

WHO IS JESUS?

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AN INDEPTH TEACHING ON
THE PERSON OF JESUS
CHRIST

BRO. AWUDESE AZIBALUA

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Bro. Awudese Azibalua
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PREFACE

The entire world have heard of Jesus of Nazareth. Some see him as God Almighty. To some, he was a prophet and to others, a founder of a cult or new religion. Many take him as a welfare personality, whose name could be called at random for success and breakthrough. Others believe they can get everything in the world in his name.

The Christians are not spared in these. Many know Him as the disciples knew him before Pentecost, but not as Paul knew him. The disciples walked with him and gave eyewitness account of what they saw. Paul knew Jesus in spirit while the disciples knew Him in the flesh. This study will help you know Jesus Christ in spirit. It will also help you understand your position and relationship with God as a believer of Christ.

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SECTION 1

ABOUT JESUS

Jesus of Nazareth as A Teacher And Prophet of The Jews

Jesus while on earth was Jesus of the Jews to minister to the children of Israel to fulfill the promise made to their fathers (Rom. 15:8, Matt 15:24, Acts 3:24-26). He was sent by God as the messiah that would bring salvation to Israel. Moses said, another prophet God would raise from among them, and him they will all follow (Deut. 18:15, John 4:25-26, Acts 7:37-38). That he will defeat the enemies of Israel and establish the throne of David and the everlasting kingdom.

When the throne of David is established, then the gentiles would see the salvation of Israel, the beauty and glory of God in Israel and they all shall seek God. Salvation would come through the Messiah and the gentiles would desire for him also and will find him and will cast their trust in him. Israel is the first fruit of His salvation. Since salvation did not come to men until Christ died and resurrected, Jesus while on earth did not give salvation to the world. He was purely for Israel and not Gentiles (Matt. 15:24, John 1:11, Luke 1:68-78, Isa 42:6-9).

He came under the law and was subject to the law until his final sacrifice. Gal. 4:4-5 He said, “*Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfil*”. Matt 5:17 and he added “*for verily I say unto you . . . whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven . . .*” Jesus demonstrated that he kept the law to fulfil all its righteousness (Matt 3:15). He said, he was not for the gentiles as a prophet. The law forbids Israel from having things in common with gentiles. He told the Samaritan woman, he was a prophet but not for them (Matt 15:24). Spiritually he came as the Saviour of the world but fleshly as a teacher and prophet of the Jews. But Jesus was different from other Jews. Because he was an example of love with compassion on the gentiles. He healed the Samaritan woman’s daughter, He healed the centurion’s servant, he made friends with publicans and sinners. He knew he was to give salvation to all men. He was a teacher and minister and servant of all men. While on earth he was not Lord and Saviour of the world.

The resurrected and seated Christ at the right hand of God is the Lord and Saviour of the world. That the gentiles would see the beauty of Israel and the salvation of their God, and will seek him and find him, and they will put their trust in him and they shall also be called people of God. That the people that were not called people of God shall be called Sons of God (Rom 10:25-26, Rom 10:19-20, Acts 13:47). This goodness of Christ came to the world only after his resurrection.

Those who know the mystery of the seated Christ worship God in spirit and in Truth. They know Christ through the word and they see him daily by the word.

Christ As The ‘Alpha’ And ‘Omega’

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty (Rev. 1:8).

This is a summary of the mystery of Christ in the book of “revelation”.

All things were made by him. He is the word of God. This creative Word is God, which had being from the beginning of His way (Prov. 8:22, John 1:1). But God has no beginning, He is eternal. The Word is God manifested as a spirit person who could be seen and touched. The Word personified as Christ is one of the greatest mysteries of God in the world.

He was in the beginning when the world was created (Prov. 8:23-30). After God the Father had designed creation, then Christ brought God’s plan into reality. Those things Christ commanded to appear where things already made and contained in the heart of God. He made them manifested as reality. He worked with the spirit of God (Holy Spirit) to bring creation into being, to the glory of God the Father (Col. 1:14-19, Heb. 1:2). When he said, “LET THERE BE LIGHT,” it was God speaking through His Word, and the spirit who knew what was in His mind brought it into being.

But creation was condemned through the sin of the first man, Adam. And Christ was sent to deliver the world from condemnation. He still had to work with the spirit of God (Holy Spirit). He came to redeem man and to make him a new creation for God (Heb. 9:26, 1:1-2). Those who accept his redemption are saved, and those who do not accept him are condemned already (John 3:18). Those who accept the redemption work are made new creation. He is the beginning and the ending of God’s creative works, the Alpha and Omega.

All the scriptures testified of him. The prophets testified of him. He is the end of all the promises of God.

All power and authority both in heaven and on earth have been given to him of the Father (Matt 11:27, 28:18). He is subject of no being except the Father (1Cor. 15:27). All judgement has been committed to him (John 5:22). He will first reign on the throne of God the Father until all things are under his feet. Christ as the fullness of God on the throne of power is called Almighty (Rev. 1:8 Rev. 5:6-7 Col. 2:9).

Jesus as the Mediator

A mediator is a middleman approved to intervene between two opposing parties to make reconciliation. Adam was created as man to begin the human race. He was created as the image of God, as a spirit being with a moving body of flesh and blood. Adam was the beginning of the human race but he sinned against God, and received a curse into his inner man (the human spirit). This curse is the nature that devil and the demons have. It is called spiritual death (Rom. 5:12).

Those with spiritual death cannot walk with God because they have the nature of devil.

It makes the spiritual state of man abominable in the sight of God. This is the condemnation that man has in spirit. God said he would not walk with man anymore because he is now flesh (Gen. 6:3). He is flesh because he is spiritually dead and could not approach God because of sin consciousness. This is the separation between God and man. Adam was rejected, separated and no longer permitted to see the face of God. The whole human race which he represented was cut off from the presence of God. (Ex. 33:20). Man needed a mediator through whom he would contact God and be reconciled with him (Job 9:32-33). God made Jesus a high priest and mediator between Him and man, who should talk to Him in spirit and to man in the flesh. Jesus was incarnate, born out of incarnation. That is, God became united with man in a personality. Christ is an eternal spirit but was anointed of God to come on his behalf to be the mediator between Him and man (1Tim. 2:5). A body was prepared for him, free from the laws of nature, and was planted in the womb of a virgin (Heb. 10:5). And because this body was free from the taints of mortality, the spirit of God (Holy Spirit) accompanied Christ as a companion in his fullness (John 3:34). Jesus Christ could be seen by man in the flesh and could also contact God and walk with Him in the spirit.

He is the mediator between God and man and the only man that could bring salvation to mankind. No man born of a woman, out of natural generation is a mediator between God and man. Jesus came not through sexual intercourse but

through special divine act. No part of man or woman was contributed to form his body. His advent into the world is supernatural. Every other man on earth is called natural man. The natural man had inherited curse from his forefather Adam and cannot approach God. Only Jesus, the incarnate knows the will of God, and it is only him who knows the secret and the laws that shall reconcile us with God. (1Tim 2:5).

