

Welcome to Living the Christian Life Online Christian magazine Of Spiritual Truth

A magazine seeking to encourage the Christian to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures remind us, that in us there is nothing that merits God's blessing, we are powerless to live victorious Christian lives in our own strength. The Gospel message reminds us, that It is the same power that made light to shine out of darkness that transforms our weak mortal sin cursed bodies to have a confidence to live the Christian life.

The disciples were told by the risen Lord to wait for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4)
Lord Jesus says to them "But ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you (Acts 1:8)
Paul prays for the power of our position in Christ to be manifested in our lives by faith

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power. . (Eph 1:19-20)

**For further reading on the subject -
go to Pilgrim Living**

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What is True Faith?

Did Jesus actually Claim to be God

Are you a Heir of Glory?

The Natures of Christ.

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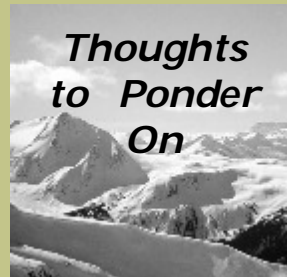
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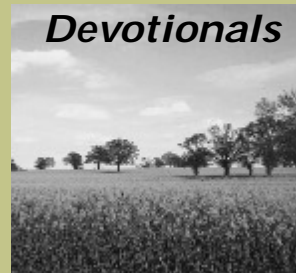


Cover Article
"With Joy you
shall draw water"

Thoughts to Ponder On



Devotionals



Bible Study Room



**Learning to grow
and mature through
study of the
Scriptures**

**"Study to show
yourself approved"**

2 Tim 2:15



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Living the Christian Life

Cover Article

Summer 2015 - Issue 8



**"With Joy you
shall Draw Water
out of the wells
of Salvation"**

***The thirsty soul feels the need to
come and to satisfy their longing
Come to the Saviour and drink"
(Isa 55:1)***

***Jesus used this event as an object
lesson and opportunity to make a
very public invitation on the last
day of the feast for His people to
accept Him as the living water His
words recall Isaiah 55.1***

***"Thirsty ... Come.. Drink. These
three words summarize the Gospel
call recognition of need leads to an
approach to the source of provision.
Followed by receiving what is
needed.***

Read more

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What is True Faith?

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The Natures of Christ.**

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With Joy you shall Draw Water

Christ reveals the Living Water – Bible Reading..

John Ch. 7:37-44 & Isaiah Ch.12:1-6

if you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water”

This Chapter introduces us to a further attribute of Christ’s character. That Jesus was the source of “Living water” The Samaritan women of Chapter 4 is first introduced to this spiritual source.

“Jesus answered and said to her, if you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water”

To get a true perspective on the statement Jesus made in this Chapter we need to look into the setting for the occasion which was the “Feast of Tabernacles or Booths” This was one of the three feasts that had to be celebrated at Jerusalem.

Introduction and background

The chapters 7 to 11 mark the last days of Jesus’ ministry on earth, and introduces the period of conflict about His person and who He was. John records for us in John chapter seven that Jesus no longer walked in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him, Not that He had done anything wrong, but because of what He said and did. Because Jesus refused to abide by their man made traditions they felt threatened and were jealous of the authority He exhibited in His ministry. Matthew reminds us. ***“When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes” (Mat.7:24)***

They were proud of their traditions even if it commanded equal or more status than Gods written word. They became spiritually blind to the essentials of their faith. Jesus said about them again in Matthew ***“Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind, both will fall into the pit”.*** (Matt 15 14)

Many are like that today they hold on to tradition and religious trappings which are worthless and devoid of any merit toward salvation. But refuse to heed to Scripture and choose ignore because it does not fit into their religious beliefs, they want a designer God not one will highlight their short comings.

This is what the Jews were doing, they objected to Jesus words which were a rebuke to their traditions and religious chains which bound the people into spiritual slavery, Jesus words were to release from these chains, to set them free.

On the last day the great day of the feast.

The feast of Booths or Tabernacles was the harvest festival memorial of redemption for Israel, prophetic of kingdom rest and blessings through Israel to the nations. The last day of the feast was the most solemn and climatic of the entire festal cycle. It was the eighth day of rest and holy assembly ***“Jesus stood and cried out, saying, if any man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink”.***

A tradition grew up in the few centuries before Jesus that on the seven days of the feast of Booths or Tabernacles, a golden container filled with water from the pool of Siloam was carried in procession by the high priest back to the temple.

As the procession came to the Watergate on the s side of the inner temple court 3 trumpet blasts were made to mark the joy of the occasion and the people recited Isaiah Chapter.12 v3

“You will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation”

At the temple while onlookers watched, the priests would march around the altar with the water container while the temple choir sang the Hallel (Psalm 113-118)

The water was offered in sacrifice to God at the time of the morning sacrifice. The use of the water symbolized the blessings of adequate rainfall for crops this ritual was performed on each of the seven days. It was also a memorial aspect that prefigured their wilderness wanderings.

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With Joy you Shall Draw Water Page 2

“You will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation”

Jesus used this event as an object lesson and opportunity to make a very public invitation on the last day of the feast for His people to accept Him as the living water His words recall Isaiah 55.1

“Thirsty ... Come.. Drink.

The water poured out was commemorating the water supplied to Israel in the desert On the eighth day signified the enjoyment of the springs of the land itself and no water was poured out. Jesus stood and offered the Spiritual reality of the kingdom to individual believers, but the national fulfilment to Israel of all that the festal ritual signified awaits His second advent.

Jesus used this event as an object lesson and opportunity to make a very public invitation on the last day of the feast for His people to accept Him as the living water His words recall Isaiah 55.1

“Thirsty ... Come.. Drink. These three words summarize the Gospel call recognition of need leads to an approach to the source of provision. Followed by receiving what is needed.

