still know that they are sinners because they have "the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness" (Romans 2:15). In other words, "by the law is the knowledge

of sin” (Romans 3:20), and so all people know that they are sinners and are worthy of death (Romans 1:32).

“The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good” (Romans 7:12). By contrast, “in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing” (Romans 7:18). Therefore, “when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died” (Romans 7:9). Now, you may think that God just made things worse, because the conscience works with my sin nature to cause me to sin more. However, this is actually a good thing! “But sin, THAT IT MIGHT APPEAR SIN, working death in me by that which is good, that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful” (Romans 7:13). In other words, because “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), all are “dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1) and will go to hell for their sin. Since God does not want anyone to go to hell, He “lighteth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:9) by giving man a conscience. This conscience provides the light of an objective standard that is not found in the world, due to man’s sin. Moreover, the sin nature works with the light of the conscience to become exceeding sinful so that your sinfulness can exceed your pride not to recognize your sin.

Therefore, if you are honest with yourself, you will acknowledge what the conscience tells you, which is that your sin makes you worthy of death (Romans 1:32). As Acts 2:37 says, you will be pricked in your heart and ask the question, “What shall we do?” The answer to that question is to believe the gospel, which today is to trust in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection as atonement for your sin (I Corinthians 15:3-4).

Therefore, God gave us the law of the conscience so that it could work with the sin nature so that we would sin more so that we would recognize our sin so that we would recognize our need to have faith in God to save us. As God says in John 1:9, the conscience puts a light on our sin so that we can see it so that we come to “the true Light,” the Lord Jesus Christ, to save us. Without this conscience, we would not recognize our sin and have faith in God to save us. Thus, the conscience’s work with our sin nature to cause us to sin more is actually God’s provision so that we might have faith in what God tells us to have faith in.

God Is not Concerned with the Details

It is essential that we recognize that the specific details of the conscience are of no concern to God. God leaves this up to the parents and society to instill values in a person. For example, most people of my generation grew up with the idea in their conscience that homosexuality is a sin. Today’s generation, for the most part, has grown up with the idea in their conscience that homosexuality is okay. Note that God does not interfere with the process of filling up the conscience to try to get everyone to believe exactly the same things. Why? Because, regardless of what is in the conscience, it will still work with the sin nature to cause someone to sin. If I think homosexuality is a sin, I will be tempted to sin in that way. If I do not think homosexuality is a sin, I will be tempted to use homosexuality to sin in other ways.

James 2:10 says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Therefore, even if homosexuality is eliminated as a sin, there are plenty of other sins to take its place. Let's say, for example, that the only rule in your conscience is that you cannot eat a grape. (That is the only rule that God gave Adam to follow.) "In my flesh, dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not" (Romans 7:18). "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me" (Romans 7:21). Why is that? Because "whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:23). In other words, as long as I try to obey my conscience, I will fail in my attempt, regardless of what is in my conscience. I will then learn the lesson that I am a sinner in need of the Saviour.

Before you are saved, you are "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). A dead person has no power to do anything. The only power within him is the sin nature. All the sin nature can do is sin. Therefore, if I have the law of not eating a grape stored up in my conscience and I try to obey the law under my own power, I will use the sin nature to do so. Since all the sin nature can do is sin, I will end up eating the grape, or, at the very least, I will desire to eat the grape, which is sin in itself. This is stated by God's Word as follows: "I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Romans 7:23). The sin nature works with my flesh to defeat the law in my conscience.

God's Answer for Your Sin – Christ

When I learn this lesson, I exclaim: "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Romans 7:24). I then start looking for the answer. When I hear the Word of God, i.e., the gospel, I believe it, and the faith of Christ comes to me to save me (Romans 10:17).

In other words, GOD DID NOT GIVE YOU A CONSCIENCE SO YOU COULD OBEY YOUR CONSCIENCE. God gave you a conscience so you would recognize your need to believe the gospel. Therefore, once I conclude that I need God to save me, the conscience is of no use to me. "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster" (Galatians 3:24-25). Therefore, "ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14). Therefore, "all things are lawful unto/for me" (I Corinthians 6:12 and 10:23).

This means that I can be the absolute worst offender of the law after I am saved, and it does not affect my salvation one iota! (The reverse is also true, i.e., that I can be the best keeper of the law before I am saved and still go to hell.) Such a statement is considered utter blasphemy by all of Churchianity. However, it is the truth of God's Word. **Until you recognize this, you will only serve yourself, rather than God.**

The Problem with Grace

Given my story of being sick, vomiting, and constantly worrying about going to hell when I die, it was the greatest news I had ever heard when I learned that God says in His Word that I cannot, under any circumstances, lose my salvation. Yet, nearly 100% of all fundamental, churchgoers would object to such a statement. Why not accept this great news? There are two main reasons why churchgoers would try to get me to worry about my salvation again: 1) The flesh, and 2) Money.

The Flesh

We mentioned earlier that, when Adam ate a grape from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, his soul died, because God said that it would (Genesis 2:17), yet his flesh continued to live for another 900 years. We also mentioned that, when you believe the gospel, God makes you alive in Christ, but God still keeps you in your vile flesh, according to Philippians 3:21. For your entire life before you were saved, the sin nature worked with your conscience and used your flesh to carry out your sin. All you did was sin. Once you were saved, you became alive in Christ so that you could serve God and live above sin.

This is the greatest thing that could happen to you, but it actually infuriates your flesh. An example may help illustrate why this is the case. Let's say that I try for hours to open a jar and am unsuccessful. I then set the jar down. Someone immediately picks up the jar and opens it right away without any effort. You would think that I would be overjoyed, because I can now get inside the jar. Instead, my flesh says, "I loosened it up for him to open." Why? Because it is a blow to my pride to see someone easily accomplish something that was impossible for me to do.

Similarly speaking, your flesh has been trying all of your life to live a righteous life, and it has failed every single time. Someone comes along and shares the gospel, showing that you do not need to live righteously because Christ did that for you. All you have to do is believe. What a wonderful truth! Yet, your flesh has its pride and gets upset. That is why most people will not believe the gospel. Instead, they will say, "I'm okay, because I try to keep the 10 commandments;" "I'm okay, because I am a good person;" or "I'm okay because I go to church." Your flesh will think up any excuse it can in order to continue to remain alive and have your spirit be dead.

If you do believe the gospel, things will only get worse for your flesh, because now your spirit is alive in Christ and God has reckoned your flesh to be dead (Romans 6:11). You also now have the Spirit of Christ residing within you (Galatians 4:6). So, your flesh has been unsuccessful in obtaining life, and now the Spirit of Christ is residing with your flesh and He has life in Him. Therefore, "the flesh lusteth against the Spirit" (Galatians 5:17).

Another characteristic of your flesh is that it is "desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). It is so desperate, in fact, that it does not mind looking godly in order to get

its way. Ordinances, such as “touch not; taste not; handle not,” “have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the SATISFYING of the flesh” (Colossians 2:20-23). In other words, the flesh says, “I see that the Spirit has life, so, I’m going to do the things of the Spirit. I will observe ordinances that neglect the body.” In doing so, the flesh is worshipping its own will to accomplish the things of God apart from Christ. In other words, it is showing that it can do what the Spirit does. Thus, the flesh is satisfied, but it has deceived you into thinking that you have satisfied the spirit. This goes along with the rest of Jeremiah 17:9 that I did not quote, which says, “The heart is DECEITFUL above all things.” When you are saved, the flesh rebels against the Spirit of Christ within you by trying to look good on its own by getting you to perform the lusts of the flesh, “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” (II Timothy 3:5).

Money

The second reason churchgoers doubt eternal security is money. You probably know that religion is big business. That is because it exalts the flesh while appearing to exalt the spirit, and humans are all about portraying a good image to others. Alcohol, drugs, pornography, etc. are big business, too, because they satisfy the flesh. The problems with these things is that they bring shame. These things are done in secret because family and friends will scold the person for being involved in such things.

Religion also exalts the flesh, as we have seen, but it has a form of godliness. Therefore, religion is the best of both worlds, i.e., it satisfies your flesh and it satisfies the flesh of family and friends. They will not scold you by saying, “How dare you practice religion; it’s evil! Instead, you need to shoot up some heroin.” No! They will brag about you to others of how you have “turned your life around” by going to church and being a good person now. So, not only will people practice religion because it satisfies their flesh, but they will also practice religion because it will give them praise from others, thus exalting their pride. This is the reason the church I grew up in existed. The members of that church could proudly proclaim to others that they never smoke, never drink, never curse, never get angry, and never sin. They are like little “Jesus”es on earth.

People will pay big money to feel good by doing evil things, and they will pay even bigger money to feel good by doing evil things that appear to be good things. That is why I Timothy 6:10 says, “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” You see, if they teach the truth, the flesh will rebel against it, and people will not follow them. People have “itching ears” (II Timothy 4:3), meaning that they want their flesh to be satisfied, not their spirit. Thus, they “turn away their ears from the truth” and turn to fables (II Timothy 4:4).

Therefore, if a church wants to prosper in this world, it will teach lies. That is why I Timothy 6:9 says, “They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and

into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.”

Guilt

The main lust of the flesh that is used in churches is guilt. (Given my background, I know all about this.) If a church preaches the truth that you cannot lose your salvation and that all things are lawful unto you, there is no guilt. In fact, God says that the blood of Christ purges your conscience from having to do dead works to please God (Hebrews 9:14). In other words, the blood of Christ eliminates all guilt. If Christians truly grasped this concept, the flesh would say that we do not have to worry about sin. In fact, we can sin more (Romans 6:1). Therefore, I do not need to go to church, and I do not need to give anyone any money. In fact, when it comes to money, God says that we should give as we purpose in our heart (II Corinthians 9:7). We are not required to give anything. If churches taught this, very few people would give. Also, very few people would attend church, because they would not see the need to do so. Therefore, nearly all churches teach a tithe and try to guilt you into giving money above their mandatory 10%.

You can think of it like a job. Your flesh does not want to work. It would rather lie in bed all day or do something it considers fun. Yet, millions of people go to work most days to do jobs that they do not want to do. But, they work, because they have to in order to pay the bills. If someone won millions of dollars in the lottery, he would probably quit his job immediately, never to return again. Church is like this. The flesh does not want to go to church. If you know that your sin debt has been completely paid by Christ, there is nothing for you to do in order to be saved. If you know that your life is hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3), there is nothing for you to do to stay saved. The guilt over your sin has been completely removed. So, why go to church?

How Churches Operate

Knowing this, churches operate on your guilt. First, they keep the gospel a secret. (Satan does this (II Corinthians 4:3-4) by having his ministers lead churches (II Corinthians 11:13-15).) In fact, most churches do not even know what the gospel is. Even if they do, they are not going to tell it to you. A pastor will say from the pulpit, “We need to get the gospel to unreached nations. We need to proclaim the gospel to those we meet. We are here to share the good news of Jesus Christ.” Gospel this; gospel that; everything is gospel, gospel, gospel. Yet, they never actually tell you what the gospel is. Even if they do share a salvation message, it will probably be a false gospel. They will probably tell you to turn from your sins, make Jesus the Lord of your life, invite Jesus into your heart, be water baptized as a profession of faith, or a host of other things other than the clear gospel, which is to trust in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection as atonement for your sin (I Corinthians 15:3-4). (Notice how I keep mentioning what the real gospel is. That is because I want you to go to heaven.) Thus, they make you think that you are closer to heaven because they keep talking about heaven, the Bible, and Jesus, but they never actually tell you how to receive eternal life. Thus, you have to keep

coming to the church, week after week, so that you feel like you are in good standing with God.

Even if they somehow slip up and tell you the gospel that saves you, they will still try to get you to follow laws so that you have to keep performing, which means you have to keep coming to their church and putting money in the offering. That is why many people will not go to church because they say they are not “good enough.” Yet, God did not wait for us to clean up our act before saving us. “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Yet, churches constantly try to get people to obey the 10 commandments and other laws. Then, they have you take a sip of grace juice and eat a bite of a cracker in order to make you feel guilty over all the sins you have committed over the last week. (If you are going to make me feel guilty, at least give me a full meal!) Since you never quite measure up to the standards that they say that God wants you to meet, you feel guilty, and end up giving a bunch of money in the offering to alleviate that guilt. If they told you the truth, that “I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God” (Galatians 2:19), you would not feel guilty over your sin, you wouldn’t have a reason for coming to church, and they would not get your money. Therefore, they perform a “vain jangling” of the law before you (I Timothy 1:6-7) to get your money. And, going back to the pride reason, it makes you feel good that you did something to appease God’s wrath, i.e., you went to church and gave money. This makes you feel just a little bit better than the non-churchgoers, which, to the flesh, makes it worth every penny you put into the offering plate.