Jesus as Lord

Jesus came as the seed of Abraham. He came from heaven in the form of God worthy to be worshipped but humbled himself before men and took the form of a servant. (Phil. 2:6-7), (Matt 20:25-28). He made himself of no reputation. Though a leader with disciples of whom he was often called master, in the actual sense he did serve the disciples. He showed it by washing the disciple's feet. That he came to serve, and not to be served. The word said we should be abased on earth and we shall be exalted. Jesus learned obedience by the things he suffered and he ascended unto the throne of Lordship (Heb. 5:8-10). He did all to please the Father and not man. He endured persecutions in obedience to God. He desired for Peter who denied him. He prayed for those who crucified him. He was despised and rejected, and made sin by the death on the cross. After he did the Word he was raised from death and made both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36, Acts 5:30-32). He is now the High Priest with atonement blood for every sinner that should look on him for his cleansing and salvation.

He is the way, the truth and the life, no man goes to the Father except through him (John 14:6). Those to go to the Father are to pass through his obedience and suffering and be exalted with him (1Pet.4: 13-14, Rom. 8:17), (Matt. 20:25-28). The seated Christ at the right hand of God is the Lord and Saviour. He is Lord over people who follow his light of life.

He is Lord over our lives and says what we do. He supervises every department of our lives. The word of God living in us, is the Lordship of Jesus over our lives.

Jesus as Saviour

Jesus is our Saviour because he saved us from our sin. Sin makes us prisoners of Satan, and to free us from the rulership of devil, he redeemed us from our sin (Matt. 1:21).

While on earth Jesus was not Saviour of the world, he could forgive sins but could not take away sin from man. He had the power to forgive sins but forgiveness is not from sin. Sin can be removed only by blood sacrifice and the sinner once purged from sin is without sin. The saved man is to repent and receive God's own eternal life to enable him maintain his perfection.

Jesus on earth was a teacher of the word of God to Israel; teaching about the kingdom to come, preaching about repentance and faith, healing the sick, delivering them from spiritual bondage and from the evil forces of Satan, preparing them for the gift of salvation. Salvation was not possible until blood sacrifice was made. And perfection was not possible

until the Holy Spirit was fully made to be in union with man (Rom. 5:5, Col. 3:14). This happened after the finished work of Christ.

Jesus died on the cross as a lamb, and resurrected as Saviour of the world (Acts 5:31). His blood is the atonement blood for man's sin. This blood is without blemish and could wash away sin or could remove the cursed nature that produces sin in man. The spirit of God could not live in those under the Law as was in Christ because the people were not delivered from sin, Jesus had to die so that the atonement blood would be available. The blood itself cannot work except it is presented to God in heaven, therefore, Jesus had to resurrect since he was the only one qualified to appear before God. Jesus explained the need for him to go, that if he did not go the comforter would not come. The resurrected and seated Christ was the reason for the coming of the Holy Spirit to make his abode with people on earth (John 16:7).

Jesus is the Saviour and source of the Holy Spirit to man. Those who accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour are given the Holy Spirit. The Spirit builds back the nature of God into their being (eternal life) and they become perfect, free from sin. Before this happens the sinner needed to be cleansed with an atonement blood. Jesus is the High Priest with divine atonement blood waiting for the sinner.

The resurrected and seated Christ at the right hand of God is the Saviour of the world. He is the high priest that provides the blood for the atonement of sin. He is also the one

that prays to the Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16, 1 John 4:4).

Jesus As The Word Of God

“And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us”
John 1:14. This is a great mystery to the world. The word of God is seen in three phases: The **Logos**, The **Spoken Word** and The **Written Word**.

The Logos is the nature or the fountain through which godly attributes flow out as divine manifestations. The Logos is the nature, and being of God which makes Him to be the God we know as the eternal God. His nature is the true revelation of Him. God is love (1John 4:8). It is love nature, personified. This nature is revealed in Christ, in practical terms. It is referred to as the spirit of Christ. (Gal. 4:19, Rom. 8:9).

Jesus came as the Logos, as a model of the being of God, to show the nature of God by conduct and behaviour. He was the image of God’s life and nature and moral personality. Walking in his love means putting ourselves into the being of God. Acting, doing, living in it, speaking and exercising ourselves in His love nature means walking in the Spirit (John 6:63). The seed of God is eternal life, and its manifestations are: love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, meekness, gentleness, temperance, long-suffering etc.

This life is the actual manifestation of God to the world. If we walk in his way then we are the image of the Father. The word is to be engrafted into our beings to become

part of our lives. We are to be born to the image of God in Christ, to be born through the word, and through the spirit (John 3:3-6).

The spoken word came through the prophets as revelation of God’s life and counsel and judgment, vengeance and destruction that shall follow the sinner, and the hope of man. They all point to the need for man to have his love nature for peaceful eternal existence. It states the reason for man’s condemnation and future salvation through Christ. They all testify of Christ, bearing witness of his coming, describing him in advance, convincing us of him as a model of God, commanding every man to receive him for reconciliation with God.

The written word is a stock of record of the spoken word, history of God’s dealing with people of old, His dealings with the children of Israel; and future things about God; the mind of God, will and plan for man. It is written for our learning so that we will know God and put our hope in Him (Rom. 15:4).

The word is God. And Jesus is the image and surety of the word. If we do the word, we become united with him in His presence and creative ability (Ps. 33:6, Heb. 11:3, John 1:1-4), etc. God is love, and the word is God, the word is love (John 13:34-35). Love has his own way, his own life, his own laws, his own principles, his own wisdom, nature etc. The word, which is Christ, is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption (1Cor. 1:30). We must have the mind and nature of Christ as sons of God. He is the standard,

which God has set for his sons, as our righteousness and justification.

Jesus As Son Of God

Before the world was made, God desired He would have children. He really saw in his heart the need for sons. In His plan, His son must be called Man. This was the predestination of man as son to rule creation on His behalf (Ps. 8:6, Eph. 1:1-4), and the reason for the creation of the earth and everything in it.

Adam was created to fulfill his dream for children (Lk.3:38). He was made a living soul, made of the body of earth and breath of God. The breath of God is spirit. Adam was an offspring of God breathed out of the breath of His mouth. He came forth from God, quite different from angels. Adam was the first son and by him God would have grand children who in the mind of God would be called sons of God (Rom. 8:28-29). Jesus was not created. He is from eternity (Micah 5:2). The angels were not made sons of God, because none had been called son. (Heb. 1:5). But Adam was Son of God (Luke 3:38).

Adam sinned and was alienated from God. He became prisoner of God's enemy. All that came through him came with the same lost glory. The plan of God for children through Adam was defeated. God had none in the world because those ordained to be children before the foundation of the world have become slaves and sons of devil. God lost

his children to devil through the sin of Adam (Rom. 3:23, Rom. 5:12, Job 9:24, Luke 4:6. John 8:44).

Man was no longer justified before God as son. His relationship with man was no longer that of father and son but of master and servant. This was the case between God and Israel (Lev. 25:55).