***The thirsty soul feels the need to come and to satisfy their longing
Come to the Saviour and drink***

Come and receive His gracious offer of Salvation

“Ho everyone who thirsts, come to the waters And you who have no money come buy and eat. Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost” (Isa 55:1)

The Servants redemptive work

The Servants redemptive work and glorious kingdom are for the benefit of all who are willing to come. The Prophet invites those who come, to participate in benefits and blessings obtained by the suffering Servant of Isaiah 53:6-8

Paul reminds us in Eph.2:8-9 “For by grace are you have been saved through faith; and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not as a result of works, so that no one may boast For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them”

The wine and milk are symbolic of the abundance and satisfaction and prosperity (Joel 3:18)
In that day the mountains will drip with sweet wine and the hills will flow milk. And the brooks of Judah will flow with water and a spring will go out from the house of the LORD

The significance of Jesus invitation

was that it centres on the fact He was the fulfilment of all that the feast of Booths or Tabernacles. He was the one who provided the living water that gives eternal life. He is the water of life

Those that receive and accept the invitation find that sought after spiritual rest to the soul, a fountain rising up, a continuous spring whose source is from God,. but those that receive not continue to grope around in spiritual darkness. They are drinking from the polluted waters of life

The water that I shall give him, shall be in him a well of water

This reminds us that we have a never ending supply, for the grace of God given at conversion is exceeding abundant, it comes in large flows into the hearts of regenerate persons, and flows out of them, as rivers of living water: and which also abides, for it continues

Its a fountain springing up into everlasting life:

it is a seed which remains, an immortal and never dying principle; it is inseparably connected with eternal life; it is the beginning of it, and it issues in it; whoever has grace, shall have glory; and whoever are called, sanctified, justified, and pardoned, shall be glorified: such is the nature, influence, and use of this living water.

Sonship and Adoption

Continuing studies on A New Creation

The Scriptures give clear indication that not only have we been made partakers of the Diving nature, We have also been made a child of God. And have received the nature of a child of God.

Divine Nature - Sonship and Adoption

The scriptures give clear indication that not only have we been made partakers of the Divine nature but we have been adopted in the Divine. In regeneration the Christian receives the nature of a child of God; and in adoption he receives the position of a son of God.

Eph 1.5 Having predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will

The word "children"

is from the Gr. Teknon meaning "one born" When a baby is born into a family it takes on the family name, likewise when the believer is born spiritually, he or she is born into the family of God.

The spiritually renewed child of God

is characterised by a renewed mind in contrast to the blind ignorance of the old nature as characterised by the "old man" He is created in the likeness God in true holiness and righteousness.

The new man

has been delivered from the works of sin, falsehood, anger, grudges, theft, laziness and impure speech (see Eph 4 v22-31)

The characteristics of the new man

in contrast are, kind hearted to one another, forgiving one another, walking in love.

In creation

man was made in the image of God, by sin and disobedience the image of God in man was defaced. All mankind bears the image of the earthly. See (1Cor 15.49)

In the incarnation

Jesus Christ came as the image of the invisible God See (2Cor 4.4 & Col 1.15) God's purpose is that the believer should be conformed to the image of His Son. See. (Rom 8.29)

Paul in Ephesians reminds to.

Be ye, therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.

Conclusion

Not only did Jesus Christ rise from the dead and ascend into heaven, but also he is seated at the right-hand of God interceding on our behalf.

The effects of our fallen nature and the attacks of the evil one are only too evident in our daily lives to remind us of our failures, and yet in these loving verses the love of the Father to his children is evident to forgive our short comings.

Our true image of the Father will not be complete until at Christ's return when the saints will bear the image of the heavenly. (See 1 Cor 15.49 and Phil 3.21)

Bible Reading

John Ch.3 1-13 (GNT)

Jesus and Nicodemus

There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, who belonged to the party of the Pharisees. 2 One night he went to Jesus and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one could perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him.”

3 Jesus answered, “I am telling you the truth: no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again.”

4 “How can a grown man be born again?” Nicodemus asked. “He certainly cannot enter his mother's womb and be born a second time!”

5 “I am telling you the truth,” replied Jesus, “that no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. 6 A person is born physically of human parents, but is born spiritually of the Spirit. 7 Do not be surprised because I tell you that you must all be born again. 8 The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

9 “How can this be?” asked Nicodemus.

10 Jesus answered, “You are a great teacher in Israel, and you don't know this? 11 I am telling you the truth: we speak of what we know and report what we have seen, yet none of you is willing to accept our message.

God’s Covenanted Rest - God’s Work in Creation

God's Sabbath rest of creation broken

*Not only was God's Sabbath rest broken.
But also that perfect creation was now under the
bondage of sin.*

Jesus was the True Sabbath in which God rested.

*It was broken by sin, and yet Jehovah God took the
first steps in His work of redemption. To rescue fearful,
ashamed alienated fallen man.
The tragic nature of the fall has some lessons to be
learned*

*The act of obedience placed on Adam could only be
attained by man being placed in moral conflict with
possibility of yielding to evil*

Introduction to God’s Covenanted Rest

- a). Scripture reveals the revelation of God and His eternal purposes
- b). The whole of Scripture is a revelation of Jesus Christ
Emmaus Road story (Read Luke 24:13-32)

Man’s Redeemer

It is also in these titles that Christ as Jehovah Elohim, Man's Redeemer not only the Book of beginnings but also throughout the Bible and finally in the closing verses of Revelation.

When Man was created, he was created a perfect being and he was placed in a perfect environment (Gen 1:28)

The Garden is the Holy of holies

Eden the Holy place. Adam was counted not only as an individual, but at the same time as the primary ancestor and organic representative of the whole of his descendents. (Read 1 Cor.1:5:22 & Rom. 5:12-21)

In Gen 2:16 We see the first Covenant of God. Man was placed in the Garden not only to have dominion over it but also to multiply and fill the earth, and to subdue, but with this came responsibility.

God’s Covenanted Rest

A covenant of God is a sovereign pronouncement of God by which He establishes a "relationship of responsibility" Therefore the command not to eat of the fruit was a test of obedience. And it is from this beginning, there opened up a highly significant struggle

Next in the series >> “God’s Creative Rest”

God’s Covenanted Rest.
Bible reading
Genesis
Ch. 2:1-24

*By the seventh day
God had finished
the work he had
been doing;
so on the seventh
day he rested from
all his work.*

*Then God blessed
the seventh day
and made it holy,
because on it he
rested from all the
work of creating
that he had done
(Gen 2:2-3)*

*John 5:17-18
But He answered
them, "My Father is
working until now,
and I Myself am
working."*

*For this reason
therefore the Jews
were seeking all the
more to kill Him,
because He not only
was breaking the
Sabbath, but also
was calling God His
own Father, making
Himself equal with
God....*

God’s Creative Rest - God’s Work in Creation 2

*On the sixth day God created Man.
"Let us make man in our image after our likeness*

*Let them hath dominion our all creation.
God blessed them and said Be fruitful and
multiply and fill the earth, and subdue it and have
dominion.*

1. God's Creative Rest. Genesis. Ch. 1 to 2:15

Man 's perfect environment

Up to this point in the Creative story (Gen 2:3) the general term "God" has been used "Elohim which is plural in nature. We,see this more clearly in Proverbs 8, where we see the personification of wisdom being revealed. In v22-36 we see a distinct foreshadowing of Christ.

