

HOW SAVED ARE WE

I'd like to start by sharing a few statements of reality about who we all were created to be from the very beginning of time. They come from Genesis 1 through 3.

God breathed His Eternal Life into a pile of mud and Adam and Eve were created in God's image.

They walked and talked with God in the garden. God gave them His authority to rule and expand His Kingdom over the entire planet.

Eve acted on Satan's lie, disobeyed God, ate the forbidden fruit and Adam followed. Because of that, their spirits died just as God said, and they lost their fellowship with God and their soul's senses became their only source of reality instead of God.

God put them out of the garden so that they would not stay in that spiritually dead and separated state forever.

As a result of their sin and separation from God, Who is the source of Life, they lived a cursed existence in this world full of frustration, futility, sickness and eventually death. Romans 5.12

This is the life that we all inherited from Adam and Eve. The scriptures call this the law of sin and death. Romans 8.2

God sent Adam and Eve from the garden so that He could redeem them back into oneness with Himself.

The definition of the Greek word translated as "redeemed" means; "the release of a captive person by full payment of a ransom."

Christ's perfect, supernatural sacrifice redeemed man back to his original oneness with God. Christ was our ransom. 1 Timothy 2.6

Some might say, how do you know that? Let's look at a few statements of reality from God.

But as many as received Him (Christ), to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, they are born of God. John 1.12

As Christians, we've been born of God's supernatural nature. The thing that makes God, God, is the same thing that made us His children.

You have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God. 1 Peter 1.23

God is the only one in the universe whose seed is imperishable.

By His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption..... 1 Cor 1.3

Our redemption isn't a religious teaching or a doctrine. It's Christ Himself.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ... 2 Corinthians 5.17

The Gospel isn't religious behavior modification. It's the supernatural re-creation of our old nature by being in Christ.

Jesus told the Father, "the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. John 17.22

Christ made us completely one with He and the Father. Because of that, we have the same relationship with the Father that Jesus has, by His doing.

The one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. 1 Corinthians 6.17

This redemption is not merely the forgiveness of our sins. It's possessing the same Spirit that Jesus now possesses.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of His life. Romans 6.3

God put us in Christ by His own doing. Therefore everything that happened to Christ also happened to us. Christ didn't just die for us to forgive our sins. In God's mind, we actually died with Him, crucifying the old nature that produces those sins. Romans 6.4-7

It goes on,

Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin *and* your relation to it broken, but alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus. Romans 6.11 amp

Because we are in Christ we can enjoy the same relationship with God that He possesses.

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ... Romans 8.16

These things are not religious concepts created by men. God's own Spirit testifies that these things are our reality.

He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Heb 7.25

The Greek word translated "to the uttermost" means; completely, perfectly, and eternally. It appears that He saved the whole man - spirit, soul, and body. My paraphrase would be, "He set us free never to be bound again".

It appears that these statements of reality from God have already been spoken by Him, already done by Him, and He has already committed His Holy Spirit to make them the reality of ALL of His children.

This supernatural work of God on our behalf is what separates the Gospel from every religion on the planet. Religion is done by men and for men. The Gospel is done by God and for God. It's completely supernatural and God is the only one who could do it for us.

Many religious Christians have accepted the forgiveness of their sins so they can go to Heaven when they die. But they also believe that they are only sinners saved by grace and they will always be sinners until Christ returns. They profess that Christians aren't perfect, they're only forgiven.

Let's look at what God has to say about this.

And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, yet He has NOW reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.... Colossians 1.21

I don't know about you, but when I read that He has made us holy and blameless beyond reproach, it doesn't sound much like we'll always be sinners.

Many also believe and teach that the supernatural gifts and miracles have passed away and are not available to God's children anymore.

It seems that Jesus says otherwise.

"Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He [the Spirit] will take the things that are Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.

Jesus commissioned His disciples to continue doing what He was doing.

Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Matthew 10.1

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father. John 14.12

In His final directions to His disciples, after His resurrection He said,

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." Mark 16.15

It appears from Jesus's own words that He expected them to go into all the world and continue manifesting His Kingdom's authority and power over the works of the enemy.

The early church was considered by everyone to be an illegal persecuted cult that was full of the power and presence of the living God. Around 300 AD when Constantine legalized Christianity as a national religion, it seemed that for generations that followed, Christians became content with a purely academic presentation of the Gospel.

The scriptures declare that the church is actually Christ's body in this earth to represent Him. And we are individually members of it. 1 Corinthians 12.27

Colossians 2.10amp reads:

For in Him (Christ) the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. And you are in Him, made full *and* having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].

In my 61 years as a Christian, I've heard many people confidently declare that the supernatural spiritual gifts and miracles have past, and are not available to us anymore. But, it's always seemed very strange to me that Christ would leave His spiritual body in the earth to represent Him and His total victory over death and Satan, completely void of His supernatural authority and His power, possessing only an academic presentation of the Gospel.

Jesus also said that the Kingdom will not come with outward observation, but it's within you.

The Apostle Paul asked the Corinthian believers, do you not know that your body is the temple of God and you are not your own, you've been bought with a price? 1 Corinthians 6.19

In the Old Testament God filled the Tabernacle in the wilderness and Solomon's Temple with His glory. Under the New Covenant we are the temples that God wants to fill with His glory.

Please note, when He filled those temples with His glory, His presence was so strong that no flesh could function in them.

In Jesus's parable in Matthew 13 He stated that the Kingdom of God was like leaven that a woman put in three measures of meal, until the whole lump was leavened.

God wants His presence to completely fill us, spirit, soul, and body until we overflow with His life as a testimony of His greatness in this Earth.

Salvation is the supernatural working of God for one objective - the absolute transformation of a person, body, soul, and spirit into the likeness of Christ.

The Greek word translated as "transformed" in the scriptures is "metamorphoo." Its a compound word.

Meta meaning "changed by being with" and

Morphoo meaning " changed into a completely different form."

The Apostle Paul explains how this transformation happens.

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 Cor 3.17

This transformation of our nature, that only God can do, doesn't come from discipline, Bible study, church attendance, or any other natural effort. It comes from exposure to God by His Holy Spirit.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. John 1.1

John continues;

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus told Philip, if you have seen Me you have seen the Father. John 14.9

When God wanted to speak to the whole world He didn't give us a book of teachings, He sent His Son, as His the Living Word, to demonstrate to every person on the planet the life He originally made available to them.

God has done, through Christ's supernatural sacrifice and our death and resurrection with Him, everything necessary to re-create us into the image of His firstborn Son, The Living Word.

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. Romans 8.29

I've shared a boat load of scriptures with you. I didn't share them to increase your Bible knowledge. I've shared them to show God's original intention for creating us and His love that motivated His supernatural work to redeem us back into His family.

Let me conclude with one more statement of reality from God. It's Romans 8.1amp

Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, *who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.*

For the law of the Spirit of life [which is] in Christ Jesus [the law of our new being] has freed me from the law of sin and of death.

For God has done what the Law could not do, [its power] being weakened by the flesh [which is the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit]. Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, [God] condemned sin in the flesh [He subdued it, He overcame it, and He deprived it of its power over all who accept that sacrifice

So what do we do now?

God is asking us to relinquish the authority of our old nature and accept His perfect sacrifice for us.

That sacrifice not only crucified our old nature but completely recreated us as God's children. We've been redeemed into His family, and have been made citizens of His kingdom, by a simple child-like faith in Christ.

The Gospel IS the power of salvation for all men. Don't accept religion as a substitute.

God bless you.

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