God is made of The Father, the Word and the Spirit (1John 5:7). They are the manifestations of God. These three are one in every moral precept, with the Father as the head. The word is God, the Holy Spirit is God and the Father is Almighty God. But the word took on flesh and blood with the Holy Spirit for special operation on earth. This is Christ the Saviour (Isa. 61:1, 43:10-12). The Father prepared a body for him and this body was planted in the womb of a virgin and he came into the world as man (Heb. 10:5, Lk. 1:35). Since there was none like him at the time of his coming, he really was the only Son in the world. Jesus was the only begotten Son of God from Adam up to his generation. Every other man, including the Old Testament saints had the curse of "Sin" and were unworthy to be called sons of God. They could be called friends and servants of God but not legal children of God (Lev. 25:55, Gal. 4:1-7).

Man was to exercise power, dominion and authority as crown of creation and as an under-ruler (Gen. 1:26). Jesus as son could rule creation on behalf of God the Father (Daniel 7:13-14, Ps. 8:6). The authority he demonstrated while on earth was the authority given to man at creation. He

had power over the forces of nature. It is the authority of son of God

God sent His only begotten son to the world through the predestination of Christ, as a lamb for sacrifice. God planned he should come as son to be delivered unto death as sacrifice for the redemption His people (Matt.26:24).

Jesus is the anointed one because he came with the Holy Spirit of God in him. We are now partakers with him of his anointing. Now every child of God is anointed by the same spirit to be the likeness of Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:5, Rom. 8:29), as one among many brethren.

Jesus lost the glory of God on the cross of Calvary, and lost his sonship rights. He carried the sin of the world on the cross and was made sin. He cried because he lost contact with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He died as a sinner and went to hell and for three days God apparently lost the world to Satan because He had nobody any longer. It was a period of darkness and complete desolation. God lost his creation to devil. But He was to have it back through the resurrection of Christ. He was to reborn those that are dead including Christ. Jesus is the first fruit of the new birth. God him Jesus from the dead as first born from the dead.

Jesus As The First Born Of God

The new birth was made with a decree (Ps. 2:7, Heb. 1:5-6). Jesus came as a quickening spirit in flesh and blood as man (1Cor. 15:45). He was pure, undefiled and direct offshoot of God through divine act, he was the likeness of

Adam before the fall. Adam was created as son (Lk. 3:38) but because of his High treason against God, he lost his sonship right and privileges in God. He suffered spiritual death. God is not God of the dead but of the living (Matt. 22:32). Every man born of Adam suffered spiritual death (Rom. 5:12). And God had no children on earth until salvation was brought through Christ.

When Christ was born as a miraculous child free from the circumstances of devil (John 13:30) the earth was apparently restored in the mind of God as having blossomed. He had got a son of His image to rule every force of darkness on his behalf. But when he carried the sin of the world on the cross, he was made sin, and become mortal, Satan ruled, spiritually dead and hell doomed. Apparently, in the mind of justice, God lost his creation to the enemy. The world was seen as wilderness, barren land, desolation and home of foul spirits, devils and unclean birds, destruction was determined. In the midst of desolation, God made a decree to institute the new birth from the dead.

God knew Jesus did not commit sin while on earth but became cursed and rejected because of the world (2Cor. 5: 2). He did it to satisfy the Him. By His death on the cross, Jesus actually satisfied the law of obedience and was justified of the Father (Rom 5:19,4:25). God made a decree whereby Jesus was reborn and made first-born of the new creation (Ps. 2:7). By special divine Act, the Holy Spirit descended into hell, delivered Christ from the forces of death and translated him back into God's being, with eternal life. He spoilt all principalities and powers in hell and triumphed over them and

came back into his own body and resurrected (Col. 2:15, Acts 2:27-32). A new creation had started. Jesus was spiritually dead, he was in hell but now he is spiritually alive and he is in heaven (Eph. 4:9-10). He is the first to be born again in the new order, the first born of the new creation of God. (Ps. 102:18). He was born of the spirit and resurrected in the body as the first begotten of the father forever (Col. 1:18). He is the beginning of God's creation, as son to sit on His throne to rule both heaven and earth as king (Col. 1:15). He is, the first born from the dead and the first fruit of them that sleep.

Jesus As God

Christ was not created (Micah 5:2). He is God manifested as a person, as the express image and glory of Father God; he is not the Father (John 6:38-40, 14:28). He is described as the word of God (1John 5:7, Rev. 19:13). The Almighty Father also calls him God (Ps. 45 & 7, Heb. 1:7-9). He is the same with the Father, not on rank but in character, conduct, behaviour and moral virtue: If you know Jesus then you have seen and have known the Father (John 14:7-14, John 10:30). He is the express image of God, the everlasting Father; if you see him, you have seen the Father. The Father is invisible and he came out of Him as the revelation of Him. He is all we shall know about the Father, his is wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace, (Isa. 9:6). He is God with us; the incarnate one (1Tim. 3:16, Col. 2:9, Isa. 7:14). Beside him you cannot see God.

Jesus As A High Priest

Jesus is at the right hand of God as a High Priest. He is to stand before God on behalf of His people to present sacrifices that are acceptable to God. Christ was anointed as a king and was ordained a priest in the order of Melchizedec (Heb. 7:21, Ps. 110:4).

Melchizedec was the king of Salem (Gen. 14:18-20). He was a righteous king who loved and God ordained him a priest. Abraham paid tithe to Melchizedec. The Priesthood of Melchizedec was not based on descent or lineage, or father or mother, but on personal merit as a king in the likeness of the priesthood of Jesus Christ that should be revealed, in the future. The priesthood of Jesus Christ is forever because Jesus Christ is an everlasting king. (Heb. 7:1-28, Gen. 14:18-20).

Since Jesus was to be a priest in the order of Melchizedec, his priesthood was not established until he was seated on his throne as a king. Jesus while on earth was not a priest because there was the Levitical priesthood already existing at that time (Heb. 8:4), moreover, he was not on his throne as a king because his kingship is not of this world (John 18:36). The resurrected and the seated Christ at the right hand of God is the King of kings, a high priest and Lord of lords. He was made Lord and King after the resurrection (Act. 2:36, Acts 5:30-32, Phil. 2:9-11).

As a king and priest Christ presented the blood needed by God the Father for the forgiveness and atonement of man's sin. This blood was the blood of his body that was shed

at the cross of Calvary. He would not present any other beside his own blood since every natural blood was under curse, polluted with evil and would not be acceptable to the throne room of God. The blood is used on those who come to him, who accept him as Lord and Saviour (Heb. 9:24). He is a king, but his throne is in heaven. The saved ones are to walk on his own behalf in his Priesthood on earth with his own blood. They are to deliver others through the power of his blood and name. they are to use the amour of God, the name of Jesus, the blood and water from the body of Jesus, the heavenly fire, and the Holy Spirit to save those in the hands of devil (Eph. 1:3, I Peter 2:5, Eph. 6:1-8, John. 14:14, 1John 4:4, 1John. 5:6-8, Rev. 12:11, 2 Kings 1:10-15).

Jesus As Lamb Of God

Jesus came as a sacrificial lamb for every man. God demands the sinner should provide blood sacrifice for the atonement of his sin, and once cleansed, it would not be remembered again. Blood means life, but sin brings death. Every sinner owes God some blood sacrifice for the covering of his sin: (Gen. 9:4, Lev. 17:10-14).

Adam sinned and was rejected. Every man born of Adam came with the same lost glory, spiritually dead, polluted, corrupt, evil and alienated and condemned (John. 3:18).