It is also in these titles that we see Christ as Jehovah Elohim, Man's Redeemer not only the Book of beginnings but also throughout the Bible and finally in the closing verses of Revelation.

When man filled the scene and assumed control of the earth created for him. It's in His Jehovah character God, that is introduced. In special revelatory and redemptive relationship to man.

- a). Man created in God's image and likeness was placed in sovereignty over the earth.
- b). He was crowned with glory and honour (Psalm 8. 5-8)
- c) Yet he was subject to God his creator. The Divine was and is that man should have fellowship with God in obedience.
Everything involving the creative story was perfect.

Gen 1:31 reminds us And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good. And the evening and morning were the sixth day.

God's Creative Rest Godr

God rested from His creative work on the seventh day. It was to be become The Sabbath rest of God. And also become the basis of the Mosaic Sabbath.

There was no evening to the Sabbath day, it has no evening, it is eternal. It foretells Christ, the true Sabbath, in whom God rests and in whom believers rest. This is God's own eternal rest.

Heb. Ch.4 v3. For we who have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest; although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

*God’s Creative rest was broken by sin, and yet Jehovah God took
the first steps in His work of redemption. To rescue fearful,
ashamed alienated fallen man.*

Next in the series >> “God’s Redemptive Rest”

Bible Reading

God’s Eternal
Rest. Bible
reading
Genesis
Ch. 2:1-24

*By the seventh
day God had
finished the work
he had been
doing;
so on the seventh
day he rested
from all his work.*

*Then God blessed
the seventh day
and made it holy,
because on it he
rested from all the
work of creating
that he had done
(Gen 2:2-3)*

*Notice in verse
26-27 While yet he
had not made the
earth, nor the
fields, nor the
highest part of the
dust of the world.
When he prepared
the heavens I was
there,*

*see also
John 1:1
I Cor 1 :24
Col 2:1*

God’s Redemptive Rest - God’s Work in Creation.3

God's Sabbath rest of creation broken

It was broken by sin, and yet Jehovah God took the first steps in His work of redemption. To rescue fearful, ashamed alienated fallen man.

The work of redemption whereby God clothes the guilty sinner in the robes of His own righteousness.It also in theses verses that we first promise of a Redeemer made *Jesus was the True Sabbath in which God rested.*

God's Redemption Rest Genesis Chapter 3.

In John Chapter five In answer to the Jewish leaders persecution The Lord Jesus says

"My Father worketh hitherto, and I work". (Verse 17) in these verses Jesus is reminding them that His command to the healed man to carry his bed on the Sabbath was in accordance with a previous act by His Father recorded in Gen 3:21 "In the making of coats of skins" Here we see the tragic consequence of the temptation and fall which was nothing less than the universal sinfulness of all humanity.

The woman was deceived but the man sinned willingly. (1 Tim. 2 14-15) Both lost their innocence, became sin and shame conscious and tried cover their guilt and nakedness by some form of human effort of works.

God's Sabbath rest of creation was broken by sin, and yet He took the first steps in His work of redemption. To rescue fearful, ashamed alienated fallen man.

In the story of the lame man, the Lord Jesus presented proof of His Messiahship. That He Himself was the True Sabbath in which God rested. Not only was God's Sabbath rest broken. But also that perfect creation was now under the bondage of sin.

The whole creation groaned, and travaileth in pain together until now. (Rom. 8:18-23)

Genesis Chapter three records for us two distinct activities.

First - it tells of the attempt of fallen man to make himself fit for the presence of God and

Secondly - the activity of God's work in redemption, of making man acceptable for His presence, so that He Himself could not find a flaw..

The Lord Jehovah provided a sacrifice by which the first man and woman were clothed with coats of skins.

This portrays that the work of redemption whereby God clothes the guilty sinner in the robes of His own righteousness.It also in theses verses that we first promise of a Redeemer made, this predicted that He would be of the human race.It includes prophecies concerning Christ which were fulfilled in His birth and works at His first advent. But ultimately the prophecy will have its fulfilment in Revelation.

Next in the Series >> “God’s Eternal Rest”

Bible Reading

God’s Eternal Rest. Bible reading Genesis Ch. 2:1-24

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done (Gen 2:2-3)

God's Eternal Rest. 4

The tree of life appears three times in Revelation, where, the new paradise is described. It is through Christ's death on the tree that mankind may have eternal life. He bore our sin in his own body on the tree.

The Tree of Life

- The tree of death appears at the opening of the Bible (Gen 2:17)
- The tree of Calvary in the middle of the Bible (IPet.2:24)
- The tree of Life at the end of the Bible (Rev.2:7)

"The tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God"

The tree of life has many allusions in the Revelation to Genesis, In order to keep fallen man from eating of the tree of life, God drove them from Eden.

The tree of life appears three times in Revelation, where, the new paradise is described. It is through Christ's death on the tree that mankind may have eternal life. He bore our sin in his own body on the tree.

Let us Draw Near - In Hebrews Ch.10: :22-23 we are reminded

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised)

The tragic fall of Genesis three, has some lessons to be learned, that there is an adversary who is going about like a roaring lion. Ephesians Ch.6 makes us aware that we do 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.

The act of obedience placed on Adam, could only be attained only by man being placed in moral conflict with the possibility of yielding to evil. Only in a conflict could he conquer; only so could he obtain the crown of the overcomer.

For Adam not eating the fruit would have been victory in the temptation. Each victory over temptation would have ripened and deepened his inner life. More and more he would have recognised the good and seen through the evil, and would have grown out of the condition of childlike innocence into one of adult ripeness of victorious holiness.

On the other hand Satan, the adversary of God, would not allow the work of his enemy, this man created pure and good to go unattacked. Thus at the very beginning, there opened up a highly significant struggle.

And today there is still this great conflict between Satan and the believer. That is why Paul reminds us to take on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Adam and Eve were banished from Paradise, But we have the immense privilege of entering into His very presence.

Come Boldly to the Throne of Grace

Let us , therefore, come boldly unto the throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)

The final history mil return to the opening history, and at last, Paradise will be restored on a new earth and heavenly Paradise (Rev. 22:1-5)

Bible Reading

The tree of Life Rev 2:7

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Eden Restored Rev 22 1- 5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever

NIV

Do we believe in the Power of Prayer?

Do we Know the Power of Prayer in our Lives ?

The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much
Read Acts 12 : 1-18 & Ephesians 6 :10-24

Prayer is the capstone of the believer's armour, It is to be His
uninterrupted activity

For our prayers to be effective it must have two essential requirements

Conditions for Powerful Prayer.

(1) The Power of Prayer -- Righteous Prayer

(a) It is by faith and belief that God will answer prayer.

