

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Life on this planet is often portrayed as a sea of endless possibilities just waiting for someone with a big dream, a creative imagination, and hard work to seize and enjoy them.

The conventional wisdom of this world and all of its systems continually reinforce the idea that we're only human, and this is all that there is for us in this life, so just decide what you want to do and go do it.

The success of this plan runs the gambit from incredible achievement to abysmal failure and everything in between.

Let's look at God's perception of life in this world apart from Him.

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14.12

The mind of the flesh is death.... Romans 8.6

Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. Matthew 7.13

Our cursed and futile natural life in this world is the result of man's fall from the presence and oneness of God that he was originally created for.

We didn't ask for this life apart from God. We were born into it. We all got the same life.

No matter our culture, our skin color, our education or lack of it, whether rich or poor, we all end up the same way - DEAD!

Many people over the generations have turned to religion to try and combat this hopeless situation.

People have searched in many directions for an answer.

According to Google there are 4,000 recognized religions in the world today.

Many Christians would say, what do you expect, people accept false religions because they don't know the truth.

Well, according to Google, there are also 45,000 Christian denominations. It seems that man has come up with 45,000 variations of the truth.

The problem with religious effort of any kind is that it's done by men and for men. Men can create and teach various worldviews, doctrines and interpretations, with various worship styles with acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

It appears from these statistics, that there are as many opinions about God and our relationship with Him as there are people on the planet.

God's plan to set man free from this relentless death, is called the Gospel. The good news. It's different from any and every religion on the planet, because it's done by God and for God. And He's the only one who can do it.

God's plan to redeem man back to the original oneness with Himself, was not to give man religion to try to reform his old spiritually dead nature.

Let me quickly summarize God's plan to redeem man back into His family and His Kingdom according to the scriptures.

God came to Earth as a man. He put all of mankind in Christ and then crucified Him, buried Him, and raised Him from the dead to the right hand of God. Whatever happened to Christ also happened to man because God put him in Christ.

Christ was raised from the dead as a life-giving Spirit. This allowed man to become a completely new creation and possess and manifest in this world, God's eternal life that He originally created for man.

These realities are corroborated in 1 Corinthians 1.30, all of Romans 6, and in 1 Corinthians 15.42-50

It should be obvious to us that these things that God has done for us are not possible by the religious effort of men, regardless of their religious persuasion.

These realities become ours by faith in God's supernatural working on our behalf.

The Apostle Paul explains this in chapter 2 of his letter to the Colossian believers. It reads, starting in verse 8,

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, which are based on human tradition and the spiritual forces of the world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form. And you have been made complete in Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of your sinful nature, with the circumcision performed by Christ and not by human hands. And having been buried with Him in baptism, you were raised with Him THROUGH YOUR FAITH IN THE POWER OF GOD, who raised Him from the dead.

So, if religious effort cannot make these things happen, what does God's supernatural work mean to us today?

I'll share just a few of them.

God says that whoever receives Christ as our Savior, and trusts in His supernatural work on our behalf, He has given them the right to become children of God. To those who are not born of a natural birth but they're born of God. John 1.12

We've become completely new creations. Our old spiritually dead condition has passed away and all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5.17

God testifies that we've received God's eternal life. That eternal life is in His Son and he who has the Son has that life.

1 John 5.11

God's Holy Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are children of God. And because we are His children we become His heirs and joint heirs with Christ. Romans 8.16

So, what do we inherit as God's heirs?

Jesus said that EVERYTHING that the Father has is Mine. And I'm sending the Holy Spirit to give it to you. John 16.14

We receive this inheritance from God on the basis of faith in His supernatural work. And He has given the Holy Spirit as the guarantee of our possession of it. Ephesians 1.11-14

Man over the generations has created many religious truths and countless variations of those truths.

God sent Jesus to the earth to be the expression and demonstration of HIS TRUTH.

Jesus said that My words are Spirit and they are life, your flesh profits absolutely nothing.

I am the way, I am the truth, and I am the life.

I've said many times before that God's words are not religious teachings. They are statements of reality from God about things that He has already said, that He has already done, and He has already made available to His children by faith.

God has said that His word will never fail to accomplish what He sends it to do. His word has within it everything necessary to make these things our reality today in this world.

There is a scripture in Proverbs 23.7 that says, as a man thinks in his heart so he is.

If man thinks he's only a human being and there is nothing else but what this world offers. He will act accordingly.

If he thinks he's a Hindu, a Moslem, a Buddhist, or one of the 45,000 variations of Christian religion, he will also act based on what he has been taught.

But if he repents of the spiritually dead life that he inherited from Adam and Eve, he can receive by faith the eternal life that God created him to have.

He can also receive God's Holy Spirit to re-create and re-program him into the life-giving Spirit that that his death and resurrection with Christ made available to him.

Let's look at the scriptures to see how the Holy Spirit does this in us.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12.2

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3.17

1 John 4.16 states that, we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because AS HE IS, SO ARE WE IN THIS WORLD.

Our transformation into those life giving spirits that God-created us to be comes from our trusting and his incredible work on our behalf and our unbroken fellowship with Him that He has made available to us..

I pray that these scriptures that I've shared with you give the Holy Spirit the opportunity to reveal to us who we really are in Christ so that we can live accordingly, as the Ambassadors of His Kingdom, in this world.

And that our faith will not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the supernatural power of God that He exercised to make us His children.

Then when people ask us, "who do you think you are"?, we can answer honestly, with a reality that's backed by God's truth, His authority, and His power.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

kingdomrealities.org