From the day he sinned from the foundation of the world, God made this redemption plan to remedy the situation. Christ was to produce the blood required to free man from sin. He was pronounced seed of woman (Gen.

3:15). The word personified as Christ was the Lamb of God. Since he was marked as lamb from the foundation, Christ as lamb was considered as being slain already, though the job would be done in the future (Rev. 13-8, 1Peter. 1:19-20).

The word was made flesh and that was Christ Jesus (John. 1:14) John bore the testimony that he was the Lamb of God that came to take away the sin of the world (John. 1:29). When Jesus was condemned and hanged on the cross, he was really the lamb that was taken to the slaughter, and when he was pierced with a spear, blood and water gushed out. It was the bleeding sacrifice for man's redemption: (Rev. 5:6-9, 1Peter. 1:19-20).

Jesus As Temple Of God On Earth

Jesus of Nazareth was something more than we know him in the flesh. The promise of God to David was not carnal but spiritual though it was demonstrated in the flesh as a shadow of what should be. David was anointed by God to reign as King forever. David wanted to build a house for God but was restrained because of the much blood he shed (1Chr. 22:7-8). Instead, God said He would raise a seed out of him and would build the house for Him (2Samuel 7:1-8). With this seed of promise, the house of God be built for God. This seed was not Solomon, but the one that would sit on the throne forever. Solomon built a beautiful temple for God, but was a shadow of the true temple, which the seed of promise was to build (Heb. 8:5, Isa. 11:1-5).

God does not dwell in a temple that is built with human hands (Acts 7:48). He dwells in heaven, in the heaven

of heavens. For God to have a dwelling place among men, the house must be supernatural. The body of Jesus on earth was the tabernacle through by which He visited his people. The Holy Spirit was in Christ without measure (John. 3:34), that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself (2Cor. 5:19, I Tim. 3:16). Jesus said "Destroy This Temple and in three days I will raise it up" (John.2: 19). It marveled the Jews and were offended because it took them forty-six years to build it. But, it was not the temple in Jerusalem that he really meant. Jesus referred to his body. That is, that when he is slain in three days, he shall rise again. Now we are to be the likeness of Christ and our bodies are the temple of God. We are members of the body of Christ as the temple of God.

Jesus As The Foundation Stone

He was a model of the temple on earth. He was a man rejected and crucified and the same Jesus, which the builder (Israel) rejected, is now the head, or the foundation for which the whole temple is fitly joined together. We must be conformed to the image of Christ to be God's people. Sons of God are the place of abode of the Father. They are a body known as the church. God is to reveal Himself to the world through this body (1Cor. 3:16-17, 2Cor. 6:16). They are the places of abode of the Holy Spirit on earth (John 14:17, 23), where the glory of God is revealed to the world (John 14:10-12).

The life of Jesus is God's own love being manifested in the flesh. When we become conformed to his image then the love of God is perfected in us, and God is revealed in us. The Holy Spirit is in us because we are perfected in the love

of God. He is God in us and this is the reason for every divine manifestation and miracles.

The individual Christians are lively stones built up onto the body of Christ, being the foundation for a spiritual house, the sanctuary and abode of God (1Pet. 2:5 1Cor. 12:12-27). Jesus is the word made flesh. It is perfect love personified. He is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). If we walk in his type of love, then God is in us. Since Israel believed in the law, Christ as source of salvation is a word of stumbling, a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence (1Pet. 2:6-8, Isa. 8:14). They stumbled at the revelation of Christ because of unbelief and fell.

Jesus As King Of Kings

Kings are to be appointed by God, because He is the creator and ruler of all things. Heaven is His throne and earth is His footstool (Isa. 66:1). He is in heaven but his abode and dominion covers the earth. Man is God's His agent of rulership over the earth, created a king, an on the throne of God (Gen. 1:28, Ps.8: 6). But God is King of Kings. Man rules on His behalf and will give account of his stewardship, he will be judged (Ps. 5:2, Ps.74: 12, Daniel 4:25-26, Ps. 9:8).

Man sinned and is condemned along with Satan, with no man to rule creation anymore (Isa.42: 18-20).

He is fallen short of the glory of God, and alienated without dominion and authority. Jesus Christ came as the kind of man God desire to be His son, and king and ruler over his works. He was born king of creation (Isa. 32:1, Isa. 9:6-7, Heb. 1:8-9).

He was not king until he was seated at the right hand of God as high priest. The earth is condemned, awaiting destruction by fire. He was not even king over Israel on earth but over the new creation (John 6:15, John 18:36-37, Ps. 102:18).

God is not God of the dead but of the living. Jesus was to raise up people who were once dead, but to be quickened and be translated to his image and likeness to form a kingdom in which he will be king over the nations (Col. 1:18, Rev. 17:14, Prov. 8:12-23, Rev. 5:10).

When he man have finished his work and the everlasting dominion restored back to man, then he shall hand over all things to God and he himself shall be subject unto God the Father (1Cor. 15:24-28, 1Tim. 6:13-16).

Jesus as the son of Man

Before the world was formed, man was predestinated as crown of creation to rule over both things seen and things not seen (Psalm 8:6, Eph. 1:4). Adam had dominion and authority over all the works of God on earth. (Gen 1:26). He was called son of God (Luke 3:38, Heb 1:14).

But he sinned against God and fell from his throne. And brought condemnation to himself and his unborn children. Though ways driven away the eternal purpose of God on man was not destroyed. God still planned He would raise up a seed out a woman and when he shall appear He will sit on the throne man as predestinated (Gen 3:15). The seed to the son of man (Ezek. 1:26-28, Dan. 7:13-18).

Christ was born as man into the human race (Heb 2:14). He was counted as seed of David, of the stock of Abraham.

He is the one to sit on the throne of David with an everlasting dominion, power, might and authority to rule heaven and earth (Matt. 25:31). He had the power to forgive sin (Matt. 9:6).

Ezekiel and Daniel were called “Son of Man” because of the visions of the end. These were hidden in God but was made known to them. But only Jesus was qualified to open the book that was sealed. Though Adam failed, His descendant had prevailed with the truth of God and this everlasting power, dominion and authority is for him (Rev 1:13-18, 5:1-14). He had taken over the position of the first Adam, the earthly father of man and all the hidden things of God are to be revealed through him.

What God says about Jesus?

No one knew the Father until Jesus introduced him (John 20:17), no one knew the son until God revealed him to the world (John 8:19,42). Twice God spoke directly about him, saying this is my son (Matt. 3:17, 17:3).

First, God spoke through the prophets, and called him a star out of Jacob, He called him a scepter (Num. 24:12, Gen. 49:10), the Anointed one (Isa. 61:1-2), an ensign and a light, a commander and ruler of the people of God, a sin bearer (Ps. 110:4). He is to be born of a virgin as seed of woman (Isa. 7:14, Jer. 31:22, Gen. 3:15). He is to be called the Father. His names are: The mighty God, the Everlasting Father etc. (Isa. 9:6). He will die for the people but God will not allow his soul to remain in hell, neither his body to rot away. i.e. he will die and be buried but will resurrect (Ps. 16:10).