[Listen to what Jesus says in Matt. 21.v21-22](#)

Jesus answered and said unto them, verily I say unto you, if ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also, if ye shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea, it shall be done. And all things, whatever, ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

(b) A oneness with God

The second point we notice for our prayers to be effective, there needs to be a oneness between Man and God. There is a mighty gulf between the unbeliever and God, In effect he is spiritually dead and cannot communicate with God.

**The Bible says in 1 Peter 4 v6
For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are
dead**

The bible says that he is alienated from the life of God through sin, his understanding is darkened through ignorance and blindness of heart

They have a zeal for God but not according to knowledge.

They go about establishing their own righteousness and have not submitted themselves into the righteousness of God.

Self righteousness, is the futile effort of man to work out a character or mode of living which God can approve.

*Man outside of God bound in chains, the chains of sin,
and is under the control of the devil.*

Next page Our Spiritual Resources for Prayer

Next page knowing the power >>>>>>

Do we believe in the Power of Prayer?

(2)... The Power of Prayer -- Spiritual Resources

For our prayers to be effective we must be mindful that we are in a Spiritual warfare, and therefore we need the Spiritual resources if we are to be successful.

We wrestle not against flesh and blood

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12)

Our Prayers must be Spiritually led

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

The warfare of the Spirit filled Believer calls for three essential requirements

a. We must realise and appropriate the power of God within us

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

b. We must appropriate the Warriors armour

Wherefore, take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day.

c. We must utilise the warriors resources.

1. The girdle of truth - which gives confidence against the onslaught of error (Eph. 6:14)

2. The breastplate of righteousness - Gives protection against the subtle temptations of unrighteousness - (the practical outgrowth of imputed righteousness) (Eph. 6:14)

3. The good news of peace with God - Produces firm-footed stability and assurance (Eph. 6:15)

4. The shield, which consists of faith - Offers a defence against the devious attacks of Satan. (Eph. 6:16)

5. Salvation constitutes the helmet or headgear - Protecting the vital organs which have to do with the believers, thought live and spiritual senses.

6. The only offensive weapon is the sword - Which the Spirit provides, the word of God (Eph. 6:17)

Praying in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Eph. 6:18)

The Power of Prayer - Preserving Power of Prayer

**Prayer is the capstone of the believer's armour,
It is to be His uninterrupted activity**

Prayer is the capstone of the believer's armour in that it is to be his uninterrupted activity. It is in this realm that the armour Christ has provided is appropriated to the immediate conflict being waged.

(3) The Power of Preserving prayer

Our prayer life must be one of constant prayer

Paul brings his final exhortation (Ephesians 6: 18)

***Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
and watching thereto with all perseverance and supplication
for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)***

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, -

The last weapon is prayer, and takes in all sorts of prayer, mental and vocal, public and private; and every branch of it, as deprecation of evils, petitions for good things, and thanksgiving for mercies: and which should be used always:

The exhortation is to pray often -

As he or she has an opportunity; and particularly, that he should make use of it in times of darkness, desertion, and temptation: and this, when performed aright, is performed "in the Spirit"; with the heart, soul, and spirit engaged in it; it is put up with a true heart, and a right spirit, and without hypocrisy; in a spiritual way, and with fervency, and under the influence, and by the assistance of the Spirit of God.

To be ever watching with all perseverance; -

Either to the word, as a direction for prayer, or to prayer itself; for opportunities to pray for the assistance of the Spirit in prayer, for an answer of it, and to return thanks for blessings when bestowed; and against all dependence on it, and against Satan's temptations, and our own corruptions with respect to it:

Praying supplication for all saints;

Of every nation, in all places. The Lord Jesus Christ taught his disciples to pray, saying, our Father, suggesting, that they were not only to pray for themselves, but for all the children of God.

**Can the Christian make a difference to the world's problems?
He can through Prayer**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

It is only through His power that we have the victory.

He says I will build my Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

The Jews were given the land of Canaan to occupy; yet they never appropriated the whole of the land because of unbelief . They failed to appropriate God's sovereign power. We will fail also if we do not appropriate all that God has given us to process

The Blessing of Being Justified

Psalm Ch.32

**This is the first of 13 Psalms, Psalms of Spiritual instruction
The Justifier is also the hiding place, a guide and a preserver,
in whom the saint is to rejoice.**

**I acknowledge my sin unto you, and my iniquity have
I not hid. I Said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD:
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin .**

God's Blessing of Justification

We can only know God's blessing

when we acknowledge our own unworthiness, before a holy and just God. We have to remove “self” off the throne and allow God to have his rightful place in our lives. Self-justification centres upon the “me” “I have the right “is the by-word of this present generation, everything centres on the individual.

In Genesis we are reminded that man was made in the “image and likeness” of God. This image is found chiefly in the fact that man is a personal, rational, and moral being. While God is infinite and man finite, nevertheless man possesses the elements of personality similar to those of the divine Person: Thinking, feeling, willing.

That man has a moral nature is further attested in the New Testament (1Thes 5:23) That man is made up of body, soul and spirit.

Romans Ch1:21-23 reminds us –***“Because, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man”***

The context of the verse is that God's wrath against Man is based not on his faulty reasoning of his own supposed goodness. The divine arraignment of the fallen race is on two counts

Man's guilty abandonment of God's glory. And His progressive moral declension

Hence man is under God's wrath i.e. under the necessary expression of divine displeasure against human sin, because of God's infinite holiness.

The reason.

man changed the divine glory into idolatry and God gave up to uncleanness. Man changed the truth of God into a lie resulting in God abandoning him to gross immoralities. Man forsook the knowledge of God resulting in God abandoning him to a base mind and perverted conduct. What a horrible picture of human depravity.

Next >>>>> Man is in darkness concerning *himself*.

Man is in Darkness Concerning himself

From where am I from?

What am I?

Am I more than a reasoning animal?

Why am I here on this planet?

Man is in darkness concerning *himself*. From whence am I? What am I? Am I anything more than a reasoning animal? Have I an immortal soul, or, am I nothing more than a sentient being? What is the purpose of my existence? Why am I here in this world at all? What is the end and aim of life? How shall I employ my time and talents? Shall I live only for today, eat, drink, and be merry? What after death? Do I perish like the beasts of the field, or is the grave the portal into another world? If so, whither am I bound?

Our *corporate life* reveals our need. What is to govern and regulate our dealings one with the other? Shall each do that which is right in his own eyes? That would destroy all law and order. Shall we draw up some moral code, some ethical standard? But who shall fix it? Opinions vary. We need some final court of appeal:

Man then *needs* a Divine revelation; God is *able* to supply that need; therefore, is it not *reasonable* to suppose He will do so? Surely God will not mock our ignorance and leave us to grope in the dark!