Churchianity’s Relative Morality

This is why Churchianity’s morality does not adhere to the Bible. Rather, it is always just a little higher than the rest of society. Therefore, as morality has gone down over the last 100 years in the United States, so has Churchianity’s morality, even though the Bible has not changed.

It is quite common today for churchgoers to drink at least some alcohol, and they even use I Timothy 5:23 as a Biblical command to drink wine, even though that is not what the verse says. Yet, back in 1920, a Churchianity movement in the United States got the prohibition law passed. Today, although churchgoers may still frown upon it, it is almost assumed that churchgoing couples engage in pre-marital sex, even though Churchianity took a great stand against this in the 1950s. In the 1980s, Church groups picketed outside of abortion clinics to stop babies from being killed, yet there is not the same outcry among Churchianity today. Until recently, Churchianity was against homosexuality, but now it is becoming accepted or at least not spoken against by Churchianity. God did not change His stance on these issues. It is just that Churchianity always has a cause to fight for in order to appear morally superior to the rest of society. Once society is given over to a sin, such that Churchianity wants to participate in it as well, Churchianity accepts that sin and moves on to some other cause to fight.

This is nothing new. Jesus said that the Jewish religious leaders of His day emphasized tithing so much that they even made it a point to tithe their spices, yet they “omitted the weightier matters of the law” (Matthew 23:23). In other words, religion loves to “take a stand for what is right” on **one, certain topic**. That way, they can get society to focus on their stand, so as to steer the attention away from other sins that they can now “get away” with. As Jesus said, “Ye...strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel” (Matthew 23:24). Or, as we might say today, “ye strain at transgenderism and swallow pornography and adultery.”

The Conscience Is a Good Thing

Now, you may feel sorry for me that I had so many rules to follow as a kid that I was constantly scared of losing my salvation and became physically sick on many occasions, as a result. However, this was actually a good thing.

Granted, God was not pleased that I was suffering physically due to bad doctrine, but “the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24). My suffering physically eventually led me to have faith in Jesus’ death as atonement for my sins, which means that I will not suffer forever in the lake of fire. That is a much better situation than feeling good about myself all of my life, only to end up suffering forever in hell fire. Jesus said something similar when He stated, “If thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched” (Mark 9:43). Or, in my case, it is better to recognize your sin and get sick over it every single week so that you eventually believe the gospel and spend eternity in heaven than it is to blindly follow religion and go to hell in a handbasket.

The Problem with Churchianity

Therefore, it is important for us to understand that we should listen to our conscience before we are saved, or else we will never believe the gospel. It is also important that we understand that we should NOT try to follow that same law of the conscience after we are saved. In other words, once we are saved, we have graduated from Law University. “Ye are not under the law, but under grace” (Romans 6:14). The problem is that, because this message does not get people to come to church and give money, Churchianity does not teach it.

As mentioned previously, Churchianity wants to keep you under the law. Therefore, the conscience, which God gave you to learn to have faith in God, is used by Satan through Churchianity to keep you in bondage to the law after you are saved. “That through death He [Christ] might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Hebrews 2:14-15). That was me! I was subject to bondage through fear of death, and Christ died so He could deliver me (and all people, for that matter) from that bondage. Yet, Churchianity wants to keep you in bondage. In fact, not only did the church I grew up in not deliver me from bondage, but it also put me into more bondage. I realize I am an extreme case, but

nearly all churches seek to put you in bondage through some kind of performance-based system. The differences, among the Christian church denominations, boil down to how much bondage you are under in each system.

Why? Because “no man ever yet hated his own flesh” (Ephesians 5:29) and “all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (II Timothy 3:12). Therefore, “as many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised [today, it is water baptized, become a member of the church, give tithes, pray the rosary, etc.]; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ” (Galatians 6:12). In other words, my flesh does not want to suffer persecution, and it will “die daily” (I Corinthians 15:31) if I allow Christ to live in me. Therefore, I can use my flesh, cloaked in a form of godliness, to trick myself into thinking I am serving God, and then I do not have to suffer because I am not really serving God. At the same time, the world thinks I am great, because of my form of godliness (II Timothy 3:5).

If I do not want to “endure sound doctrine” and I want to follow after my own lusts instead, then I will heap to myself teachers, who will scratch my itching ears, i.e., satisfy the lusts of my flesh (II Timothy 4:3). Because these teachers are teaching fables, rather than the truth (II Timothy 4:4), the result is that they are ensnared by the devil, “taken captive by him at his will” (II Timothy 2:26). So, these teachers make my flesh feel good, but my spirit is depraved. My soul, then, wonders if I am even saved. As a result, it is a rarity that any churchgoer on his deathbed today can say, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that he is absolutely sure that he is about to go to heaven.

Inevitably, what ends up happening in churches is that most people give up on serving the Lord. Even if they heard and believed the gospel for today, they are immediately put under the law again, such that they do not even know the transformation that God made of their soul and their spirit. Instead, they are taught that God has changed their flesh, empowering it to serve God, rather than Christ serving God through their spirit.

For example, it is very rare to find a church that will teach that the baptism of Romans 6:3-4 is a dry baptism by the Spirit into Christ’s death and resurrection, even though that is what the verses clearly teach. Instead, once you are saved, a church will tell you that you need to be water baptized. Thus, they replace the spirit baptism of this passage with a fleshly baptism that does absolutely no good except make a fair shew in the flesh. Therefore, from the beginning, new church converts are conditioned to believe that, “Christ died for me; the least I can do is live for Him,” with the implication that this new life is lived out of the energies of the flesh.

Yet, God says that, even after you are saved, your flesh is still vile (Philippians 3:21). So, the new believer tries to serve the Lord, but he fails. It is like what Paul said: “For to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not” (Romans 7:18). The result is that the churchgoer begins to think that this salvation thing is a hoax, much like I experienced with sanctification. I was told

that the Adamic nature was eradicated when I was sanctified, such that I would no longer sin. Yet, I found no difference in my inner man. Of course, I believed that I was not really sanctified, yet I had to appear to everyone that I was sanctified. Therefore, I tried even harder, if that were possible, to obey the law. I looked so good to others that I received a special, Christian-maturity award, but I had greater turmoil, because I knew I was trying to portray a life that I was not really living on the inside.

The same thing happens with the churchgoer. The result is that he will do one of two things. In the first scenario, he will put on a big smile when he goes to church, act nice to everyone, and try to keep up appearances when important people are watching. When no one is watching, he will live as the sinner that he knows he is. All the while, he will feel guilty for being two-faced and will believe that the gospel is just a scam, or he will believe eternal life with God is possible, but that he is not truly saved. That is why most every churchgoer will doubt his salvation all the way to his deathbed.

The second scenario is that he will give up. He will determine that the church life is too hard, and he will go back to his old ways without putting up a front. However, this is a blow to a person's pride. Most people would rather suffer internally and look good to others outwardly, than to admit that they were "stupid" for believing what a church said. Therefore, churches are full of people who put up a front for an hour each Sunday, only to return to their sinful ways afterward. As a result, once they leave the church on Sunday morning, they go to a restaurant, where they do not tip the waitress well and act rude to her, because their flesh is grieved from putting up a front for a whole hour. This is why waitresses hate working the Sunday-afternoon shift.

The good news is that God's power to save you from sin is real. Only by understanding who you are in Christ after you are saved can you live in this reality. Therefore, let's get to the good part—what God gives you when you are saved.

CHAPTER 3

Life in Christ

What God Gives You When You Are Saved

First, we should note that, as far as God is concerned, the only things that are real are those of the spirit realm, because they are the only things that last forever. This understanding comes from II Corinthians 4:18, which says that “the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” Jesus said, “heaven and earth SHALL pass away, but My words shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35). That is why Hebrews 11:1-3 says that “faith is...the evidence of things not seen.” It also says that, “Things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” In other words, by faith, the things of the spirit realm appear to us, while the things we see in the physical realm are not real because they are only temporal or temporary.

Because God created all things by Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:9) and “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights” (James 1:17) (Hmmm...didn't we learn something about Jesus being “the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:9)?), God has an unlimited supply of good things. Since He loves us, He wants to give us those good things. Paul even says, “He that spared not His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us ALL things?” (Romans 8:32).

Now, you may say, “Why doesn't He give everyone these things?” The reason is because most people are not mature enough to handle good things. For example, the richest man in the world would not give all his wealth to his one year-old child, because he would not use it wisely. However, once that child becomes an adult and has the maturity to use his wealth wisely, he may be willing to give his wealth to his child.

Similarly, before we were saved, we were children, spiritually speaking (Galatians 4:3). However, once we believed the gospel, we became spiritual adults, such that God adopted us as sons and gave us an inheritance (Galatians 4:5-7). In other words, learning the lesson of the conscience so that we have faith in Christ gives us the spiritual maturity for God to treat us like adults. Therefore, He “hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). This verse does not say that God WILL bless us with SOME spiritual blessings, but it says that He has ALREADY blessed us with ALL spiritual blessings. Therefore, when we believe the gospel, we undergo a HUGE spiritual-status change.

Because all of our blessings from God are spiritual, we look exactly the same in the flesh after we are saved as we did before we were saved. (We also do not receive material blessings from God, such as a high-paying job or a new car.) Therefore, we have to go to God's Word to find out what our spiritual blessings are. As mentioned previously, the only portion of scripture written to us today is Paul's epistles. Therefore, we must go to Romans through Philemon to find out what these blessings are.

God gave us the gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23) by forgiving us of ALL our trespasses (Colossians 2:13)—not just some, but ALL. The way this was accomplished was that the Holy Spirit spiritually baptized us into (identified us with) the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13). This means that, whatever happened to Christ, also happened to us. Since He went to the grave, we went to the grave. Since He was resurrected to new life, we are resurrected to new life (Romans 6:3-5). Thus, “our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Romans 6:6). In other words, we were spiritually circumcised. This happened “through the faith of the operation of God” (Colossians 2:11-12).

In other words, before we were saved, we had a conscience and tried to follow it. However, our spirit was dead, which means that we could only use the flesh to try to obey the conscience and our dead spirit had to go along with whatever the flesh decided to do. Since no good thing dwells in our flesh, all we did was sin. Once we believed the gospel, we had learned the lesson of the conscience.

Since we learned this lesson, the conscience is of no more use to us. Therefore, God performed a spiritual operation on us, whereby He cut off or circumcised the automatic link between our sin nature and our conscience. He then took our dead spirits and “quickened” them or made them alive (Ephesians 2:1). All of this was done when the Spirit placed us into Christ.

Before you were saved, your spirit was dead, your body was alive, and you had the law in your conscience. Your sin nature worked with the law of your conscience and used the power of your body to sin. (“The strength of sin is the law” (I Corinthians 15:56.)) The result was that you only did “dead works” (Hebrews 9:14). Therefore, “in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing” (Romans 7:18).