SECTION 2

THE REIGN OF CHRIST

The Millennium Rule Of Christ Jesus

Satan will be cast into abyss and will be there a thousand years. Within this period of Satan's exile, Christ will reign to establish peace on earth (Rev. 20:1-4). At the beginning of the reign of Christ after Satan shall have been banished in hell, those who were killed for the testimony of Christ will resurrect and reign with him in his one thousand years of rulership.

This revelation of Christ must not be taken in the literary but in the context of spiritual truth. A day with God is like a thousand years to man (2Pet. 3:8). Christ will reign for a season. In the first resurrection the dead will resurrect with spiritual bodies not made of flesh and blood, and may not be physically seen as it takes place. (1Cor. 15:44,50). Everything in Christ is spiritual (1Cor. 2:14).

Christ is the word made flesh (John 1:14). The reign of Christ is the supremacy of the word of God in the world. Satan will be bound in abyss a thousand years means the power of devil to suppress the truth of Christ will be

drastically reduced. This will give room to every man in the world to know Christ. The word of righteousness will be preached to the end of the world and then the end will come. The long-suffering and patience of God is complete.

Though Christ will reign by the word in righteousness, the mystery of iniquity will also be there but not in full because Satan will be hindered by the testimonies of Christ (2Thess. 2:5-7).

If we understand about the spiritual things of God, then we will appreciate what Jesus said in Matt. 24:37-39 "*But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the son of man be*". It is a great mistake for anyone to think that Christ will come down and establish his throne on a given location on earth. Matt. 24:23,25-26 said, "*Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.*" Though not certain, there is reason to believe that the reign of Christ is manifested. Christ had influenced the world in a tremendous way. The emergence of international law; human rights legislation; freedom of speech, the abolition of captivity, slave trade, the killing of twins, barbarism and colonialism are the effects of the works of Christ in the world. Now is the time of the voice of truth. When the reign of Christ will end, the voice of truth will be absent and there will be hunger, which is not for food but for the word of God.

Now the gospel of Christ and the word of truth is preached almost everywhere in the world without hindrance. It is also the reason false prophets could capitalize on this liberty to deceive and make money out of the testimony of Christ. When the millenium rule of Christ is over, satan will be allowed by God to exercise his power, and dominion and authority in the world (Rev. 20:7-8). He will be given power to make war with the saints and to overcome them (Rev. 13:7). To overcome the saints means the power to kill them, see (Rev. 11:7). Those who confess Christ in hypocrisy or the babes who could not walk in the righteousness of God will remain. The events that will follow after the Second Coming of Satan is the great tribulation and the war of Gog and Magog. The great tribulation is all that will happen at the reign of devil when the only voice you hear is that of the false christs and false prophets, when evil will increase in midst what seem to be Christianity, and life will be very hard for those who desire to be good (Matt. 24:21-31). All the imperfect Christians that will remain to see the reign of Satan will fall away (Rev. 13:8, 2Thess. 2:3). The reason is that they may not with stand the tribulation and threat of death. By this time children of God and the voice of truth are no longer in the world. The Holy Spirit will also go back to the Father in the way he ascended. The situation will be like of old before Christ came.

The unrighteous Christians are to remain to overcome their weaknesses which they were not able to overcome in the hands of the spirit and the brethren (1Cor. 5:5). Those who acknowledge their weaknesses (pride, arrogance, fornication etc) and withdraw from the unclean and learn obedience by

the things they will suffer, (Heb. 5:8) will form the remnant of the saints at the great day of the Lord's coming. The war of Gog and Magog is when Satan will move every man under him from the four corners of the earth against the remnants of the saints to eliminate them on earth (Rev. 20:8-10)

Jesus As Christ, The King On The Throne Of David

Jesus was born of Joseph, a descendant of David. An angel revealed his name to be Jesus (Matt. 1:21). It was a fulfillment of the promise of God to raise a seed out of David to sit on his throne forever. The promise of an everlasting king out of David was for a New Kingdom different from all kingdoms of the earth. It is the kingdom of God, not of man. The ruler of such kingdom is to be called the "first born" of God. (Ps. 89:26-27) with power, dominion and authority.

Christ means the anointed one. This anointing was of glory and honour. The coming of such a being with such an exalted position in the name of David was to fulfill the promise of making David an everlasting king. He was to be the Messiah of Israel, a redeemer and deliverer of the Jews according to the promise of God to their fathers. Redemption and deliverance presupposes slavery. Israel means people of God under the dominion of an enemy (devil). Israel was a figure of the human race to be delivered from God's enemy devil. Now the true Israel of God is a new creation, out of those that were once dead in through sin. The sceptre of the kingdom is revealed, as righteousness, the anointed king is to rule in righteousness (Isa. 11:1-16). This kingdom is established already, Christ being the king.

Jesus was not born king on earth. He refused when he was to be made a king on earth (John 6:15). The earth had been condemned already, awaiting destruction by fire (John 3:18). He was not born king over Israel on earth, but over the people of God that should be made in the future (John 18:36-37, Ps. 102:18).

When Christ shall have finished his work and the everlasting kingdom established, then he shall hand over all things to God and Christ himself shall be subject unto God the Father (1Cor.15: 24-28, 1Tim.6: 13-16). The eternal reign of Christ is in the Godhead. Christ is part of the Godhead, the eternal God.

The gentiles will see the glory of God in Christ and will desire for his beauty. They will seek him and find him, and shall have part in the kingdom. He is a light to lighten the gentiles in righteousness, and in him they will trust (Acts 13:47, Isa. 49:6).

Love is God and no religion in the world had ever transformed man into the actual love of God. But now we are perfected because the Holy Spirit has put the love of God in our spirits (heart) after we are saved by his blood. (Rom. 5:5). He is both Christ, Saviour and king of the Israel of God and not of the world (Rom. 2:28-29). This kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. Though Christ will hand over all things to the Father, and be subject to Him, Christ will continue to reign as king in God.

Authority In The Name Of Jesus

The Name “Jesus” was revealed from heaven. An angel of the Lord said to Mary, thou shall call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins.

Jesus is the name of the seated Christ at the right hand of God. He is the head of the church. The Christian man is to work in his stead. Every believer is a partaker of Christ, to walk in his name. God has made him preeminent in all things (Col. 1:18). We do not live unto ourselves but unto him who saved us and made us live with him (2Cor. 5:15).

Every believer is given the “Power of Attorney” to walk in his name. By calling on the name we can see everything Christ did in his earth-walk happening even in the name. The name has the same authority treasured up in it as Jesus had during his earth walk. ‘In Jesus Name’ means on behalf of Christ Jesus whom I stand. We are in him and he in us just as he was in the Father and the Father was in him. When we approach God and speak to Him in this name, we get all that we want, because he will answer (John 16:23-24). With that name, we speak to Satan and he obeys. We cast out demons in his name (Mark 16:17-18, Phil 2:9-11). When we decree in the name, it is established. The sick are healed and those in bondage set free in the power of the name (Prov. 22:28). The Father answers through the name to reveal the reality of Christ.

SECTION 3

THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST

The Finished work of Christ

Many are weak because they have refused to recognize that the old covenant is abolished, and a new one with better promises is in place. A new covenant with better relationship with God, with a new hope, new authority and power stronger than before is in place. All that is in the nature of God is available to us. We are now masters over the adversary devil.