Psalm 32 Reminds us that there is a remedy and a way back from this pitiful condition of human misery

It gives illumination on “Life’s important lessons” about sin, confession, and forgiveness.

There are two avenues of approach.

1 Remembering these lessons. (v1-5)

a) the results of forgiveness (v1-2)

b) The anguish of resistance v3-4

Selah “pause for thought”

c) The response of forgiveness (v5)

Identify Accept Selah “pause for thought”

2 Relaying the lessons learnt (v6-11)

a) The repsonse to being forgiven (v6-7)

b) The response of teachableness (v8-9)

c) Biblical wisdom. Instruct, teach, council

d) The result of teachableness (v10-11)

e) Confidence & Peace Psalm Ch1. Jer Ch17 v7-8 John Ch14 v27

Salt and Light a soothing Influence on Society

The most conspicuous thing about this previous year has been the greed and selfishness. Not only amongst individuals but also in the corporative field, the basic idea of a fair days pay for a fair days work, seems lost on the corporate bosses of today. Post Christmas sales reveals that in the two days after Christmas an estimated 6 billion pounds worth of goods were sold through retail outlets, It is estimated that most of this spend will on credit. It seems consumerism is alive and kicking. We have learnt nothing from the past financial crisis.

The second conspicuous thing has been the increase in violence; the increase in evil is alarming with no sector of the community immune to it. The recent killing of School children in Pakistan has shocked the world. But the most alarming thing about it was that it was perpetrated in the name of religion. It seems this barbaric behaviour knows no boundaries. Extreme Religious fundamentalism is alien to all that is acceptable and morally right. It is not true religion.

This rampant evil can easily shake our faith in human nature, even cause us to doubt belief in God, This anxiety steals our joy and is a thief to our souls. Peace is an elusive commodity, the hope of Christmas “peace to the world is far from us” Yet can we make a difference is there another way?.

The saying “if only” is favourite saying when we look back in time in our lives, and yet the majority of our circumstances in which we find ourselves in are out of our control. The way of “if only” is a dead end and leading nowhere because we cannot change the outcomes. Although we can learn from the past we can’t live in the past. The Scriptures remind us to embrace the “here and now”, to speak the truth and in accordance to what is right. Time is something we cannot stop, the past is gone we are only to seize the day. Today is the gift of today to use to its full extent.

The great blessing of God’s “meanwhile” is the grand master of our life; it is perfect in all His dealings with us. Are we content to be in the centre of god’s will? The Sermon on the Mount in Matthews gospel, commands us to be “salt and light” to be a light in the darkness of evil. Can our faltering steps make a difference? Even a dim light can dispel darkness. We are to live lives that are an aseptic to society, living out Christian lives that can affect those around us

The primary and pre-eminent purpose of salt in Bible times was as an aseptic; to prevent the processes of decay and putrefaction in meats and foodstuffs. It would seem that our Lord in these verses in Matthew (Mat 5:13-14) thinks of the world in which His people lived, as in the grip of moral and spiritual decay. The world is dead in trespasses and sins.

But he says to His people I have redeemed you, you are the salt of the earth. You are in this World as a moral and spiritual aseptic. You are quite different from the world, you process a different life. A spiritual life. When the Lord looks upon us frail and weak, yet through His power and recipients of a divine nature He says “You are the salt of the earth” There is something within you which is capable of stemming the tide of sin around us. There is something in you which by the grace of God are capable of stopping the impetus of iniquity

Yours is a life, a triumphant live, a victorious life, a life of true glorious God-given victory. Let us make this coming year count, let us be “salt and light” and a soothing influence on society

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. (Phil. 4:8-9)

For a full study on Salt and Light go to >>>>>>>>

What is Life all about?

What is its Purpose? –

“Unless you assume a God, the question of life’s purpose is meaningless” Bertram Russell

Mr. Russell was speaking from an atheistic viewpoint and yet his words have much truth attached to it, without a Creator God in the equation then life does become meaningless. The end result is meaninglessness and despair. When man destroys God, he destroys himself. Atheism is suicidal.

The Frenchman philosopher Jean Paul Sartre taught that each man exists in a watertight compartment as an isolated individual in a purposeless universe. Since we cannot know who we are, where we came from, and where we are going; since we do not understand the past and have no hope of the future, then the present throbbing moment is all that matters.

Only what we realize in the immediate present is significant and has meaning. Distant goals have no validity. Therefore, to sacrifice the present for the future is nonsensical and stupid. It is out of this philosophy came the “now generation,” the generation which cannot wait. The pleasure of the moment is the only rational goal of existence

The above quotations mirrors the present so called modern generation, the hostility of the austerity measures being applied by our present government to remedy the debt crisis is seen as unworkable and the cause of much poverty. But the truth of the matter is that we have become too use to living beyond our means.

The present generation is a pleasure seeking and self indulging people, with very little thought to the future. It is when we leave God out of the equation, that man falls to a lower moral level and one which is devoid of any responsibility. The self-willed person says we have freedom of action and of will. We are our own masters; we prefer the religion of self determination.

We demand ones rights while at the same time abdicating our responsibility that comes with those rights. And yet when things go wrong they utter the words “If there is a God why did he let it happen.” But sin deadens and blinds the conscience, and morality becomes subjective and has no standard, but is dependent upon circumstances.

We are drinking from the dregs of a polluted society, a society which strives for peace and well-being, while at the same time demands one’s rights without being held responsible for its subsequent actions We are living in an age which is far advanced than any previous age, technology knows no boundaries, and yet for all this advancement, man has not yet learned to be at peace with fellow man, violence and murder is very evident day by day, brutality and abuse of humankind knows no bounds.

More people are being displaced from their habitation and country of origin because of strife and wars, famine is evident in many countries and often this is because of corruption.

Yet it’s against this background, that the Biblical principles of life and harmony are seen as unworkable and out of date in a modern society. But the reality of it all is that it is the only principle that can bring order that works, a set of standards and principles that bring true peace and true harmony in our neighborhoods.

The Ten Commandments written in stone many thousand years ago, yet still relevant today as when they were first proclaimed. It is the most profound biblical standard of life and of true moral living the world has known. They are not seen as a statement of belief, but as an active way of life, living out the truth and wisdom of the biblical message.

The summation of it all is

**“acknowledging the existent of a creator God &
We are to walk in love, to have respect for one another,”
just as Christ also loved you, and gave
Himself up for us, an offering and
a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma (Eph 5:1-2) NASB**

What is True Dynamic Faith

The Life of Faith (Hebrews Ch.10 v19 to 13 v19)

“They who trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed.
As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his
people from henceforth even forever” (Psalm 125:1-2)
(Faith) John 3:5 – Gen 3:20 – Heb 11:39

What is Faith?