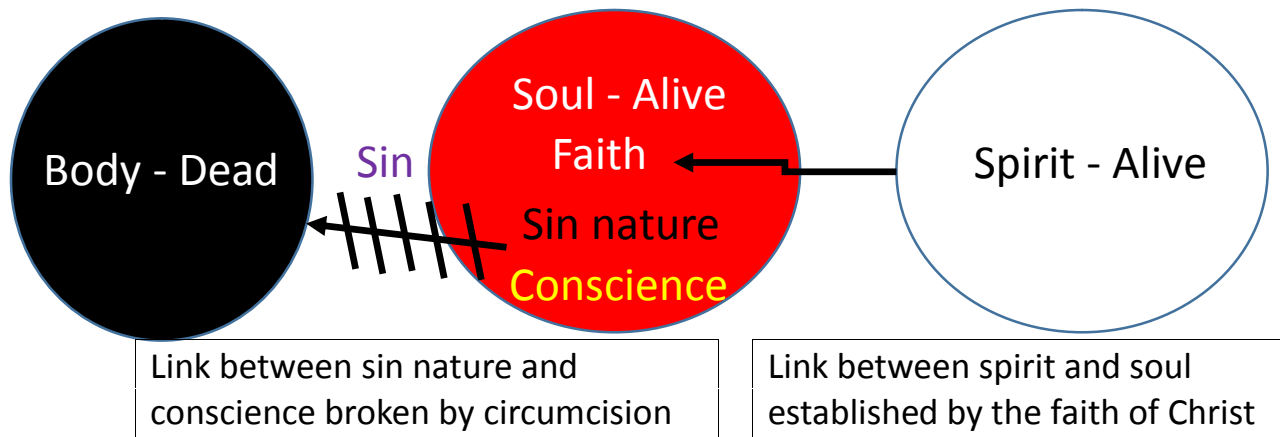
This is shown graphically as follows:

BEFORE CHRIST



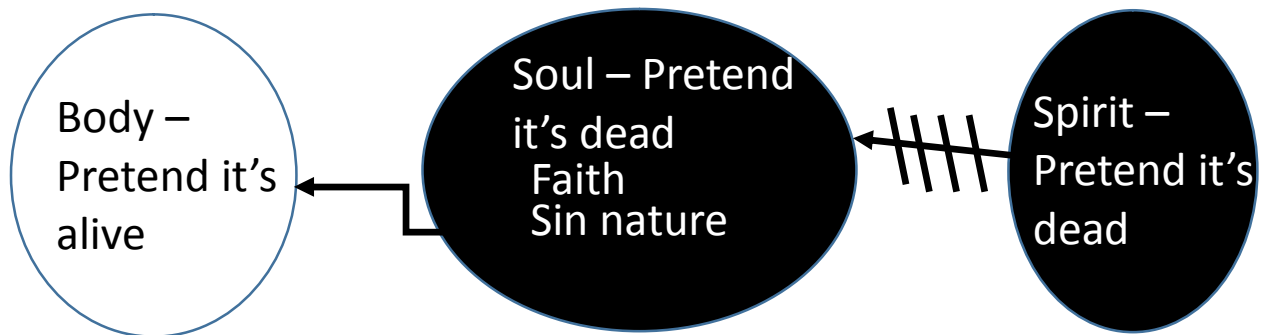
Once you were saved, God spiritually baptized you into Christ. So that “ye are dead [your body], and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3). This is shown graphically as follows:

IN CHRIST



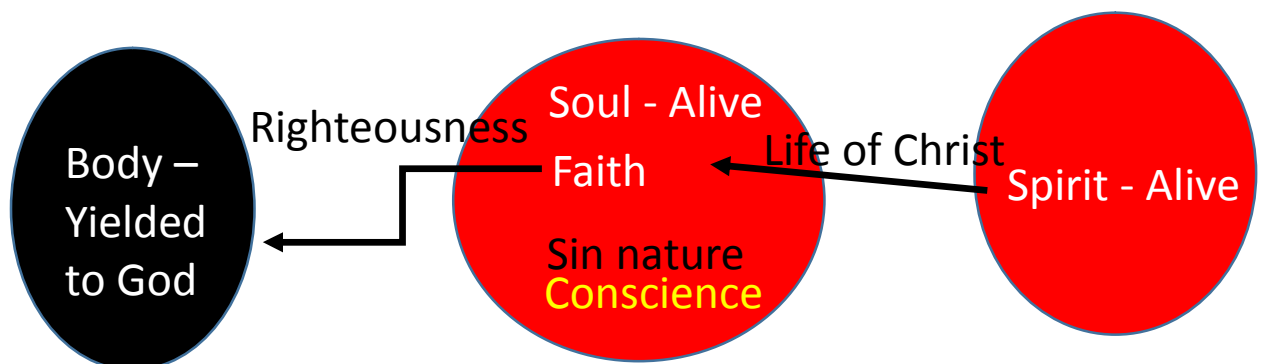
Note that your sin nature and your conscience are still with you, but you also have an alive spirit that can operate by the faith of Christ. This means that you now have a choice. You can: 1) Choose to operate as Adam by re-establishing the link between the sin nature and your body, which is shown graphically as follows:

FLESH'S BEHAVIOR



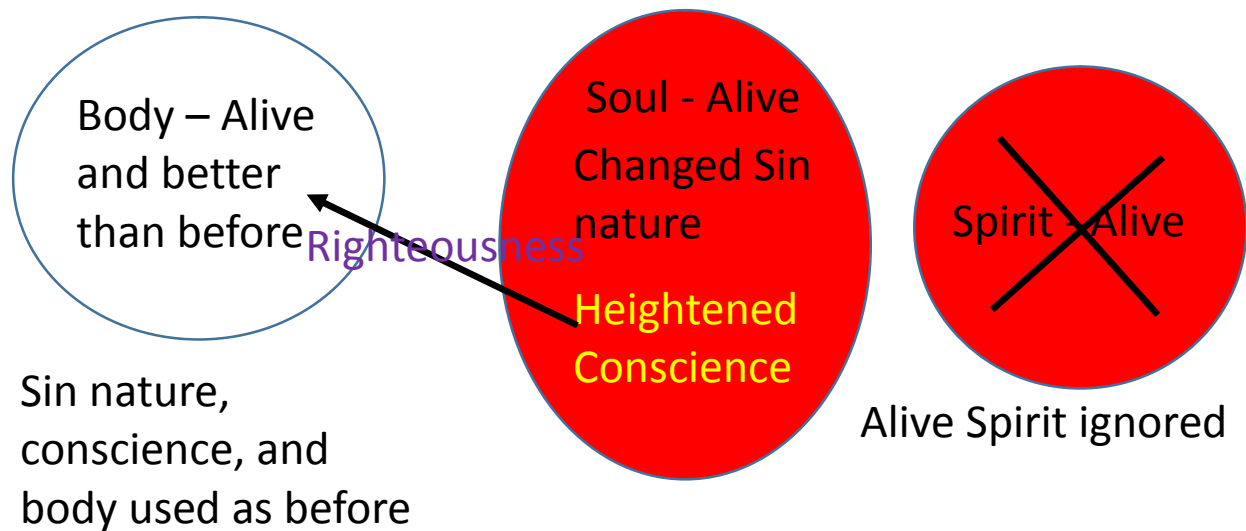
Or, 2) Let Christ live in you, which is shown graphically as follows:

CHRIST'S BEHAVIOR IN YOU



The problem is that, because your flesh lusts after the Spirit (Galatians 5:17) and Churchianity predominantly operates in the flesh because they want money and power, most Christians think that, when they are saved, God enables them to operate their bodies to live for Christ, rather than enabling the Holy Ghost to teach them the things of God so that they use the mind of Christ so that Christ lives in you (I Corinthians 2:9-16). In other words, both their flesh and Churchianity keep them from reading and believing what God has to say about their new condition, and so they think the following is true. However, it is not true, which is why it does NOT work:

CHURCHIANITY'S FALSE TEACHING



Life in Christ

Now, we will look at God's design for you to live your life after you are saved. Because God's changes in you are ONLY spiritual, we will only learn about these things by reading the Bible, specifically Paul's epistles, since this is the only part of the Bible written to us today. Therefore, everything will be backed up by scripture. Man's viewpoint will not be added!

Death in Adam

The first thing to understand is that, before you are saved, you live according to the mechanisms in Adam once he sinned. As already established, when Adam sinned, the sin nature came into him ("By one man sin entered into the world" (Romans 5:12)). Romans 2:14 describes this as the sin NATURE by saying that the Gentiles "do by nature the things contained in the law."). Adam also received a conscience to know good and evil ("The eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked" (Genesis 3:7).). Both the sin nature and the conscience are passed on to you through your father's seed, which is Adam's seed.

This is seen in Romans 5:12, which says, “By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Thus, “by one man’s offence death reigned by one” (Romans 5:17). Therefore, all people born, because they have an earthly father, are born into Adam, and “in Adam all die” (I Corinthians 15:22).

Christ’s Virgin Birth

Other than Adam, there was one more man who was born without an earthly father. That man is Jesus Christ. Therefore, the sin nature was not passed on to Him. You may say, “But, Christ was born of an earthly mother, and Eve sinned, just like Adam did. Therefore, the sin nature was passed on to Jesus, as well.” However, scripture says otherwise.

First, note that the commandment not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was given to Adam BEFORE Eve was created, since the commandment was given in Genesis 2:16-17 and Eve was created in Genesis 2:21-22. Because of this, Adam’s sin was intentional, while Eve’s sin was unintentional. “Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression” (I Timothy 2:13-14). Since “sin is not imputed when there is no law” (Romans 5:13), Eve’s sin was not imputed to her account. This means that only Adam was responsible for this initial sin. Therefore, God promised that He would redeem Adam or man through Eve’s seed (Genesis 3:15).

This means that, when Jesus was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:20-25), He did not have the sin nature. This means that, like Adam, He could choose to sin or not. Unlike Adam, Jesus chose not to sin. Jesus Christ “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Since Jesus “did no sin” (I Peter 2:22), He had not earned death, like all other people have (Romans 6:23). Therefore, He could be “a propitiation” for our sin (Romans 3:25). In other words, He was made sin for us; “that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (II Corinthians 5:21).

Simply stated, this means that, when you believe the gospel, Christ’s death counts for your death. You are baptized into Jesus Christ’s death (Romans 6:3). Baptized does not mean “water,” but it means “identified with.” As proof, look at I Corinthians 10:2, which says that the Hebrews were “all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.” This was a dry baptism, since Pharaoh’s army drowned in the sea, while Israel walked across the sea on dry land. Thus, your baptism into Jesus Christ’s death simply means that you are identified with His death, meaning that His death pays for your sins. This baptism into Christ’s body is done by the Spirit, according to I Corinthians 12:13. Note, from that verse, that ALL of the Corinthians were baptized into Christ’s body by the Spirit, even though I Corinthians 1:14-17 says that most of the Corinthians were not water baptized. According to Ephesians 4:5, God only recognizes “one baptism” today. Therefore, this baptism must be the dry baptism by the Spirit into Christ’s death; it is NOT water baptism!

Understanding this dry baptism is vital, since you are not “in Christ” otherwise. Colossians 2:12-13 says that we are “buried with Him in baptism, WHEREIN also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God,...having forgiven you all trespasses.” In other words, if I have not been baptized into Christ’s death, then God has not forgiven me of my sins; He has not applied Christ’s blood to my soul. If you insist on saying that this baptism is into water, as fundamental Churchianity claims, then water baptism must be required for salvation. Yet, Paul says, “I thank God that I baptized none of you....For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel” (I Corinthians 1:14,17). Paul just said that water baptism is not part of the gospel, and he thanks God that he did not baptize them. Therefore, if water baptism is how we are baptized into Christ, then Paul just thanked God that some of the Corinthians do not have forgiveness of sins. Certainly, this is not the case!

Therefore, our dry baptism into Christ’s death is how “our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Romans 6:6). But, because Churchianity is focused on water baptism, they do not recognize that we are in Christ.

Being in Christ means that “ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3). In other words, you are not a changed person, as Churchianity claims, but you are a completely different person. “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature” (II Corinthians 5:17). This is a good thing, too, because “in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (I Corinthians 15:22). In Adam, you are condemned; in Christ, you are justified (Romans 5:16). In Adam, death reigns; in Christ, righteousness reigns in life (Romans 5:17). In Adam, you are a sinner; in Christ, you are righteous (Romans 5:19).

Therefore, there MUST be an identity change when you are saved. If Churchianity is right that, after I am saved, all God does is make me a better person, then “Christ is dead in vain” (Galatians 2:21). For example, let’s say that I was an alcoholic and an adulterer before I was saved. Then, God saved me, made me a better person, and I stopped doing those things. While my changed behavior is helpful to society, I still sin. Jesus said that you sin, not when you do the sin, but when you think about doing the sin (“Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matthew 5:28).) Furthermore, James 2:10 says, “Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” Therefore, if I even think about telling a lie, I am as guilty before God as if I were a serial killer. Therefore, while turning from the really bad sins is great for society, doing so does not change my standing before God.