“It is finished.” What did he finish to do? It was the end of the old covenant with its ordinances that were contrary to us, e.g. being clothed with life of animals. The end of the fall of humanity through Adam’s transgression. The fulfillment of the prophecies about him, and of all righteousness for the restoration of man (Matt. 3:15, Gal. 4:4). The beginning of a new man qualified to be called son of God, made by a decree (Ps. 2:7,8) when Christ was exalted.

Jesus did the work of a son. He did the will of the Father as a son (John 17:6-8). He satisfied the requirements of obedience on behalf of humanity. He loved unto death (Heb. 5:8). He died as a lamb, and paid the penalty the human race owed to God’s Judicial Council. Barabbas, a notable prisoner was released and he (Christ) was smitten and

condemned. He pleased the Father as a son and changed his mind and make way for reconciliation and better relationship.

He died for our sins that we may be righteous through him, and he resurrected God has declared him good and absolute. He presented the blood to the holiest in heaven, after he met all the requirements for the restoration of his people (Heb. 9:12). He finished the work and sat down at the right hand of God as High Priest. He is Lord and Saviour, Justified of God as having completed his works (Heb. 8:1, 2).

We are now to benefit from his finished work, to believe and to have faith in him. We are to accept him as our saviour to be clothed with his life (2Cor. 5:3,4), to put our hope in him and not to doubt, to believe he has given us his life already because he has finished his work (Matt. 11:28, Isa. 30:15, John 5:24, 6:40, 15:3).

We are to believe we are saved, and made new creation and Satan has no dominion over us. Our sin, disease, burdens and circumstances have been borne by Christ once and for all (Isa. 53:3-5). Like an exchange of garments, God gave us his life and he carried our sins.

We are children born out of the truth of his sacrifice. We have accepted it and we know we are in Him and He in us by His word and spirit. We do not put our hope in the rudiment of religion, to be dominated by sin consciousness. It is sin consciousness that robbed us of our sonship rights in God and could not approach Him any more. Now we are saved and our sense of guilt destroyed through Jesus Christ.

We are not babes – Babes echo James 5:14-15, who rely on religious precedence.

We walk with the wisdom that is from above. There are two kinds of wisdom. Wisdom from above is that of Christ. The living word, in reality, is the wisdom of God that is now ours as part of our beings. We rest in the word. Our whole souls and spirits are swallowed up of His life (2Cor. 5:4, John 10:9-11). We don't struggle to have his wisdom because he did all the works for us, and we put ourselves in his rest.

Now "it is finished" we have it now. God said we have it now. Why do you doubt, saying no man can be righteous.

Jesus' Victory over Satan

The war between God and devil is on who should dominate man's heart, or be recognized as Father and be worshipped as God. The honour of worship is not imposed, but voluntary, because God created us with the power of will to take decision on our own.

That man was created as son of God and was given power, authority and dominion over all creation, but he sinned and became alienated from God, and Satan is holding him without power to escape. But God needed reconciliation even though he sinned in the past. So he sent Jesus from heaven to come to earth in the likeness of His children to show the only way he can escape from the hand of devil. Everything Jesus did was a lesson to man, to see and do what

he did to please God for re-union and devil loses his dominion over him.

There were three remarkable victories Jesus had over Satan for us, to enable us defeat devil on our own because without we defeating him, there is no freedom. So God revealed the weaknesses of devil so that we can use it as our victory power over him.

We defeat devil when we are obedient to God. We cannot overcome him except through God presence. God showed us the secret of His presence in Christ Jesus and ask us to believe in Him. There will be no redemption except we walk in His way, truth and life.

Jesus had three-fold victory over Satan. First, he defeated him in his earth walk, and second, he defeated him on the cross and finally, he defeated him in the life of the new creation man. He defeated him in the midst of want, and tribulation and destroyed Satan's dominion through obedience to God.

Jesus came as a son to reveal the glory of his Father in a dark world of evil (Heb. 2:14)., "*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same, that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil.*"

That, "*for verily he took not on him the nature of angels, but he took on him the seed of Abraham.*" "*Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto*

his brethren that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in all things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people". And verse 18 said, "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." As Son of God he revealed the glory of God in the world of evil and devil could not quench his light of the word.

Jesus had fasted for 40 days and 40 nights, he became very hungry and Satan tempted him through his hunger. He said, *"If thou be son of God command this stone that it be made bread."* But Jesus answered, it is written, that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God.

Jesus told Satan that sons of God do not demonstrate their power in that way. They keep the word of God. That though we have the power to do all things, we are those who labour before we eat. Jesus told Satan that the scripture was written of him. That he is the one that does not live by bread alone but by every word that God speaks. At the beginning, man was not to labour but to enjoy the things that were freely given to him of God. But because of what he did God said, upon our sweat we will eat. We must accept this fact because He has spoken. People want to have everything without work, they want to eat without sweat, and run into evil. Remember the word is spoken and cannot be made void. We have it as our wisdom or we reject it and receive the damnation. We overcome devil when we despise things of the world and want. Things that are possible with the flesh do not need faith, but wisdom and hard work.

He revealed one thing. that our victory over Satan is in the word of God. Jesus knew the will of the Father and he defeated devil by doing the will of the Father. We don't need to demonstrate powers by inviting people to come and see miracles and magic. This is the life of devil. Mark 16:20 said, the disciples went forth and preached every where, because this was the work given to them, and that the Lord worked with them and confirmed their word with signs following. Miracles are God's own duty while speaking the word is your duty. It is God that decides what He does in a given situation. you cannot pre-determine what is to happen by inviting the sick and poor and the barren to come and receive healing and prosperity. Jesus was pure, perfect, decent, gentle, kind and loving. He showed the victory of the new creation. He did the word and healed the people and that his fame spread abroad. It was God advertising Himself.

Jesus defeated Satan on the cross, of all that happened to him, no evil was found in him. Devil merely appeared to have defeated him because he was made sin on the cross. It happened to him not because he sinned but sinners did it to him. Satan had power over him on the cross because God rejected him, but could not have him because there was no evil found in him. He obeyed the Father to suffer on behalf of man, and was taken to the cross when there was no reason for that. He suffered tribulations and disgrace, yet at the peak of it, he prayed and said, Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. 1Pet. 2:21B–25 said, *"Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps. Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth, who when he was reviled, reviled not again; and when*

he suffered, he threatened not, but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously. Who his own self bare our sin in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sin should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray, but are now returned unto the shepherd and Bishop of your souls." Christ defeated him because he overcame death and showed the way to overcome through obedience to the Father. That we should be weak through obedience to the Father and be made strong, and die through obedience to God and live.

We were created as sons to walk as sons of God. But something terrible happened and we all fell away, every man on his own way. Ps. 14:2-3 *"God looked down from heaven upon the sons of men, to see if there was any that did understand, who seek after God. But said, none. That they all were gone aside, that they were all together become filthy. That there was none that doeth good, not even one."* Rom. 2:23 said, *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* We could not act on the word of God any more because we lost His glory. God (Isa. 42:14-16) said, I will not hold my peace any more, I will save my people. I will bring the blind by a way they knew not, I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked thing will I make straight. I will do these and not to forsake them any more. I will visit my children and show them my arm of salvation. I will deliver them from the adversary, and will teach them my ways that they may uphold my arm of righteousness, and the adversary be brought to nought.