Faith is defined as confidence or trust in a being, object, deity, view, or in the doctrines or teachings of a religion,

Faith in Christianity is based on the work and teachings of Jesus Christ. Christianity declares not to be distinguished by faith, but by the object of its faith. Rather than being passive, faith leads to an active life aligned with the ideals and the example of the life of Jesus. It sees the mystery of God and his grace and seeks to know and become obedient to God. To a Christian, faith is not static but causes one to learn more of God and grow, and has its origin in God.

In Christianity, faith causes change as it seeks a greater understanding of God. Faith is not just blindly following a set of rules or statements or obedience to a creed. Before Christians have faith, they must understand in whom and in what they have faith in.

Without understanding, there cannot be true faith, and that understanding is built on the foundation of the community of believers, the scriptures and traditions and on the personal experiences of the believer

The Essence of faith

consists in believing and receiving what God has revealed, and may be defined as that trust in the God of the Scriptures and in Jesus Christ, whom He has sent, which receives Him as Lord and Saviour and impels us to a loving obedience and of good works.

See John 1:2 James 2:14-26

The Scriptures in Hebrews exhorts us –

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith (Heb 10:22)

The exhortation is the description of all that Christ is, and has done as found in verses 15-18
Having an assurance and perfect confidence in the finality of Christ's Sacrifice which is –

Penal (Gal.3:13 2 Cor.5:2)

Substitutionary – (Lev. 1:4 Isa.53:5-6 1 Pet.2:24)

Voluntary (John 10:18)

Redemptive (Gal.3:13 Eph.1:7 1Cor.6:20)

Propitiatory (Rom.3:25)

Reconciling (2Cor.5:18-19 Col.1:21-22)

Efficacious (John 12:32-33 Rom 5:9-10 2Cor 5:4 Eph.2:13 Heb 9:11-12,26)
(Heb.10:10-17 1John 1:7 Rev.1:5)

Revelatory (John 3:16 Rom 3:25-26 1John 4:9-10)

>>>>>>> Next page

Are You an Heir of Glory?

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are children of God. For you didn't receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified with him."

Romans 8:14-17

***The above verses set before us a very solemn question—
Are you an heir of glory?***

The inheritance I speak of is the only inheritance which can be kept forever. -

All others must be left in the hour of death, if they have not been taken away before. The owners of millions can carry nothing with them beyond the grave. But it is not so with the heirs of glory. Their inheritance is eternal. The inheritance I speak of is the only inheritance which is within everybody's reach. Most men can never obtain riches and greatness, though they labor hard for them all their lives. But glory, honor, and eternal life, are offered to every man freely, who is willing to accept them on God's terms. "Whoever will," may be an heir of glory.

If you wish to have a portion of this inheritance, you must be a member of that one family on earth to which it belongs, and that is the family of all true Christians. You must become one of God's children on earth, if you desire to have glory in heaven. None but true Christians are the children of God. None but the children of God are heirs of glory.

***The relation of all true Christians to God. - They are God's "SONS."* -**

I know no higher and more comfortable word that could have been chosen. To be servants of God—to be subjects, soldiers, disciples, friends—all these are excellent titles. But to be the sons of God, is a step higher still. What says the Scripture? "The servant abides not in the house for over—but the son abides ever." (John 8:35.)

To be son of the rich and noble in this world—to be son of the princes and kings of the earth—this is reckoned a privilege. But to be a son of the King of kings, and Lord of lords—to be a son of the High and Holy One, who inhabits eternity—this is something higher still. And yet this is the portion of every true Christian.

But how can sinful men like you and I become sons of God? When do they enter into this glorious relationship? We are not the sons of God by nature. We are not born so when we come into the world. No man has a natural right to look to God as his Father.

The Epistle to the Ephesians tells us,

"You were by nature children of wrath, even as others." (Ephes. 2:3.) The Epistle of John says, "the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil—whoever does not righteousness is not of God." (1 John 3:10.)

Men become sons of God in the day that the Spirit -

leads them to believe on Jesus Christ for salvation, and not before. What says the Epistle to the Galatians? "You are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:36.) What says the Epistle to the Corinthians? "Of him are you in Christ Jesus." (1 Cor. 1:30.)

Part two >>>> Power to become the sons of God

Continuing the thought are you an heir of God?- Power to become Children of God

What says the Gospel of John? "As many as received Christ, to them gave the power (or privilege) to become the sons of God, even to those who believe on His name." (John 1:12.) Faith unites the sinner to the Son of God, and makes him one of His members. Faith makes him one of those in whom the Father sees no spot, and is well pleased.

Faith marries the believer to the beloved Son of God,

It entitles him to be reckoned among the sons. Faith gives him fellowship with the Father and the Son. Faith grafts him into the Father's family, and opens up to him a room in the Father's house. Faith gives him life instead of death, and makes him instead of being a servant, a son.

Reader, I warn you to beware of the delusive notion, that all men and women are alike children of God, whether they have faith in Christ or not. It is a wild theory which many are clinging to in these days—but one which cannot be proved out of the Word of God. It is a perilous dream, with which many are trying to soothe themselves—but one from which there will be a fearful waking up at the last day.

That God, in a certain sense, is the universal Father of all mankind,

I do not pretend to deny. He is the Great First Cause of all things. He is the Creator of all mankind, and in Him alone, all men, whether Christians or heathens, live and move, and have their being. All this is unquestionably true. In this sense Paul told the Athenians, a poet of their own had truly said, "We are His offspring." (Acts 17:28.) But this son-ship gives no man a title to heaven. The son-ship which we have by creation, is one which belongs to stones, trees, beasts, or even to the devils—as much as to us.

That God loves all mankind with a love of pity and compassion,

I do not deny. His tender mercies are over all His works. He is not willing that any should perish—but that all should come to repentance. He has no pleasure in the death of him that dies. All this I admit to the full. In this sense our Lord Jesus tells us, "God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish—but have everlasting life." (John 3:16.)

It is nonsense to talk of the view I am now upholding as narrow-minded and harsh. The Gospel sets an open door before every man. Its promises are wide and full. Its invitations are earnest and tender. Its requirements are simple and clear. Only believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and whoever you are, you shall be saved. But to say that proud men, who will not bow their necks to the easy yoke of Christ, and worldly men, who are determined to have their own way and their sins—to say that such men have a right to claim an interest in Christ, and a right to call themselves sons of God, is absurdity indeed.