Churches, that claim eternal security is true, would say that I was never saved in the first place if I were to become a serial killer after I was supposedly saved. Yet, as far as God is concerned, all of us still live lives, after we are saved, that are just as bad as that serial killer, because we all sin in some capacity after we are saved. Therefore, God did not just forgive my sins when I was saved, but He had to place me into Christ so my future sins would not be counted against me. I had to have

an identity change from being in Adam and headed for hell to being in Christ and headed for heaven.

David and Saul

Perhaps an example will make this easier to understand. The Lord chose Saul to reign over Israel (I Samuel 9:17). After two years (I Samuel 13:1), God told Saul to wait for Samuel to arrive before doing anything (I Samuel 13:8). Instead, Saul took it upon himself to sacrifice to the Lord before Samuel got there (I Samuel 13:9). Because Saul disobeyed the Lord, God took the kingdom away from Saul (I Samuel 13:11-14).

God replaced Saul with David. David committed adultery with Bathsheba (II Samuel 11:3-4). Then, so that his sin would not be found out, David murdered Bathsheba's husband (II Samuel 11:14-17). Yet, David remains as God's king, because the Lord would not impute sin to his account (Romans 4:6-8). So, Saul offers a sacrifice to the Lord, and God took the kingdom away from him. David committed adultery and murder, and God did not hold it against him. Why? Because David believed God, and Saul did not believe God. Hebrews 11:6 says "without faith it is impossible to please" God. It does not say, "without avoiding the really big sins it is impossible to please God!" Therefore, when you believe the gospel that God has given you, you have pleased God. Period. That is all He can really ask from you, due to your sin nature.

Dead to the Law

That is why Galatians 2:19 says, "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God." "Ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14). If God kept us under the law after we were saved, the sin nature would work with our conscience to become exceeding sinful (Romans 7:12-13). That is why only "dead works" are produced by trying to serve the Lord by trying to obey your conscience (Hebrews 9:14). The only way to break free of this deadly cycle is by faith. That is why the definition of sin is not "missing the mark," as the theologians say, or not disobeying God's law, as common folks say. The definition of sin is having no faith (Romans 14:23).

The Faith OF Christ

Therefore, the power to rise above sin is the faith of Christ, not your flesh or a heightened conscience. Christ's faith is mentioned at least seven times in Paul's epistles (Romans 3:22, Galatians 2:16 (twice), 2:20, 3:22, Ephesians 3:12, and Philippians 3:9). You will only see this in a King James Bible. Again, Churchianity does not want you to understand your life in Christ. Therefore, Christ's faith is completely removed from all other translations, by changing "faith OF Christ" to "faith IN Christ."

We must recognize that Christ's faith is the power by which Christ lives in us. Without this power, we will try to use our flesh to serve God, which does not work

since no good thing dwells in our flesh (Romans 7:18). Note Galatians 2:16, which says, “we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith OF Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” This shows that we are not even justified by our own faith. We believe the gospel, then the faith of Jesus Christ justifies us, because God has placed us into Christ.

Because we are now in Christ, our old man is dead. “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). This is why we need the faith OF Christ, rather than faith IN Christ. First, God crucifies our old flesh with Christ by placing us into Christ’s death via Spirit baptism. Then, we can yield ourselves unto God as those alive from the dead by yielding the members of our flesh as instruments of righteousness unto God (Romans 6:13). The way we do this is by having Christ live in us by operating in the faith of the Son of God. Thus, not only are we justified by the faith of Christ, but we are also supposed to have Christ live in us, not by our faith, but by HIS faith.

How does this work, practically speaking? Well, Ephesians 3:9-12 says that “we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of” Christ into “the fellowship of the mystery” that was “hid in” “the manifold wisdom of God.” In other words, the faith of Christ gives us access to mystery doctrine, which is only found in Paul’s epistles. This mystery doctrine is called “the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Ephesians 3:3,7-8). Why is it unsearchable? Because we only have access to this mystery doctrine by the faith OF Christ. A man cannot search and find these truths on his own. This is why Colossians 1:27 says that “the riches of the glory of this mystery” are “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” And, Colossians 2:2-3 goes on to say that “ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” are hid in Christ.

In other words, spiritual treasures are sound doctrine, not material possessions. “We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12). Therefore, “we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds” (II Corinthians 10:3-4). The offensive weapon of this battle is “the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Ephesians 6:17). God only gives these weapons to those who are on His side of the battle, which, today, is the body of Christ. That is why “it is the glory of God to conceal a thing” (Proverbs 25:2), and God rewards believers, who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6), with the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are hid in Christ, so that we can effectively battle Satan’s forces in the spiritual realm.

What Is Faith?

We understand how the faith of Christ works only when we understand what faith is. Most people think that faith is belief, and that is NOT true. I can believe the

Bible is true, memorize scripture, and learn things contained in the Bible without having faith.

You can think of belief as theory, and faith as the application of that theory. For example, I took accounting courses in college. I learned that an asset is increased with a debit, and a liability is increased with a credit. I believed that to be true, but it was all theory at the time. Now that I have been working in accounting for many years, I have faith that the system is accurate. That is because I have had practical experience that proves that what I learned is true.

When it comes to spiritual things, “whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23). Since “in my flesh dwelleth no good thing” (Romans 7:18), I have no faith until I believe the gospel. Therefore, before I am saved, all I can do is sin. Even after I believe the gospel, I do not have any faith on my own, but I have Christ’s faith. “Even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith OF Christ” (Galatians 2:16). “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17). So, I hear and believe the gospel, and then Christ’s faith is given to me.

Christ’s faith is the practical application of belief. Christ did not have a sin nature, and so He could study scripture every day, and God could teach it to Him (Isaiah 50:4-5). Christ believed the scripture and then He lived it out such that He “did no sin” (I Peter 2:22). Since He did no sin and sin is the opposite of faith (Romans 14:23), He must have done everything by faith. Christ even said, “I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father hath taught Me, I speak these things” (John 8:28). Since Christ could do nothing of Himself, I CERTAINLY cannot serve God in my flesh!

Since my flesh only sins, I cannot even pick up the Bible, believe it, and obey it. I have to believe the gospel first. I am then placed into Christ (Romans 6:3), and I am given HIS faith. I can then choose to “live by the faith OF the Son of God” (Galatians 2:20). It is crucial that we understand that faith is not mere belief. There are many people who know Bible stories, have memorized scripture, and believe the Bible to be true, but they cannot obey God, because they have no faith.

“Faith is the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for, the EVIDENCE of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Just because I believe there is a loch ness monster, does not mean that there is one. My belief is no evidence of there being a loch ness monster. However, if I believe the gospel and receive the faith of Christ, His faith is the SUBSTANCE and EVIDENCE of the things of God. Why? Because Christ lived out His belief in God’s Word, when we cannot in our flesh. He proved that God’s Word works, because He conquered death, was raised from the dead, and has eternal life. Therefore, Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection are the evidence that the spiritual things of God do exist. Therefore, faith is substance, while mere belief is not.

Therefore, faith is NOT like a kid who really, really believes that Santa Claus exists. Rather, faith is belief that has been tried and found to be true. Since we cannot, in our flesh, try out our belief in God’s Word, Christ has to give us His

faith and work that faith through our lives. Christ's faith was definitely tried, as He sweat great drops of blood (Luke 22:44), and then humbled Himself and became obedient to the death of the cross (Philippians 2:8).

However, since we still have vile flesh (Philippians 3:21), Christ's faith does not work through us automatically, even though it is in us. We have to choose to allow Christ's faith to work through us. Also, Christ's faith cannot work when we do not know sound doctrine, because faith is based upon belief, and we do not believe, as long as we are ignorant. Therefore, when we are saved, we are also given the Holy Ghost to teach us the things of God so that we may believe and then allow Christ's faith to work through that belief (I Corinthians 2:9-16).

The Holy Ghost

The "wisdom of God in a mystery" (I Corinthians 2:7) was hidden from Satan and his forces, such that they had Christ crucified on a cross (I Corinthians 2:8), which resulted in their defeat (Colossians 2:15) by the faith of Christ. Now that the mystery doctrine has been revealed in Paul's epistles, only believers can mine the treasures of the mystery in order to win battles in spiritual places. That is because "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God,...because they are spiritually discerned" (I Corinthians 2:14). Therefore, when we use sound doctrine in these battles, we always win because the weapon of sound doctrine is not understood by unbelievers nor by Satan and his forces, due to their unbelief, and there is NOTHING they can do against the truth (II Corinthians 13:8).

Summary of What God Does for Us

So, what God does when we believe the gospel is He gives us the faith of Christ (Romans 10:17) so that we might be justified (Galatians 2:16). This involves the Spirit's dry baptism of us into Christ's death (I Corinthians 12:13; Romans 6:3-4), so that Christ's death is counted for us (Romans 3:25; II Corinthians 5:21) so that God forgives us of all our trespasses (Colossians 2:13). We are now "accepted in the Beloved" (Ephesians 1:6), who is Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:16-17). God also seals us "with that holy Spirit of promise" until we are redeemed by Christ at the rapture (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Therefore, the Holy Ghost is given unto us (Romans 5:5), and "ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3). This means that Christ IS our life (Colossians 3:4), which means that we now have the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16), which is to always have faith in what the Father tells Him (John 8:28,38; 10:18,37-38; 15:10,15). (Note that Jesus' doing what the Father tells Him to do is recorded in John, which is the book about Jesus that shows Him as God. That is why Galatians 2:20 says that we live "by the faith of the Son of God.") Therefore, the mind of Christ IS the faith of Christ. This also means that God has quickened us, or made our souls and spirits alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:5). (See the appendix for a list of 40 things that we have in Christ.)

All of this means that we are now equipped to discern the mystery doctrine of God to be used against Satan and his forces in the spiritual realm. Therefore, the Spirit searcheth the deep things of God and teaches them to our spirit as we read and believe the sound doctrine of God's Word (I Corinthians 2:9-13). We can discern these things because our spirits are alive, and we have the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:14,16).

All of this is by the faith of Christ. Without the faith of Christ, we have no salvation, because there is no faith to please God (Hebrews 11:6) and "whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:23). Without Christ's faith, then, we have sin on our lives, and God's holiness would be marred by dwelling with us. Therefore, we would have no salvation, no indwelling Holy Ghost, and no Spirit of Christ, and we would still be dead in our sins without the faith of Christ. Therefore, the power for service is the faith of Christ as Christ lives in us as we yield our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1) for God to use. The power is NOT our flesh! If we decide to try to serve God in the energies of our flesh, we are not using the faith of Christ. Instead, we are using the sin nature working with our conscience by the power of the flesh to create nothing but dead works.

In fact, it appears from scripture that we do not even have any faith on our own. Granted, we believe the gospel, but then Christ's faith comes by our hearing or believing that gospel (Romans 10:17). We have already learned that we are justified by Christ's faith and we live by the faith of the Son of God. Romans 1:17, 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38 all say that "the just shall live by faith," but this is a quote of Habakkuk 2:4, which says that "the just shall live by HIS faith," which, in light of Galatians 2:20 is the faith of the Son of God. Also, Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast." Most everyone says that the gift of God, in these verses, is salvation. However, "that" immediately follows "faith" and is also set in opposition to works. Therefore, grammatically speaking, the gift of God, in Ephesians 2:8-9, is the faith of Christ, not salvation. (Churchianity will never admit this because it takes man even further out of the equation.) Also, note that the next verse (Ephesians 2:10) says that we are "created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Note that we WALK in the good works; we do not do them ourselves. This is because the faith of Christ does the work through us; it is not us doing God's works in the energies of our flesh.

Therefore, when God saves us, rather than equipping us to serve Him in our flesh, He kills our flesh ("Ye are dead" (Colossians 3:3).), makes our soul and spirit alive in Christ, and gives us the faith of Christ whereby Christ can live in us. Thus, God's Word teaches us the opposite, regarding our life after salvation, of what Churchianity teaches.

"Christ...IS Our Life" (Colossians 3:4).