God sent Jesus from heaven as beloved son, made of a woman, with flesh and blood even as others, and was called

son of man. Christ came as a son to do the work of a son as a model of the way, and the truth and the life He has for our reconciliation and freedom from the adversary devil (Heb. 2:14).

He was revealed as the word made flesh, as son of full grace and truth (John 1:14), of the truth of the word, and of obedience to God, and the truth of God's life through the word.

The coming of Christ in our likeness, is the Father Himself coming down to earth to meet us at our level in the sense realm. It was God penetrating into our lives, and intruding into our senses to transform our consciousness to a new hope, and a new life.

He manifested to show us the truth of Him and of His children as those of one family. God knew He cannot appear to us in the sense realm with His very being without incarnation. So He came as a union of Himself and humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. Incarnation means God becoming united with humanity in a body of flesh and blood, and that is Jesus. That humanity should see the realities of God in the flesh and know about man's creation as image and likeness of God.

Christ defeated Satan on the cross, in his highest place of authority. He humbled himself to death without sin, and fulfilled the obedience required of God on his people. The scripture said if devil had known of what was going to happen, he would not have killed Christ. His failure in Christ

made him lose his power, because Christ was justified in Spirit as perfect. God said there was no sin found in him as a person. Jesus knew of his justification ever before he gave up himself. He said the prince of the world cometh but has nothing in me (John 14:30). That death had no dominion over him because he received this commandment from God and he believed it (John 10:17-18). When he died on the cross, he died as a cursed person. There is a curse on those who die on a tree. Christ was made sin by his death on the cross. But God justified him, and made him the head of all principalities and powers. A new order of things has come into being. He so satisfied the Father as a son that through his obedience, God poured out His grace on all mankind. His justification is the justification of every sinner who accepts him as Lord and Saviour.

He was recreated in the abode of the dead because he was justified. And when he was recreated, in the mind of justice, the believers of Christ were recreated also, because they were justified with him. And when he resurrected, his resurrection was our resurrection because he was resurrected for our justification (Rom. 4:25). His substitutional sacrifice and justification brought three-fold healing to those who believe in him.

The believers are God's new workmanship created through Christ to live for good works which was ordained as the life of man before the world was formed (Eph. 2:10). He was recreated from his death on the cross, to be the head of the church, and all those who put their trust in him are recreated along with him. They are partakers with him of his

body and life. The spirit that raised him from the dead is to live in them also, as members of the body of Christ, the church which is born out of obedience God. They are branches of the vine. Satan is defeated in the new creation because they are now the righteousness of God in Christ. He has no dominion over them because they are members of the body of Christ.

Satan is the accuser of the brethren. His desire is to accuse everyone before God, telling God, He has nobody again. That they all belong to him. You know what he told God about Job. That Job worshiped God because God blessed him. But God defeated him through Job. That though Satan has the whole world, God has a remnant who are His people, who never bow to Satan, no matter the circumstance. 1John 3:9 said, "*Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin, for his seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God.*" With the new creation man, Satan's authority to rule the human race is broken. His power to kill is sin, and his ability to rule the world is sin. Now the saved ones are free from sin and he cannot manipulate them again. He cannot deceive them with things of the world because they have learnt to overcome hunger, pains, afflictions, want, lust and devils temptations through the word. They have known to overcome threat, intimidation, persecution, tribulation and suffering by the word of God. They do not even stumble in abundance because they have known how to suffer need and to be full. They are masters of circumstances. They can overcome evil with good. You curse, but they bless you. You persecute, they pray God should forgive because you do not know what you do. They are full of the fruits of the spirit

(Gal. 5:22-23). They can be weak that others may be strong, be poor that others may be rich, to suffer need that others may be full, and to abstain from things lawful that other people's conscience may not be damaged. Selfishness and other strongholds of devil in them have all been destroyed.

Satan is defeated because we have been given the secret of life. God has brought Jesus from heaven to be our wisdom and righteousness that we might defeat him in Christ Jesus. And this we have believed. We have believed in him, in his truth and life (1Cor. 1:30). We have been sanctified by his wisdom and righteousness and Satan has no authority over us.

We do not accept money that is against the will of God, to worship devil because of things of the world. We are pilgrims, and ambassadors in a world ruled by devil, and we know to be hungry that others may eat, to be poor that others may be rich and to be weak that others may strong in God.

We know it is not by our power but by the power of God, and we have allowed Him to fight for us. We have surrendered to Him in weakness, that He might act. His power is made perfect in our weakness. When we are weak then we are strong. We do His will and triumph over the enemy. We don't return evil to sender and the world wonders at our kind of life and come for reconciliation. We defeat them through love and through the wisdom of Christ, and bring salvation to them also. Christ was not weak because his weakness is the power of God. Rom. 12:19-20 said, "*Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith,*

the Lord. Therefore, if your enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink: for in so doing thou shall heap coals of fire on his head".

Stop being wicked because devil will have claim over you and rule you, God will punish you for the evil you do.

There is no way one can be free from devil if he is a sinner. Your ability to overcome him is righteousness. When you are righteous, he is crippled and has no dominion over you. It is a mistake to think you are free from devil as a churchgoer if you are still a sinner. Devil has legal claim over sinners. He tempts to make you sin to destroy your freedom because he holds the world in unrighteousness.

What is Christianity?

The scripture makes us understand of a generation to come. The generation that will show forth the praise of God after the Messiah had come (Ps. 102:18). It was a promise of a new creation, people that should be redeemed from the adversary, devil, and be reborn with a new life (Eph. 2:10, Ps. 48:6,7,11).

A Christian is not just a religious man. Religion makes people guilty of death (Gal. 4:37), sin consciousness and sense of unworthiness making the worshiper confess of sins every day. A Christian is one whose conscience is reawakened by divine life (Matt. 5:20). He is described as a new creature, 2Cor. 5:17, because he is born of the spirit. Divine nature makes him walk as the righteousness of God in the world.

Christianity is not the forgiveness of sins, but remission and one becoming a new creation. Not about church services, but spiritual relationship with God. It is about the truth of God's own family on earth, about the Father fact of God and His children, humanity, according to his eternal purpose before the world began (Eph. 1:4). Christianity is the revelation of God in the body of man, as the image of God, showing the realities of man's redemption and union with God (2Cor. 5:18).

A Christian is one that is born again unto God through incarnation. Incarnation is the union of God and man in Christ. The body of Jesus is the church, the body of God on earth and we are members of the body of Christ (2Cor. 6:16). We are the branches of the vine (John 15:5). Christianity is about the attributes of God in our mortal bodies (2Pet. 1:4).

You become a Christian by believing in Jesus and confessing him as your Lord (John 1:12, Rom. 10:9-11), because salvation is a gift (Eph. 2:8-9). When you believe in Him, his ability becomes your ability.