God offers to be their Father—but He does it on certain distinct terms—

They must draw near to Him through Christ. Christ offers to be their Savior—but in doing it He makes one simple requirement—they must commit their souls to Him, and give Him their hearts. They refuse the terms, and yet dare to call God their Father! They scorn the requirement, and yet dare to hope that Christ will save them! God is to be their Father—but on their own terms! Christ is to be their Savior—but on their conditions!

What can be more unreasonable? What can be more proud? What can be more unholy than such as doctrine as this? Beware of it, reader, for it is a common doctrine in these latter days. Beware of it, for it is often speciously put forward, and sounds beautiful and charitable in the mouths of poets, novelists, sentimentalists, and tender-hearted women. Beware of it, unless you mean to throw aside your Bible altogether, and set up yourself to be wiser than God. Stand fast on the old Scriptural ground. No sonship to God without Christ! No interest in Christ without faith!

Extracted from Are You an Heir? by J. C. Ryle

Back>>>>> to part one Heir of glory

The Natures of Christ.

The Bible represents Christ as a Person having two natures, the one divine and the other human.

For a fuller study
see
The Doctrine of the
Person and Work of
Christ

The Names and
Nature of Christ

At
Plqrim Ambassador
Bible Theology Web site

This is the great mystery of godliness, God manifested in the flesh,

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; He who was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the spirit, Seen of angels, Preached among the nations, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory. (1 Tim. 3:16)"

a. The two natures.

Since many in our day deny the DEITY of Christ, it is necessary to stress the Scripture proof for it. Some old Testament passages clearly point to it, Such as

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)"

"In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called: Jehovah our righteousness. (Jeremiah 23:6)"

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, which art little to be among the thousands of Judah, out of thee shall one come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting. (Micah 5:2)"

The New Testament proofs are even more abundant,

"All things have been delivered unto me of my Father: and no one knoweth the Son, save the Father; neither doth any know the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son willeth to reveal [him.] (Matthew 11:27)"

“ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:18)

“ No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared [him]. (John 1:18)"

b. The two natures united in one Person.

Christ has a human nature, but He is not a human person. The Person of the Mediator is the unchangeable Son of God. In the incarnation He did not change into a human person; neither did He adopt a human person. He simply assumed, in addition to His divine nature, a human nature, which did not develop into an independent personality, but became personal in the Person of the Son of God.

After this assumption of human nature the Person of the Mediator is not only divine but DIVINE-HUMAN; He is the God-man, possessing all the essential qualities of both the human and the divine nature. He has both a divine and a human consciousness, as well as a human and a divine will.

This is a mystery which we cannot fathom. Scripture clearly points to the unity of the Person of Christ. It is always the same Person who speaks, whether the mind that finds utterance be human or divine,

The Works of God

“Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which He had done” (Genesis Ch.2:v3)

There is no evening to the Sabbath Day, it has no evening it is eternal. It foretells Christ the true Sabbath in whom God rests, and in whom believers rest.

This is God’s own rest of Hebrews Chapter 4.

The Works of God

Blessing is stamped upon this introduction to the history of God’s interest in man and His creatures

He blessed the living creature (Gen 1:22) - He blessed man (Gen 1:28) - He blessed the seventh day (Gen 2:3)

In the Gospel of John Chapter 5. The Lord Jesus reminded the Zealots that His command for healed man to carry his bed on the Sabbath, was in accordance with a previous act by His Father recorded in Genesis Ch.3:21 “the making of the coats of skins to clothe the nakedness of Adam and Eve”

And as sin had broken the Father’s rest after creation, so Christ had come because of sin to “work the works of Him” He alone could say “I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do” (John Ch.17:4)

In the healing of the lame man, The Lord Jesus presented proof of His Messiah-ship to the nation on the Sabbath that they might learn that He Himself was the “True Sabbath” in which God rested. God’s creation Sabbath was wrecked by sin. The Sabbath was given as a token of the covenant between man and Jehovah, but man’s disobedience destroyed it.

Here in John Chapter.5 the Jews persecuted Jesus because He healed the lame man on the Sabbath (v16). But the Jews had degraded the Sabbath and the Passover in that it became “A feast of the Jews (John Ch.5:1) and not “the feast of Jehovah”

Man degraded himself so that he became lifeless which is in contrast with Him who is “the giver of life”. Man clings to forms and festivals all the more strongly when lacking the life which can be described as “covenant of works”. They will use their religion of works to fight against Him of whom they witnessed (John Ch.5:18)

The Christian Sabbath – the resurrection day opens the “New Creation” in which the Christians rests ***Hebrew Ch 4 reminds “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest” (v11)*** The Pilgrim Christian rests not in the first creation, in which the first Adam corrupted, but in the second because it is God’s redemption rest, and Christ being that Sabbath. It is a rest that cannot be disturbed. (Hebrews 4:9-11) (Hebrews 4:3) For we rest in the finished work of Calvary

“I have glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do” (John 17:4)

Just as sin had broken the Father’s rest after creation, so Christ had come because of sin to work the works of Him that sent Him. The statement “My Father worketh until now and I work” (John 5:17) is deeply affecting, for it declares that neither He nor the Father could find that their Sabbath in the midst of the sad fruits of sin

In John Ch.5:24 we are reminded that Jesus Christ gave eternal life to whoever believed on Him as sent by God, and that the eternal destiny of all men would be decreed by Him (28-29) so that if they would not receive Him as Life-giver they would be rejected by Him

That eternal life is lived out by the Pilgrim Christian - not in his own strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, and as such the Father works out His purposes in us through the Holy Spirit, The work of God in relation to our eternal destiny lies in the necessity of the Pilgrim Christian to be renewed in spirit (or be born again)** The necessity grows out of the incapacity of the natural man to see or enter the kingdom of God, However gifted, moral, or refined he may be the natural man is absolutely blind to spiritual truth and incapable of entering the kingdom Jesus goes beyond man’s concept and comes to the very heart of man’s problem, the need for spiritual transformation or regeneration produced by the Holy Spirit

****For a fuller account see *The New Man. “Ye must be born again” Bible reading John Ch3 v1-15***

Did Jesus Actually Claim to Be God

“When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching and authority,

What made Jesus different? His’ only credentials were himself. He never wrote a book, commanded an army, held a political office, or owned property. He mostly travelled within a hundred miles of his village, attracting crowds who were amazed at his provocative words and stunning deeds. His greatness was obvious to all those who saw and heard him.

Two thousand years ago a man from a insignificant Nazarene village in Palestine, shook the religious world. That man Jesus Christ captivated those who heard him. Those who witnessed his words and life tell us that there was something about Jesus of Nazareth which was different from all other religious leaders of His day. Matthew chapter seven, says –

“When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes”

What made Jesus different? The attracting crowds were amazed at his provocative words and stunning deeds. His greatness was obvious to all those who saw and heard him.