The in-Christ life is further seen by comparing believing Israel before the cross with believers in the dispensation of grace, as the following chart shows:

OT believers

- Remember Sabbath (Exo. 20:8)
- Moses prayed for the people (Num. 21:7)
- Pray toward the temple (I Kin. 8:30)
- Prayer hour (Act. 3:1)
- Animal sacrifice for sin over and over (Lev. 16)
- Sacrifice for fellowship (Lev. 2)
- Eat only certain foods (Lev. 11)
- Holy feast days (Lev. 23:2)
- Sin brings defeat (Jos. 7:1-5)
- Complexity (Lev.)
- Blessings/cursings based upon performance (Deu. 27-28)
- Killed for looking at God (Exo. 19:21)
- Righteousness (Deu. 4:8)

Dispensation of grace believers

- Let no man judge you by Sabbath (Col. 2:16)
- Pray yourself (Rom. 12:12)
- Pray wherever (I The. 3:10)
- Pray all the time (I The. 5:17)
- Christ the one sacrifice (Rom. 6:10)
- Bodies are living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1)
- Eat what you want (I Tim. 4:4)
- We are already holy (Col. 3:12)
- We always triumph (II Cor. 2:14)
- Simplicity (II Cor. 11:3)
- All blessings based upon Christ alone (Eph. 1:3)
- Behold God with open face (II Cor. 3:18)
- Godliness (I Tim. 2:2 first time word appears in Bible)

Since we are now in Christ, every day is holy unto the Lord. Therefore, we can pray without ceasing, eat whatever we want, present our bodies as living sacrifices to God, do no wrong, are always blessed, can look at God in His Word, and can live godly lives. By contrast, Israel, before the cross, could do none of these things! All Israel had was “a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ” (Colossians 2:17).

CHAPTER 4

The Battle

Why the Vile Flesh?

Since life by the faith of Christ is the only way God can work through us, you may wonder why God does not eradicate the sin nature, as my childhood church taught, and give us glorified flesh right now.

The reason, that God does not change our vile flesh, is given to us in II Corinthians 4:7, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” If God gave us glorified flesh, because all unbelievers look on the outward appearance (I Samuel 16:7), they would worship us. We would then get the glory, when God’s plan is to bring glory to His Son.

Suffering

Why doesn’t God at least eradicate the sin nature so that we live perfectly? Because God has started a good work in us and “will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6). This work results in us being “holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:27). God is “the only wise God” (I Timothy 1:17). The Lord has used wisdom since “the beginning of His way” (Proverbs 8:22). Wisdom says that the way to make us holy and without blemish is for us to suffer (II Timothy 3:12).

Remember that God is working on us spiritually, not physically, and we must suffer if He is to refine us. We see this with Israel. God says that He will bring Israel through the refiner’s fire of the tribulation period. Only then will they be an offering “pleasant unto the Lord” (Malachi 3:2-4).

We see this with Paul. Paul was “caught up to the third heaven” and “heard unspeakable words” (II Corinthians 12:2,4). By receiving an abundance of revelations (II Corinthians 12:7), there was a danger that his flesh would rear its ugly head (Remember that “the flesh lusteth against the Spirit” (Galatians 5:17).) Therefore, “there was given to [Paul] a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet [him], lest [he] should be exalted above measure” (II Corinthians 12:7). In other words, God has the wisdom to know that suffering is the only way a person can mature spiritually so that He can be more effective in the spirit realm for all eternity.

You may say, “If God would have eradicated Paul’s sin nature, he would not have had that problem.” Yes, the flesh would not have lusted against the Spirit, but, without that adversity, he could not grow. For example, a 6-foot basketball player would probably win every game he plays if he only plays people under five feet tall. However, he will be a much better basketball player if he only plays basketball players who are seven feet tall, even though he will lose most of the time.

Look at Jesus Christ. He did not have a sin nature and never sinned. Yet, He was “led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil” (Matthew 4:1). Why make it so hard on Jesus Christ? Because he could only learn obedience and

be made perfect through suffering. “Though He were a Son, yet LEARNED He obedience by the things which He SUFFERED” (Hebrews 5:8). “For it became Him, for Whom are all things, and by Whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation [Jesus Christ] PERFECT through SUFFERINGS” (Hebrews 2:10). So, here is Jesus Christ, the sinless one, with no sin nature, and He STILL had to suffer in order to be perfect (complete). This shows that, even if God eradicated our sin nature when we were saved, we would still need to suffer in the flesh, because we are not perfected without adversity.

This also ties into us not receiving glorified flesh, because it would be harder to suffer if we looked like gods to everyone else. That is why, when Jesus Christ came, “He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him” (Isaiah 53:2). If He looked like a god, they would not have crucified Him, He would not have suffered, and He would not have been made perfect through sufferings. Therefore, God made Him look like an ordinary human being. (This means we should not be upset if God did not bless us with good looks, because only the Son of God had a choice as to what His flesh would look like and He chose to look ordinary!)

Similarly, “we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us” (II Corinthians 4:7). The passage then says, “We are troubled on every side.” (II Corinthians 4:8). In other words, because we still have our vile flesh after we are saved (Philippians 3:21), we suffer. Because suffering is necessary for the Lord Jesus Christ to finish His work in us, Paul concludes this suffering passage with the statement: “Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (II Corinthians 4:17). Praise the Lord for the privilege of suffering!

Free Will

Another reason that God does not eradicate our sin nature when we are saved is the same reason He gave us free will. God wants us to choose to allow Christ to live through us. God’s angels never sin, and they do bring glory to God. However, God’s plan, in creating humans, was to bring glory to His Son. He would create humans, we would sin, Christ would die for us to save us, God would place believers into Christ, and we would rule the universe for all eternity. (We will go over the details of this later on.) Because we rule the universe in Christ, Christ gets the glory. This is the “glory plan” that God fathered in the beginning (Ephesians 1:17).

If God never gave us free will, Christ would not be glorified because there would be no one to save. Moreover, contrary to popular Churchianity’s belief, God’s plan does not stop at salvation. God has created “stories in the heaven” (Amos 9:6). These stories are the governmental structure of thrones, dominions, principalities, powers, mights, and every name that is named (Ephesians 1:20-21; Colossians 1:16). God’s plan is to use the body of Christ to fill these positions (Ephesians 1:22-23), because, currently, “the heavens are not clean in His sight” (Job 15:15).

That is because Satan and 1/3 of the angels rebelled against God (Revelation 12:3-4).

If you were going to fill a high position in the United States' government, in order to do a good job, you would need both education and experience. In fact, it is rare to find any job posting, requiring a college degree, that does not also require at least some experience doing a similar job. Why? Because, in the real world, you need real experience dealing with real problems so that you will be competent in the job, as you deal with life's real problems.

Similarly speaking, in God's governmental structure, we will be judging angels (I Corinthians 6:3). If God placed us into Christ and eradicated our sin nature once we were saved, He would be forcing us to allow Christ to live in us. We would then not gain the real-world experience needed to judge effectively angels in eternity. Therefore, God must keep our sin nature around so that we can make a choice to allow the Holy Ghost to teach us the sound doctrine for today so that we grow in the experience necessary to fill a high position in heavenly place. Alternatively, we can choose to live in our flesh and not be fit for a high position in heavenly places. As members of the body of Christ, we have a unique opportunity that is only possible after the cross. That is, we can choose to believe God and His Word and allow Christ to live in us! Without Christ's faith, there is no choice.

Conclusion

Although Christ triumphed over Satan's forces in the cross (Colossians 2:14-15), Satan and his forces will remain in their positions in heavenly places until "the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Romans 11:25). Then, the body of Christ will be gathered together unto the Lord Jesus Christ (II Thessalonians 2:1). (The event commonly called "the rapture.") Then, halfway through the tribulation period, Satan and his forces will be permanently kicked out of their positions in heaven (Revelation 12:7-9). Therefore, if Satan can stop the body of Christ from being equipped to take those positions, the rapture will not come and Satan will continue to have power in the heavens.

God's will is for "all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:4). If people are saved, they are immediately placed into Christ and seated with Him in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:5-6). To stop this from happening, Satan "hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Corinthians 4:4).

If people are saved anyway, they are placed into Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4). This means that they are now alive in Christ (Romans 6:11), and they receive forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7), eternal security (Ephesians 1:13-14), the Holy Ghost (Romans 5:5) to teach them the things of God (I Corinthians 2:9-13), and the faith of Christ (Galatians 2:16,20) as the power to come unto the knowledge of the truth so that they may take a high position in heavenly places. When this occurs, Satan and his forces are one step closer to being kicked out of

their positions. Therefore, in the last days of the dispensation of grace, “perilous times shall come” (II Timothy 3:1), and “evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse” (II Timothy 3:13), because Satan knows that his time is short. However, God’s plan WILL be fulfilled because God has inspired His Word and preserved it, and His Word throughly furnishes us unto all good works (II Timothy 3:15-17). Therefore, it is only a matter of time before the fulness of the Gentiles eventually comes in.

We may look at the world and see that they are enrolled in Satan’s course (Ephesians 2:2). We may even see Churchianity not coming into the knowledge of the truth because they have allowed Satan and their flesh to work with the sin nature and the conscience to continue in the works of the flesh. However, “the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isaiah 40:8). Therefore, as long as there are still people, willing to: 1) Read and believe God’s Word, 2) Allow the Holy Ghost to teach it to them, and 3) Suffer persecution for that sound doctrine in their inner man (II Timothy 3:12), slowly but surely, men will be qualified to take heavenly positions that are currently occupied by Satan’s forces. Then, once all of those positions are taken, we will be gathered together unto Christ, and Satan’s rebellion in heavenly places will be eliminated.

Therefore, God is not just interested in getting people saved, but He is also interested in them coming into the knowledge of the truth once they are saved. The more Christians, who will leave Churchianity’s false doctrines and embrace the sound doctrine found in Paul’s epistles, the quicker this will happen, and it will only happen because we are in Christ. Therefore, stop trying to serve God out of your flesh, and recognize that “Christ...IS our life” (Colossians 3:4). Then, you will recognize that “I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God” (Galatians 2:19).

Religious Churchianity presents two options: 1) Drive yourself crazy under the law, try to look good to others, and go into eternity doubting your salvation, or 2) Forget about trying to obey God because you cannot do it, so, just live for the pleasures of the flesh and still go into eternity doubting your salvation. However, God presents just one option: 1) Recognize you are a sinner and trust in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection as atonement for sin. God then places you into Christ so that you live by “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus,” rather than by “the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2) so that you learn sound doctrine for today found in Paul’s epistles, both by studying God’s Word rightly divided (II Timothy 2:15) and by suffering for the in-Christ life (II Timothy 3:12). You are then qualified to take a high position in heavenly places, and you have the confident expectation of this when you die! Therefore, only God gives you peace of mind. The more people who do this, the sooner eternity can begin.

Remember that BOTH your salvation and your sanctification are accomplished “through the faith of the operation of God” (Colossians 2:12), which is the in-Christ life. You do NOT serve God by trying to obey the law. “Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances...which ALL are to perish with the using” (Colossians

2:20,22). “Which things indeed have a shew of wisdom,” which is why Churchianity embraces them, but they are really “not in any honour to the satisfying of the FLESH” (Colossians 2:23).

As Christians, we need to stop embracing the ideas of: 1) Turning from sin, and 2) Living for God in the energies of our flesh. Instead, we need to embrace the in-Christ life. Only then will we give a clear gospel message that saves, and we will concentrate, not on looking good in the flesh to others, but on studying to shew ourselves approved unto God (II Timothy 2:15) and learning sound doctrine, so that we can fill those high positions in heavenly places that Christ literally died to fill with us!

God Never Intended for You to Obey the Law

Churchianity thinks that, if you make an honest living, take care of your family, and stay out of trouble with the law, you are a “good” person. Then, if you believe what they teach, you are a “saved” person, and God will make you a “better” person. They expect you to try to obey the law of the conscience before you are saved, even though you will not be that successful. Then, after you are saved, they think that God changes you somehow so that you will now do a better job of obeying the law of your conscience. However, NONE of this is Biblical thinking. It is ALL “according to the course of this world” (Ephesians 2:2).

