

HE CHOSE US

Many people believe that Christianity is just one of the 6,000 religions on the planet. It's actually not a religion at all.

It's a blood covenant relationship with the God of Heaven and Earth, who created the Earth and everything and everyone in it.

This eternal blood covenant was completely His idea. It was His plan for Man, and He's the only one in the universe who can do it.

Colossians 1.16 states that:

all things have been created by Him and for Him. And that includes all of us.

And Psalm 24.1 declares that;

The Earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden their spirits died.

Their spirit was the part of them that was created for unbroken fellowship with God, their Father.

When Jesus paid the penalty for their sin with His own life, He breathed His Spirit into His followers and made their spirits alive again.

Many Christians have been taught that salvation is just having our sins forgiven so we can go to Heaven when we die.

The scriptures seem to show that there is much more to salvation than just having our sins forgiven.

Hebrews 7.25 declares that Christ's supernatural sacrifice is able to "save us to the uttermost".

I looked up the Greek word translated "to the uttermost". It meant "completely, perfectly, and eternally".

My paraphrase would be, "we've been totally set free never to be bound again".

It seems like Christ's supernatural sacrifice saved the whole man, spirit, soul, and body. Let's look at some scriptures.

The Apostle Paul instructed the Romans;

I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

He also declared to the Corinthian believers that;

Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.

1 Corinthians 6.13

He continues in verse 19.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

And He also prayed for the Thessolonian believers.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. 1 Thessolonians 5.23

Looking at these scriptures, it appears that our bodies and our minds were not given to us so we could walk around on this Earth, living a completely natural life, in this natural world, under the curse of living apart from God.

God's plan for forgiving Man's sin was to redeem us back into His family, restore our oneness with God, and fill us with the Father's eternal life.

And the Apostle John shared the Father's testimony;

And the testimony is this God has given us His eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

1 John 5.11

And Jesus promised.

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also.

"In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. John 14.18

The Greek word translated as "live" in this passage is zoe. It's God's life.

In other words, because I have God's Life, you have God's life.

Christ's perfect sacrifice has made us one with He and the Father sharing God's eternal life with them.

He continued

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

And in verse 23 he said;

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our permanent dwelling place with him.

These scriptures show that God not only intended to make our spirits alive, but have the Holy Spirit renew our minds, and fill us, as His temples, with Himself, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

This world continually tries to impart to our thinking that we are only the sum total of everything we've been through and this world is all there is for us. But this supernatural blood covenant, that God has created with us, overrules and contradicts that thinking.

The God who created this world and everything in it declares; "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55.8

Jesus' crucifixion was not the end of the story. After His resurrection and before He rose again to heaven, He gave His disciples His last instructions. We call it "The Great Commission."

And He said to them, "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."

He instructed them to go throughout the world and continue doing exactly what He had been doing.

So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed. Mark 16.19

When Jesus ascended into heaven, He left His re-created brothers and sisters here to continue on this earth, the work that He demonstrated in the Gospels. Let's look at a few scriptures that show the effect that it had on His brothers and sisters.

He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. Colossians 1.18

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. Roman's 8.29

Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. 1 Corinthians 12.27

By His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.... 1 Corinthians 1.30

So according to these scriptures, we became Christ's body on this Earth
We've been crucified and raised from the dead with Him, and God put us in Christ so that
He would become our wisdom from God, our righteousness, our sanctification and our
redemption into the Father's family.
You can read this in Romans 6, and 1 Corinthians 12.

Jesus also told His followers about the role of the Holy Spirit in this. He said;
"He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. "All things that the
Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.
John 16.14

Let me explain a little about blood covenants.
They are the oldest agreement between people and were considered an eternal covenant
that was unbreakable.
A blood covenant signified that everything that one person was and everything that they
had was available to the other person forever. It was a mutual giving of each person to the
other.

Luke 22.19 is the account of Jesus cutting a blood covenant with His disciples. He said, this
is my body given for you and this is the new covenant in my blood. When they drank the
cup, they were committing to be part of this eternal covenant.

It always puzzled me why Jesus said, "do this in remembrance of me."
I couldn't fathom that these men after spending three and a half years seeing Jesus, heal
the sick, raise the dead, turn water into wine, and walk on water, would ever forget him.

So I looked up the original greek word translated as "remembrance". It meant;
"to bring to mind - a *deliberate recollection* done to better appreciate the effects and the
intended results of what happened"

He was saying, as often as you do this, remember that I have committed everything I am
and everything I have to you in this eternal blood covenant. We are linked together forever.

Jesus told His disciples, you didn't choose me, I chose you, and appointed you that you
would go and bear much fruit and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of
the Father in My name He may give to you. John 15.16

As I said at the beginning, Christianity is not a religion that you join. It's an eternal blood
covenant, that God wants us to be a part of.

Let's drink the cup and remember the covenant that He's made available to us.

God bless you.
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