Most great people eventually fade into history books, but Jesus is still the focus of thousands of books and unparalleled media controversy. Although he was an outsider with no credentials or political powerbase, within three years, Jesus changed the world for the next 20 centuries. Today His followers exist in all four corners of the world. Many millions of Christians have been martyred rather than deny Jesus Christ.

“When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes”

(Mat 7:28-29).

The early New Testament Church faced much persecution and many died for their faith, all of the disciples apart from John who died of old age on the Isle of Patmos. All the others were martyred. Yet the Church grew and expanded greatly. Today it is still growing at a rapid rate, despite the claims of critics that it is a dying entity.

What was it about Jesus Christ that made the difference and caused much controversy amongst the Jewish leaders? Was he merely a great man, or something more? Much of the controversy revolves around the radical claims Jesus made about himself—claims that astounded both his followers and his adversaries.

It was primarily Jesus’ unique claims that caused him to be viewed as a threat by both the Roman authorities and the Jewish hierarchy. These questions get to the heart of who Jesus really was. Some believe he was merely a great moral teacher; others believe he was simply the leader of the world’s greatest religion. But many believe something far more. Christians believe that God has actually visited us in human form. And they believe the evidence backs that up.

Although many people acknowledge that Jesus was a great moral teacher, yet when we examine the Scriptures regarding the claims He made about Himself. We have ask the question, could Jesus have been just a great moral teacher?

Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount has been called the most superlative teaching of human ethics ever uttered by an individual. In fact, much of what we know today as “equal rights” actually is the result of Jesus’ teaching.

One of America’s Founding Fathers, President Thomas Jefferson, revered Jesus as perhaps the greatest moral teacher of all time. In fact, Jefferson’s memorable words in the Declaration of Independence were rooted in Jesus’ teaching that each person is of immense and equal importance to God, regardless of sex, race, or social status. The famous document sets forth, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights ...”

Next page>>>>> I and My Father are One

**Did Jesus Actually claim to be God –
I and My Father are One**
Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” (John 14:8)

Jesus never claimed to be a religious leader. He never got into religious politics or pushed an ambitious agenda, and he ministered almost entirely outside the established religious framework.

Thomas Jefferson revered Jesus as a good moral, teacher, but he didn’t answer the vital question, If Jesus falsely claimed to be God he couldn’t have been a good moral teacher. But did Jesus really claim deity? In fact, Jesus’ statements about himself contradict the notion that he was simply a great man or a prophet. On more than one occasion, Jesus referred to himself as God’s Son

And that leads us to the question of what Jesus really did claim for himself; specifically, that Jesus claimed to be divine? Some will say that He never explicitly say “I am God”

Jesus’ usage of God’s name greatly angered the religious leaders. The point is that these Old Testament scholars knew exactly what he was saying—

he was claiming to be God, the Creator of the universe. It is only this claim that would have brought the accusation of blasphemy. To read into the text that Jesus claimed to be God is clearly warranted, not simply by his words, but also by their reaction to those words.

***"I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.... Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.
(John 1&:4-5)***

In examining Jesus’ claims, it is important to understand that he made them in the context of the Jewish belief in one God (monotheism). No faithful Jew would ever believe in more than one God. And Jesus believed in the one God, praying to his Father as, “the only true God.” But in that same prayer, Jesus spoke of having always existed with his Father.

"I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.... Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (John 1&:4-5)

And when Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus said,

“Philip, have I been with you so long and you don’t know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” (John 14:8)

Jesus continually referred to himself in ways that confounded his listeners, “Before Abraham was, I AM.” He told Martha and others around her, “I AM the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he is dead, yet shall he live.” Likewise, Jesus would make statements like, “I AM the light of the world,” “I AM the only way to God,” or, “I AM the “truth.”These and several other of his claims were preceded by the sacred words for God, “I AM” . What did Jesus mean by such statements, and what is the significance or the term, “I AM”?

So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.(John 8:57-59)

For answers to the above Scriptures we need to go into the Old Testament for the significant of the statement “I Am”. when Moses asked God His name at the burning bush, God answered, “I AM.” He was revealing to Moses that He is the one and only God who is outside of time and has always existed. Incredibly, Jesus was using these holy words to describe himself. Jesus’ usage of God’s name greatly angered the religious leaders.

Did Jesus Actually claim to be God – The Messiah Son of God

Jesus’ usage of God’s name greatly angered the religious leaders, these Old Testament scholars knew exactly what he was saying—he was claiming to be God, the Creator of the universe. It is only this claim that would have brought the accusation of blasphemy

Jesus went further by claiming that God was His Father, He was claiming deity with God by declaring “I and the Father are One”. Not just in identification, but in essence and substance. The Scriptures remind us in Ephesians chapter 3:19 That ye may be filled with all the fullness of God; that is, that ye may be filled with spiritual grace and blessing to an extent corresponding to all the fullness of God.

There is a fullness of gracious attainment in every advanced believer that corresponds to all the fullness of God; every part of his nature is supplied from the Divine fountain, and, so far as a creature can, he presents the image of the Divine fullness. In the human nature of Christ this correspondence was perfect: "In him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;"

My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” (John 10:29-30)

The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?” The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God. (John 10:31-33).

There will be those who accept Jesus as a great teacher, yet are unwilling to call him God. As a Deist, we’ve seen that Thomas Jefferson had no problem accepting Jesus’ teachings on morals and ethics while denying his deity. The Scriptures clearly show us a different story.

When Jesus was arrested and brought before the Jewish legal Council, they questioned Him

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” “You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” (Mat.26:62-66)

“He is worthy of death,” they answered.

It may be difficult to accept how anyone from a such an obscure village in Palestine could be God, To many it is easier to accept that He was a moral teacher, or a great Prophet. But the Scriptures remind us in 1 Corinthians Ch.15. That the very foundational truths of the New Testament Church lay in the fact that God has revealed Himself to us through Lord Jesus. That he came to liberate those bound in sin. That he died and rose again. He alone had the credentials to redeem mankind, Moral teacher or prophet could not accomplish that.

The claims of Jesus Christ force us to choose. “You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse, and Christianity is a great lie
You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher.

The Scriptures have left us with no other option, That He is indeed the Son of God; Philip *said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus *said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father.(John 14:8-9)

***"All Scripture is inspired
by God and is profitable
for teaching, for rebuking,
for correcting, for training
in righteousness, so that
the man of God may be
complete, equipped for
every good
2 Timothy 3:16-17***

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