The Bible says that “there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Romans 3:12). Therefore, there are NO “good” people in this world. After you are saved, you are still not a good person, because you still have your vile flesh (Philippians 3:21). Instead of making you a good person, God simply puts Christ in you so that all God sees, when He looks at you, is Christ. As such, God never intended for you to obey the law—not before or after you are saved. Before you are saved, you have no faith, which means you cannot obey the law (Romans 14:23). Once you are saved, you have learned the lesson of the law, which is to believe what God has told you to believe. Having learned this lesson, you are no longer under the law, but under grace. Therefore, “all things are lawful unto me” (I Corinthians 6:12 and 10:23).

Therefore, regardless of what side of salvation you are on, Churchianity’s view of the law is incorrect. Churchianity says you can be a good, lawful person before you are saved, but you are a better, lawful person after you are saved. God says you are not good and do not obey the law before you are saved, and that the law is removed from you after you are saved. The reason for this difference is a different focus. Churchianity is focused on your flesh, and how God can make your flesh better after you are saved, because that is what puts people in the pews and money in the church leaders’ pockets. God is focused on your spirit, and how He will make your spirit alive in Christ if you learn the lesson of the law. The reason Churchianity focuses on the flesh is because, if they can make “a fair shew in the flesh” (Galatians 6:12), they have done something to please God. Therefore, after they are saved, they try to be good people apart from Christ, even if they give verbal credit to Christ, because they, ultimately, are the ones performing. By contrast, God gave you the law, not for you to perform it, but so “that every mouth

may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God” (Romans 3:19). As such, “no flesh [can] glory in His presence” (I Corinthians 1:29).

Thus, Churchianity starts with the foundation of the flesh, and God’s Word starts with the foundation of Christ. Since the only foundation that can be laid is Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 3:11), everything that Churchianity does in the flesh is of no help to anyone in the spiritual realm, even if they cloak their fleshly deeds in a “form of godliness” (II Timothy 3:5). This means that, if Churchianity lays a foundation of flesh upon belief in a clear gospel, all the works of Churchianity will be burned at the judgment seat of Christ (I Corinthians 3:12-15). If Churchianity does not share a clear gospel, they will be judged by their works at the Great White Throne Judgment and will go to hell (Revelation 20:11-15). As such, preaching of the flesh is the most powerful device that Satan has to keep people from being saved and coming unto the knowledge of the truth, going counter to God’s will (I Timothy 2:4)!

The “Hot-Iron” Conscience

A major problem with the typical Christian mentality is that, because they are trying to obey God in their flesh by obeying the law, which is impossible to do, they have a heightened conscience after they are saved. In other words, a person believes the gospel because he finally recognizes that he is a sinner in need of a Saviour. Now, he is more aware of his conscience. However, instead of teaching him that he does not have to try to obey his conscience now that he is saved, Churchianity tells him the opposite. It says that God will give him the power to obey his conscience. So, now he looks at his conscience more closely. However, since there is no power in his flesh to obey his conscience, he continues to sin after he is saved just as much as he did before he was saved. And, now he feels worse about it because he notices all of the sins he is doing. Therefore, rather than believing God that He has purged his “conscience from dead works to serve the living God” (Hebrews 9:14), he believes man that he needs to obey the law. Therefore, he notices his sin more and feels even worse about himself than he did before he was saved!

He can now choose to do like I did, which is to agonize over his sin to the point of regular, physical illness, or he can look to Churchianity for the answer. Most will do the latter, since they already believed Churchianity regarding their salvation. Churchianity’s answer is to have “their conscience seared with a hot iron” (I Timothy 4:2). Biblical examples of this are: “Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving” (I Timothy 4:3). In other words, they make up laws that they do not mind following, which will replace the laws that they do mind following, so that they can now feel like they are “living above sin” and “living for Christ.” Jesus called the Pharisees out for doing this. He said, “Ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith....Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel” (Matthew 23:23-24).

Perhaps this concept will become clearer with a modern example. For Christmas 2017, personal growth, love in marriage, and healthy lifestyles were popular topics among “Christian” books. While God does tell us to take care of our families (I Timothy 5:8) and love our spouses (Ephesians 5:25 and Titus 2:4), God does not tell us to grow personally, and He does not address passion in marriage or encourage healthy lifestyles. (God actually tells us that “bodily exercise profiteth little” (I Timothy 4:8).) The reason that Churchianity focuses on these issues is because they are of the flesh. If they focus on improving their flesh, then maybe you will not notice their lack of spiritual maturity. That is why Paul said, “Refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto GODLINESS” (I Timothy 4:7). (Now, THAT is profitable exercise!) Therefore, they can profess to be “good Christians” by doing what Churchianity tells them to do, even though they are not walking in the Spirit, because they are not allowing Christ to live in them.

Rationalizing Bad Behavior

In addition to searing their conscience with a hot iron by focusing on areas that are of little or no importance to God, churchgoers also ease their guilty consciences by rationalizing bad behavior. There are two ways in which they do this: 1) They say that the Bible does not address a specific, bad behavior that they want to engage in, and 2) They use selective morality, in which they take dogmatic stands on certain issues so that you do not see their failing in other areas.

With regard to #1, if a churchgoer wants to do something that is a sin, he may re-define his behavior as not being sinful. In other words, instead of changing my behavior to match God’s standard, I change God’s standard to match my behavior. For example, a churchgoer may buy a lottery ticket or go to a casino. When questioned about it, he may say, “The Bible never says that gambling is a sin. So, I’m okay.” Or, “I’m not gambling, because I’m not serious about it. I just do it for the entertainment value.” Or, “I’m doing it for the Lord, because, if I win, I will give 10% to the church. Then, I can quit my job and REALLY serve the Lord!”

With regard to #2 (selective morality), at the time of this writing, the majority of evangelical churchgoers in the United States believe that homosexuality and transgender activities are sinful. They take a moral stand on this issue, saying that they would never participate in such activities. However, the vast majority of these same people are involved in heterosexual immorality. They are engaged in pre-marital sex or adultery. Even if they are not physically doing these things, they are doing them in their heart, which is still a sin, as Jesus pointed out: “Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matthew 5:28). This problem is rampant among evangelical churchgoers, but it is not talked about anymore, because they have rationalized away their sinful behavior by concentrating on other sins that are supposedly worse than what they are doing. In other words, their conscience is focused on sexual sin in the homosexual and transgender areas so that they no longer feel bad about the heterosexual sin they are committing, both inwardly and outwardly. In other words, they point a finger at other types of sexual sin, so that their own

sexual sin is not noticed by themselves or by society. (This is called having a defiled conscience (Titus 1:14-16).)

Why Churchianity Hates the Truth

Since Churchianity is so bad by keeping people from being saved and coming unto the knowledge of the truth, you may wonder why Christians, when they do hear the truth, do not accept it. When I learned right division, I was overjoyed that I could not lose my salvation by sinning. When I learned about my life in Christ, I was thrilled that I could rest in who I am in Christ, rather than striving to try to obey God in the energies of my flesh. However, most Christians have the opposite reaction to the truth.

Most Christians will call you a heretic and have nothing to do with you when you share with them who they are in Christ. Why? For the same reason that unbelievers usually reject the gospel, and that reason is pride. To believe the gospel, an unbeliever has to admit that he cannot save himself, and most people are too prideful to do this. Therefore, he makes up some excuse and continues on his path to hell.

Assuming they heard and believed today's gospel, Christians have already taken the step that unbelievers will not take. They have recognized their sin and have trusted in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection to save them. (There is the gospel again.) Thus, their flesh has already suffered a great blow to their pride. Since "the flesh lusteth against the Spirit" (Galatians 5:17), the flesh reacts by trying to save face within their new belief system. II Timothy 4:3 calls this "having itching ears." In other words, they want their flesh scratched. Since Churchianity wants money, it is more than happy to oblige.

So, Christians learn the false doctrine of Churchianity, pleasing their flesh, and deceiving themselves into thinking they are walking in the Spirit (Jeremiah 17:9). Thus, they are following a flesh system, just like they did before they were saved, and their flesh is not suffering "persecution for the cross of Christ" (Galatians 6:12). Thus, they have achieved a delicate balance in which their flesh is satisfied, their conscience is appeased, and everyone, including themselves, thinks that they are serving God. For the flesh, this is the ideal situation.

But, then you come along and try to mess up their delicate situation with the truth! You tell them that "ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3). You tell them that "Christ...is our life" (Colossians 3:4). You tell them that they are dead to the law that they might live unto Christ, and that the only way to live the Christian life is for Christ to live in them by the faith of the Son of God (Galatians 2:20). Now, all of this is true, and, if they are Christians, they can allow the Holy Ghost to teach these truths to them (I Corinthians 2:9-13). However, they also still have their vile flesh (Philippians 3:21), and so they can also choose to quench the Spirit (I Thessalonians 5:19). They can still walk in the lusts of the flesh as if they are not saved (Galatians 5:16-18). Of course, the proper response is: "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer

therein?” (Romans 6:2). However, most Christians will reject the truth and continue to follow the flesh in their Churchianity. Why?

As already mentioned, if they reject the truth, they can still follow the lusts of their flesh, which means they will not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ internally or from others. In referring to believing the truth of God’s Word over his flesh, Paul said, “I die daily” (I Corinthians 15:31), meaning that his flesh died every day as he chose to believe God’s Word over his flesh. Since “no man ever yet hated his own flesh” (Ephesians 5:29), very few people are willing to believe God’s Word over the lies of Satan that are propagated by Satan’s ministers in Churchianity (II Corinthians 11:13-15), because believing God means that their flesh will suffer.

Therefore, instead of making the Bible their final authority, they make their church their final authority. In other words, they view the church that they attend as speaking for God, rather than asking “What saith the scripture?” (Romans 4:3 and Galatians 4:30).

If a person changes his view and starts believing the Bible over the church, his whole fleshly system will come crashing down. First, his pride will take a blow, because what he believed is wrong and he cannot serve God in the energies of his flesh. So, now he feels stupid. Second, he will suffer persecution from his flesh (Galatians 5:17 and II Timothy 3:12). Third, his family will think he has backslidden because he has gone against the church. Now, his family will be hounding him to get back to church, because they do not want their religious fleshly system to be damaged. Fourth, his friends in the church will also think he has backslidden. If he shows scripture to family and friends to show he is right, his family and friends will probably choose their flesh over the truth. Then, they will think he is a heretic, involved in some cult for going against established church doctrine, and they will not have anything to do with him. Such a person is treated worse than if he became a drug addict or went to prison, because at least a criminal could be reformed by the family’s religion, while there is no hope for a heretic.

In other words, most people in Churchianity believe what they believe because the fleshly system of Churchianity has taught them their beliefs. If they abandon that system for the truth of God’s Word, they look like backslidden sinners to the flesh. This results in them losing their family and friends and suffering in the flesh. Granted, Christ is living in them now. However, because they have had their flesh controlling them all of their Christian life, it will be very difficult for them to stop now and lose all of their social connections and standing within a community, especially since humans are social creatures. Therefore, they will reject the truth, even though only “truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). They would rather be in bondage to sin and the devil (Hebrews 2:14-15) and be liked by their flesh and by others than to stand in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free (Galatians 5:1), have Christ live in them (Galatians 2:20), and be shunned by most everyone, including most Christians and unbelievers (II Timothy 1:15).

Since “we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth” (I Corinthians 13:8), they cannot use scripture to prove you are wrong (If they do, the scripture is changed or taken out of context so that they can misapply it in order to support false doctrine.). Therefore, they just label you a heretic, who has joined a cult, and all hope is lost for you, unless you come back to the church and repent of your “evil ways!” (God says, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20).)

Basically, you need to understand that, just because a person is a Christian churchgoer, it does not mean that that person is walking in the Spirit. He can still choose to fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The more he has chosen the flesh by believing Churchianity, the more likely he will be to not believe the truth when you present it to him. That is why Paul told Timothy to instruct “those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (II Timothy 2:25-26).

My Grandma

Two months before her death, my grandma was praying for the Lord to forgive her. She then told her daughter that she (my grandma) was going to hell. Her daughter asked her why. My grandma said, “Because I don’t love the Lord enough.” This was the honest confession of a 106 year-old woman who was a member of the same church I grew up in, except that she believed their doctrine all of her life. She had attended over 15,000 of their services and had toed the very narrow line of her church for the last 90 years. She never smoke, never drank, always wore dresses, never cursed, tried to see the good in people, was faithful to her husband, etc. You would be incredibly hard pressed to find any wavering whatsoever from her church’s teachings for the last 90 years of her life! Yet, at the end of her life, she honestly thought she was going to hell.

Why? Because, no matter how good you are, your own righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). “There is none righteous, no, not one....They are ALL gone out of the way” (Romans 3:10,12). This is the lesson of this book. No matter how hard you try to obey your conscience, you WILL fail. Even after you are saved, you still have no power in your flesh to serve God (Romans 7:18). You WILL fail. Instead, you should allow Christ to live in you (Galatians 2:20) by using the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16), which is the faith OF Christ in God and His Word (Galatians 2:20). Only then will you walk in the good works that God has ordained to do through you, not you doing them for God (Ephesians 2:10). The more you read and believe God’s Word, the more you are strengthened with might in the inner man (Ephesians 3:16-19) to overcome the lusts of the flesh and walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16).

Therefore, I encourage you: Do not be like my grandma and try to obey God in the flesh. Also, do not be like the Christian, who uses eternal security as an excuse to sin (Romans 6:1-2). Rather, present your body a living sacrifice unto God so that Christ can live in you (Romans 12:1-2). In this way, you are found in Christ, being

made conformable unto His death, so that you, with Christ, attain unto the resurrection of the dead. This is a spiritual resurrection lived in this life so that you may receive “the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus,” which is a high position in heavenly places with Christ forever (Philippians 3:8-14). By contrast, if you walk in the lusts of the flesh, by living as either unbelievers or Churchianity does, your soul will still be saved, but you will suffer loss of your reward (I Corinthians 3:14-15). Do not sacrifice your eternal reward in heaven (II Corinthians 4:17-18) for the temporary pleasures of sin on the earth.

As we have learned, these temporary pleasures even include suffering under church-religion conformity. A great example of this is Moses. Hebrews 11:25-26 says that Moses chose “rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.” He esteemed “the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.” Now, you may think that this refers to when Moses led Israel out of Egypt, but it does not. Rather, it refers to the time, “when he was come to years, [he] refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter” (Hebrews 11:24). Exodus 2:11-22 tells us the story of what happened “when Moses was grown” (Exodus 2:11). In summary, he killed an Egyptian, who was persecuting a Jew. Israel refused to let him be their ruler, and so he left Israel to dwell with the priest of Midian. He dwelt in Midian, not with the Jews, but with the people of God for 40 years until God called him to go back to Egypt and lead Israel into the Promised Land.

What is significant about Moses’ story is that he rejected both extremes. First, he rejected material wealth by forsaking the sinful lifestyle of the Egyptians. Second, he rejected following religion, which told him to be good to others. Instead, he had faith in God’s promise to Israel (Genesis 12:1-3) and acted accordingly. In other words, he forsook unbelieving Egyptians, and he forsook religious Jews. Instead, he “had respect unto the recompence of” God’s eternal reward to him (Hebrews 11:26).

Similarly speaking, as members of the body of Christ, we need to reject the material riches of unbelievers and the respect of Churchianity. By believing God and His Word over BOTH groups, we “fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in [our] flesh for His body’s sake, which is the church” (Colossians 1:24). In other words, just like Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ as greater riches by forsaking unbelieving Jews, we also should fill up in our flesh the afflictions of Christ to help believers, even though doing so means forsaking Churchianity’s church! Only then will we be “builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:22).

CHAPTER 5

The In-Christ Life in its Fullest

If you have soaked in all of the scriptures mentioned in this book so far, you now know how to live spiritually, as if you are already in heaven, even though you are still physically on this earth. Paul tells us that “our conversation [lifestyle] is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20), because, as far as God is concerned, we can live just like we are in heaven right now, because Christ lives in us. With this understanding, we will now examine the intricate details of the Christ life, and why Christ living in you is so important.

The Godhead in Christ

As we previously covered, we are three-part beings—spirit, soul, and body. The Godhead is also a three-part being. The Spirit is the Holy Ghost (Spirit). God the Father is the soul of the Godhead, since the soul is the essence of Who He is. It is the Father, Who used wisdom in the beginning to develop the glory plan (“The Father of glory” – Ephesians 1:17). “The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath He established the heavens” (Proverbs 3:19). “The Lord possessed me [wisdom] in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was” (Proverbs 8:22-23). God the Son represents the flesh part of the Godhead, since Colossians 2:9 says, “For in Him [Christ] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”

Note that Psalm 104:2 says that God covers Himself “with light as with a garment.” When Adam was made, Genesis 1:26 has the Godhead saying, “Let Us make man in Our image,” which means that man was also covered in light. John 1:9 identifies Jesus as “the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:9). Therefore, when Adam was created, He was literally clothed in the light of God’s glory! This is why Adam and Eve “were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed” (Genesis 2:25). However, after they sinned, their clothing of light was removed. Therefore, “they sewed fig leaves together” (Genesis 3:7) in an attempt to cover their nakedness.

God made man a little lower than the angels, yet He crowned man with glory and honour by giving him dominion “over the works of [God’s] hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet” (Psalm 8:5-6). So, God gave Adam “dominion...over all the earth” (Genesis 1:26). However, Adam relinquished dominion to Satan by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, such that we see Satan telling Jesus that “all the kingdoms of the world...[have been] delivered unto [Satan]” (Luke 4:5-6).

Through His death on the cross (Colossians 2:14-15), Jesus triumphed over the death of Adam (I Corinthians 15:54-57) and took back the kingdoms of the world from Satan, such that God says, after the cross, that it is “Jesus Christ, to Whom be praise and DOMINION for ever and ever” (I Peter 4:11). Thus, it is Jesus, Whom God ultimately had in mind, when He had the Psalmist write about the dominion that God would give man (Hebrews 2:6-9). Ultimately, all things will be gathered together in Christ, “both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in Him” (Ephesians 1:10). This includes all saved people. This is why Israel says that Christ “hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory

and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” (Revelation 1:6). In other words, Israel will be kings and priests unto God in Christ’s dominion on earth, just like the body of Christ will occupy positions of authority in heavenly places in Christ’s dominion in heaven (see Ephesians 1:19-23).

The Godhead in Man

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

“Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool: where is the house that ye build unto Me? and where is the place of My rest? For all those things hath Mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word” (Isaiah 66:1-2).

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (I Corinthians 3:16).

When Adam was created, he was made in God’s image, but he was not God Himself. The reason God created man was so He could dwell within man. (We see this in the above Isaiah 66:1-2 quote. The Lord says that there is no house that man can create that God can dwell in. Instead, God will look for “this man,” Whom He will dwell in. “This man” ends up being the Lord Jesus Christ.) This is the reason God gave dominion of the earth over to man, so He could work through man and rule the world from the earth. The complication of this plan is that the three members of the Godhead are all holy (Isaiah 6:3); therefore, man must also be holy in order for God to dwell in man (I Peter 1:16).

Therefore, man must go through a testing period to see if he will choose to allow God to be holy through him. Adam chose to sin, yielding the dominion of the earth over to Satan, and so Adam was not holy. Adam’s sin nature is passed on to every person after him, who is born of a man. Thus, Adam’s sin has passed to every member of the human race, except for Jesus, because He was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18-23). Therefore, Jesus is known as the second Adam.

Then, Jesus had to go through a testing period to see if He would choose for God to work through Him. First, He committed to daily Bible studies with the Father so that He would learn the things of God (Isaiah 50:4-6). Second, He had to learn “obedience by the things which He suffered” (Hebrews 5:8). Therefore, He was led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil for forty days (Matthew 4:1-2). He learned, from these temptations, not to live by the flesh (I John 2:16), but to live “by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). He did nothing of Himself. He did only what His Father taught Him (John 8:28). Thus, He “became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:8).

The reason for this death was so that God could continue with His plan to dwell with man and rule the world through him. “The wages of sin is death” (Romans

6:23). Therefore, the justice of God demanded that Adam, and all those born in Adam, die. However, if a perfect man die, the justice of God demands that he be resurrected to new life.

When Jesus died on a cross, His death was carefully scrutinized by the Spirit of God. Jesus Christ came by water and by blood, meaning that He offered His perfect flesh (water) and His perfect soul (blood) as a sacrifice for sin (I John 5:6). The Spirit of God examined the water and the blood that came from His side (John 19:34-35), and the Spirit of God was satisfied with the sacrifice (Isaiah 53:10-12). Why? Because the Spirit had three witnesses in heaven and in earth to the great worth of that sacrifice. All three members of the Godhead bear record in heaven that Jesus Christ's water and blood were perfect, and the spirit, the water, and the blood also bear witness in earth that Jesus Christ's water and blood were perfect. Thus, the Spirit of God "beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth" (I John 5:6-8).

Having born witness, the Spirit of God raised Jesus Christ from the dead (Acts 3:15). It was on resurrection day that the Lord Jesus Christ was begotten of the Father (Acts 13:33), not before, because His sacrifice had to be perfect in order to pay the sin debt of Adam. In other words, a holy God could not dwell in man until man was holy, and Jesus Christ was not holy until He had done everything that the justice of God required Him to do in order to reverse the death that man earned by sin. Therefore, the Lord Jesus Christ spoiled principalities and powers, i.e., Satan and his forces, by triumphing over them in the cross (Colossians 2:14-15). In other words, Satan was the rightful owner of all the kingdoms of the world (Luke 4:5-7) because man was dead in his trespasses and sin (Ephesians 2:1). Therefore, man could not rule over the world. However, when Jesus Christ died for our sins (Romans 5:8), Satan no longer had a claim to this world's kingdoms. Since Jesus won the victory, God made Him both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36) and gave Him a name that is above every name, such that all have to bow down to Him (Philippians 2:9-11), because He is the only man to live a holy life.

Therefore, God gathers all things into Christ, both things in heaven and things in earth (Ephesians 1:10). Jesus gives a great summary of God's plan in His prayer to the Father when He says, "That they all [believers] may be one; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are one: I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me" (John 17:21-23).

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost have always been one God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29). Jesus was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:19-25), and He did no sin (I Peter 2:22). Therefore, as a man, Jesus was in constant, unbroken fellowship with the Father. Then, on the cross, Jesus was made sin for us "that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21). As a result of being made sin, Jesus, as a man, had His fellowship with the Father broken, such that He cried, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" (Matthew

27:46). However, because He never sinned, God would not leave His soul in hell (Psalm 16:10), but He raised Him from the dead (Acts 2:31-32), showing Him “the path of life” (Psalm 16:11). This means that Jesus was a perfect, glorified man when He rose from the dead. It was at that time that Jesus became the only begotten Son of God (Acts 13:33-34).

Lucifer wanted to be like the most High God (possessor of heaven and earth) (Isaiah 14:12-14), and was not in the form of God. Therefore, he decided to steal the title away from God by getting Adam to sin, since Adam was “the son of God” (Luke 3:38). (This is why Satan is called “the thief” (John 10:10).) By contrast, Jesus was born the son of God in the same sense that Adam was, i.e., He had no sin nature. However, Jesus “thought it not robbery to be equal with God” (Philippians 2:6). In other words, Jesus saw God’s plan for God to dwell in the perfect man. Therefore, instead of trying to steal God’s title away from Him, as Satan tried to do, Jesus yielded to His Father’s plan so that God could dwell in man. He “took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” He then became obedient to the Father “unto death, even the death of the cross.” Therefore, God exalted Him, giving Him a name above all names, such that He is Lord over all (Philippians 2:7-11). Then, when God raised Him from the dead, He became God’s only begotten Son—not just in body, as Adam was, but also in soul and spirit. In other words, in order for God to dwell in man, not only did man have to be born without a sin nature, but he also had to suffer trials and be obedient such that he always trusted in the Father’s plan. Then, God would have a man, who is perfect in body, soul, and spirit, such that God could live in Him for all eternity. The man, who did this, is the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we recognize that we have sinned and trust in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection as atonement for our sin (I Corinthians 15:3-4), the Spirit baptizes or identifies us into the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13). This means that “our old man is crucified with Him” (Romans 6:6). Since “we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection” (Romans 6:5). Thus, God now dwells in us because God dwells in Christ and Christ dwells in us.

The Godhead in the Bible

The final step in the Father’s glorification of us is giving us our glorified bodies at the rapture. Now, we have already received the gift of eternal life by believing the gospel (Romans 5:1,9,11). However, because we still have our vile flesh (Philippians 3:21), we still have a choice to either allow Christ to live in us (Galatians 2:20) or to fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

The way that Christ lives in us is by His Word. We have already seen how the Godhead was in man by Jesus Christ. The way that the Godhead was in Him was that He lived “by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). The reason for this is that all three members of the Godhead are within the Bible itself.

God the Father is called “the Father of glory” (Ephesians 1:17). That is because He is the One who used wisdom in the beginning to develop the glory plan. The Father “possessed [wisdom] in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. [Wisdom] was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was” (Proverbs 8:22-23).

God the Son is the Word itself. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:1-3).

God the Holy Ghost is the One Who made it possible for “the Word” to be fulfilled, as we see the Holy Ghost descended upon Jesus (Luke 3:22), and He is the One Who moved holy men of God to write down the Word in a book called the Bible (II Peter 1:21).

The Godhead in the Bible in Your Inner Man

In summary, when we believe the gospel, our lives are placed into Christ, making resurrection life in us possible. We live out our eternal lives on earth to the extent that we allow Christ to “sanctify and cleanse [us] with the washing of water by the Word” (Ephesians 5:26). The more we live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, the more Christ lives in us and the more God can live through us in eternity. Granted, the Lord Jesus Christ will complete the good work He has begun in His body (Philippians 1:6) so that He can “present...to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:27).

However, how we serve Christ for all eternity depends upon how much sound doctrine we get built up in our inner man on earth. Remember that we are the body of Christ, and God hath “set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him” (I Corinthians 12:18). In other words, one person may only allow Christ to build up enough sound doctrine in him to be Christ’s pinky toenail, while someone else may allow much more sound doctrine to be built up in him, such that he can be one of Christ’s fingers. Once enough members of the body of Christ have the sound doctrine built up in their inner man to fill all the functions of the body, then “the fulness of the Gentiles” will be come in (Romans 11:25), and the rapture will take place.

We know Christ will be faithful to complete the building of His body, because He has nothing but time to do so. Therefore, eventually, all positions in Christ’s body will be filled, but they are only filled as we allow Christ to sanctify us with His Word. Colossians 2:2-3 says that “ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” are hid in Christ, because He is the Word. We learn the Word by the Holy Ghost teaching it to us as we read and believe it (I Corinthians 2:9-16). Therefore, it is absolutely vital that we read and believe God’s Word so that Christ can make us into more important members of His body so that His body will be filled with qualified members to run the heavenly places for all eternity. In the end times,

“evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse” (II Timothy 3:13), because Satan knows that his end is near. However, God has promised to preserve “the holy scriptures” (II Timothy 3:15) forever (Psalm 12:6-7). Therefore, the man of God can still be “thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (II Timothy 3:17) by mining the treasures of wisdom and knowledge found in Christ Jesus by allowing the Holy Ghost to teach him sound doctrine as he reads and believes God’s Word.

God Forever Dwelling in Man

Once the dispensation of the fulness of times begins (Ephesians 1:10), all believers will be in Christ. Then will be the complete fulfillment of Jesus’ prayer to the Father in John 17:21-23: “That they [believers] all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are one: I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one.”

This is how God will dwell with man for all eternity. Ephesians 2:20-22 says that we “are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for **an habitation of God** through the Spirit.” Therefore, in Isaiah 66:1, when God asks Israel, “Where is the house that ye build unto Me?” the answer is that Israel cannot build a house for God. Instead, Jesus Christ Himself “shall build the temple of the Lord” (Zechariah 6:12): 1) By being the chief corner stone through His death on the cross by which we become part of His building, and 2) By sanctifying us through God’s Word so that we may grow “unto an holy temple in the Lord” (Ephesians 2:21).

Because Christ is building this temple and Christ lives in us, we can already experience unity with the Godhead today. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that we read and believe God’s Word. This is why Proverbs 4:7 says that “wisdom is the principal thing.” Therefore, you serve God, not necessarily by the activity you do, but by Christ doing that activity through you, because you have used the mind of Christ through gaining wisdom from God’s Word to allow Christ to live in you. This is the omnipotence of God working through you today so that God has a place to dwell for all eternity.

How big is God? “The heaven of heavens cannot contain” Him (II Chronicles 6:18). This is because God is a Spirit (John 4:24). God has spent the last 6,000 years building Himself a house. The house God has built is holy man, and the reason we are holy (Colossians 3:12) is because Christ is holy and Christ lives in us. When Christ died, the Spirit of God witnessed His death as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. This Spirit encompasses the Godhead in heaven and the spirit, soul, and body of man in earth (I John 5:6-8). When we are saved, we are placed into Christ so that we are one with Him. Therefore, for all eternity, Christ will be in believers and God will be in Christ (John 17:23), which makes for God’s perfect, eternal home.

CHAPTER 6

From Extreme Religion and Drugs to Christ Is My only Life

I was raised Catholic, but I gave it up as soon as I could. In 1969, at age 19, there was one, major influence in my life. That influence was the “hippy-dippy” movement of the late sixties that preached “make love not war” and “if it feels good **(not god!)** do it.” My generation was enraptured by the idea of a perfectly constructed, man-made world where all the bad vibes would magically disappear in an ethereal cloud of hash smoke and patchouli oil. Since everyone from Baba Ram Das to the Beatles proclaimed that we were “gods,” then gods we would be! Our country was a democracy and “god” (lower case) was only permitted to be a co-equal voter on our communal cosmic island. We were sincere, but much too spoiled, over privileged, and dangerously naïve. Our churches had not come close to preaching the cross to us. Understanding what it meant to have a living Christ functioning in our soul was as “otherworldly” as an “alien” informing us to “phone home.” My contemporaries and I were desperate to “get it right” and “make it real.” We diagnosed the symptoms of our fatuous generation and “self-medicated” with psychedelic drugs and condemnation of “the system.”

After four years of this lifestyle, I really was looking for something more real and more eternal. I read Hal Lindsey’s book The Late Great Planet Earth. At about the same time, I went to a James Robison evangelistic crusade in my town of Morgan City, Louisiana. Finally, on December 10, 1973, at age 23, I believed the gospel through a Baptist young man’s witness to me.

I tried to fit into evangelical churches for about a year and then walked away from that organized religious stuff. Tragically, the truth of “Christ in you, [your] hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27) was not my center.

Four years later (1978), I got married and, after about a year of marriage, one of my old friends invited me to a Pentecostal church which I then began attending regularly. I was taught the prosperity gospel along with a portion of the holiness gospel. In other words, serve God and obey the law and God will bless you. Basically, it was a yuppie-type church that tried to co-mingle the Abrahamic covenant with spirit-filled gifts and then use that power for its own benefit. I followed this prosperity gospel and tried to use my faith to convince God to give me all the gifts of the Abrahamic covenant. Beginning in 1980, I became a leader and church builder of three, different, “spirit-filled” churches.

Then, around 1981, two things happened to me within a three-month period that would change my perspective: 1) My wife had a miscarriage. Ironically, this took place in a strange city, where she was going to a prosperity conference with me. (So much for the prosperity gospel!), and 2) I lost my business and went bankrupt, owing the government over \$500,000! These two things convinced me that God wanted me to get to know Him in a really eternal and interior way, rather than using Him as a slot machine.

One night, in 1984, I went to an old friend’s church that I helped establish. I went through all of his “spirit-field” magazines until I found a magazine called Union Life which explained to me two things:

1) I cannot lose my salvation, which was completely different from what the Pentecostal church taught me.

2) I learned that Christ actually lived IN me. Galatians 2:20 (“Christ liveth in me”) was used by the Holy Spirit to renew my mind literally overnight.

Finally, in 1987, I got totally burned out from trying to please a distant God through my works and left the Pentecostal churches I was a part of. For a few years now, I had been going through a process of pruning and mind renewal. I wish that I had been taught this message as a child. I wonder what my life would have been like if the message of “Christ as my only life” had been mixed with my mother’s milk and my father’s voice. My heavenly Father could not and would not “turn back the hands of time.” Instead, He gave me a much greater and more satisfying gift. He showed me how to live “His” life in front of my wife and children. Slowly, painfully, He stripped off layer after layer of carnal thinking, and my kids got to see how a mind could become renewed to Someone greater than itself.

Over time, the Holy Spirit renewed my mind to the eternal fact that the following three things are of real, eternal value:

1. I cannot live the Christian life or any part of my life. (Jesus said, “I can of mine own self do nothing....I seek...the will of the Father which hath sent Me” (John 5:30). What makes me think I can do any more than that?)

2. Christ Jesus is the only life there is. (“I am the way, the truth, and **the life**” (John 14:6).)

3. Christ Jesus desires to live His life through the believing Christian. Our job is to allow our minds to become renewed to the fact that we can only become an eternal reality by living in union with Christ who lives within us (Galatians 2:20).

Therefore, I have resolved to trust the life of the Son **in me** and base my identity on the humbling truth that **Christ is my only life**. As I learn to **trust** the Father’s love, my heavenly Father can **trust** me to reflect the wisdom of His counsel. I pray that my life reflects a strong desire for intimate union with my Father.

The Christ Life message is an astoundingly profound truth. I came to it with 33 years of worldly and religious contamination. I was like some victim of an atomic blast who had become irradiated with the fleshly fallout of a corrupt and dissolute world. I, like all of my generation, was a damaged soul. I desperately needed to become “de-contaminated” by the washing of the water of the Word of God (Who is Christ in me). The Holy Spirit began renewing my mind and taking away the absurd identities that I thought served as my shield from pain. The truth is that those false layers of soulish camouflage only desensitized me to the cleansing and resurrecting power of the Cross. Until “I” (the old me) died on it, “I” (Christ in me) could not truly live.

“For when I am weak [my flesh], then am I strong [Christ is strong]” (II Cor. 12:10).

APPENDIX – What We Have in Christ

The following is a list of 40 things that we have in Christ. NONE of these things can be accomplished by the flesh, even after we are saved.

Our “redemption...is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:24).
“The law of the Spirit of life [is] in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:2).
“The love of God...is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39).
We are “sanctified in Christ Jesus” (I Corinthians 1:2).
Christ Jesus “is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” (I Corinthians 1:30).
When we die, we fall asleep in Christ (I Corinthians 15:18).
Our hope is in Christ (I Corinthians 15:19).
We are alive in Christ (I Corinthians 15:22).
We rejoice in Christ Jesus our Lord (I Corinthians 15:31).
All the promises of God are in Christ (II Corinthians 1:20).
We are established in Christ (II Corinthians 1:21).
We always triumph in Christ (II Corinthians 2:14).
The law is done away with in Christ (II Corinthians 3:14).
We are a new creature in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17).
We are reconciled to God in Christ (II Corinthians 5:19).
We receive God’s righteousness in Christ (II Corinthians 5:21).
Things are simple in Christ (II Corinthians 11:3).
We have liberty in Christ Jesus (Galatians 2:4).
The promise of eternal life is in Christ (Galatians 3:17).
We are children of God by faith in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26).
All believers are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). (This is true ecumenicalism.)
We do not have to obey the law in Christ Jesus (Galatians 5:6 and 6:15).
We have all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
We are chosen in Christ (Ephesians 1:4).
All eternal things are in Christ (Ephesians 1:10).
God’s mighty power is in Christ (Ephesians 1:19-20).
We are seated together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).
We are created in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:10).
We are nigh to God because we are in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:13).
God’s eternal purpose for the church is in Christ (Ephesians 3:11).
Our consolation is in Christ (Philippians 2:1).
Our high calling of God is in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).
We are rooted and built up in Christ (Colossians 2:7).
All the fulness of the Godhead bodily is in Christ (Colossians 2:9).
We are complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10).
We are glorified in Christ (II Thessalonians 1:12).
Faith and love are in Christ Jesus (I Timothy 1:14).
God’s grace is in Christ Jesus (II Timothy 1:9).
Salvation is in Christ Jesus (II Timothy 2:10).
Godliness is in Christ Jesus, which is the summary of all things (II Timothy 3:12).