Redemption means deliverance from sin. Our sins are not only forgiven but purged out of us. Salvation is the entrance of God's own life into our spirits. The word was made flesh i.e. God became united with the body of man to meet us in the sense realm and lead us into the spirit realm (John 1:14, 1Cor. 15:45,49). The life of the Christian is for the praise of God (Eph. 2:10, Col. 3:10, Eph. 4:24). The ability of Jesus is now your ability. We have been redeemed. When he died on the cross, we all died with him. When he

went to hell, it was because of us. When he was recreated in hell, it was our recreation. When he became the firstborn it was we becoming children of God, the decree was for us (Ps. 2:7, Heb. 1:5) His resurrection was our resurrection because it was for our justification (Rom. 6:4-6,11). Christianity is a miracle.

The Jesus' kind of Life

We see Life as to breathe, to grow, to reproduce, move and so on, but this is about the flesh or body only, it describes the functions of the body only.

There are many kinds of life and God is the source of all. God is eternal and self-existent with life, and He gives life to creation according to its purpose. We have animal life, vegetable life, human life and spirit life. In John 5:26 Jesus said, *"For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in himself;"* That the Father has life in Himself and He made Jesus to have life in Himself. This life Jesus is talking about is the spirit life of God.

Animal life and vegetable life were made to support and sustain human life. Deut. 20:19 said, *"When thou shall besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an axe against them: for thou mayest eat of them and thou shalt not cut them down (for the tree of the field is man's life) to employ them in the siege."*

Human life is made of two basic kinds of life.

- a. Life in the blood, which is life of the body or flesh (Lev. 17)

- b. Life of the spirit, which is the very life of God.

When a child is born, he is born as human because he has human features. We see him cry and we rejoice because the child is alive. Blood gives life and strength to the body. It is the life of the body, not of the spirit. The strength of this life is in the food we eat. If one does not eat, the body which is sustained by the blood will become weak and eventually dies and turn to dust.

The body on its own has no moral obligation, because it is just a house for man's spirit. It cannot enter into the new heaven and new earth but the spirit and a new body. 1Cor. 15:5 said, *"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."*

The body is to be guided by an inward man, or by law enforcement agents. From creation, man's body was subject to spiritual life through the inward man (the human spirit) who through the sense organs moved the body in the way it enables him express his love.

The fall made man lost his divine attributes through the body. The loss of God's own life made way for the entrance of spiritual death. The spiritually dead man is sense ruled. His desires are about things of the flesh. He is a mere body with sense organs that has no moral obligation. Since the world is in the hands of devil, he manipulates man through his sense organs and made him walk to his advantage (Gen. 6:3, 5-6).

The life of the body in the blood is not different from those of animals. Our difference with them is in terms of the spiritual life we have which is manifested in the body. Spirit life determines character, conduct and behaviour. If one is violent, and fighting in the streets, raping and making sex with everyone he sees, the fellow has a strange spirit different from that of man. i.e. He has an evil spirit or spirit of devil. He may or may not be possessed by demons, but we know who he is as revealed in his character and manner of life. Life which is different from normal human life is evidence of madness or strange spirit. The Bible said, man is fallen and is come short of the glory of God. That is to say that the life of man as we see today is different from what it should have been. That man sinned and lost the life of God and that what we see, even from the most well behaved person, is just the life of those who are cut off from divine life. It is the life of spiritually dead men. Spiritual death is the absence of God's life in man's spirit. God is called the living God. His life is revealed in His word, nature and wisdom, and it was the life of man's spirit at creation. It is known as Eternal life, divine nature, the life of Christ. We are born again when our spirits become the anchor of God's nature. Eternal life is not continuous existence but the nature of God. We have two kinds of spiritual nature. That of God is eternal life and that of devil spiritual death. Those with nature of God have eternal life, and those with that of devil spiritual death. It is this death that Christ came to remove from man.

Spiritual death is known as the body of sin or body of death. It is the nature that devices evil. Christ came to deliver us from spiritual death or nature of devil and to impart to us

God's eternal life. When our spirits become partakers of God's nature, then everything about us will change to the direction of God. It makes us have the heart and mind of God to walk as He walks. It makes have us God's own values and wisdom of love, to be perfect in judgement. It makes us consider the interest of everything around us to be accountable for our actions. It is the root of goodness, peace, kindness, meekness, mercy etc. It is shed into the spirit of the new creation through the word of God (Rom. 5:5). That though the body is mortal, subject to attack and influence from devil, this mortal weakness will be brought to perfect control through God's spirit life that is now given to us (2Cor. 5:4). Our mortal bodies and desires are to be swallowed up of divine life.

God created man as his image and likeness but the original design and purpose was destroyed because of Adam's high treason against God. Man lost his glory and position as crown of creation and His world slept into the hands devil who had turned almost everything to advantage. He has created his own way besides the design of God. We are born into this new way and grow up with this satanic life.

There are two basic things in man's life. First is the development of human features and the ability to eat and drink with mouth, and to stand and walk with one's legs and feet, the ability to understand and speak human language, etc. If a child is lacking in these, he will hardly be called a human being. He is an incomplete person because it is not the will and original design of God.

The second and most important aspect of man is the ability to respond to values and to live in them. The nature of man and his society depends on his laws and values, and belief about the present life and about the one beyond. Man is born into a value system which has been created already. The thoughts have been established, and the traditions, customs and laws are made. Man's life is determined by the laws and values of his society. The law of God is designed to make man conform to His image to be filled with His nature, and those of devil the image of his being. Who created the thoughts and the values of our society? Who made the laws? Devil is death and his ways are known as way of death (Rev. 20:14, 6:8).

The life of a people is a shadow of their spiritual state. The source could be God or the world under the influence of Devil. The laws of God are known as the way of life but those of devil of death. The two define life and death. Spiritual life and spiritual death are imparted to the spirit of man and find expression in the heart. The heart is an image of a spiritual state. Jesus said, out of the abundance of the heart spiritual things come out. Our dead spirits are to receive divine life through the word of God if we believe with our hearts and accept them as our wisdom of life.

God's commandment is in one single attribute – Charity or Agape Love. His laws are love, His commandment is love and are for peace and for joy in the world. The decree for men to wear men's clothes and women women's clothes and the prohibition of sex besides husband and wife, are for peace, for joy and for harmony. God's creation is perfect and

His laws are perfect. His values have no place for strife, for hatred and for contradiction.

Man is made to respond to God's values to hold on them as his thoughts and beliefs and life. These are to be imparted to man by God through His word which he has spoken to us. Natural life merely makes the individual a human which belongs to the human race. But values determine character, conduct, behaviour and kind of life. Believing and walking according to the laws of God gives God's own life. The tradition of the world makes people sinners and enemies of God, and partakers of spiritual death.

The sinner or natural man had grown up from his youth with worldly tradition. He has responded to the world, holding and walking in their understanding, wisdom, beliefs and traditions. These worldly thoughts, laws and traditions all came through the fallen man under the influence of Satan. The fallen man is an image of the world which has made him to be what he is. He is described as flesh (Rom. 8:1-13, Gal. 5:19-21). This is human life in his fallen state. The spirit has lost contact with divine life, the source of his peace and strength, and ability to govern its body. So the life of the man is according to the desires of the body which is being manipulated by devil.

The values of our society do not give room for agape love. We do to gain and cannot be kind and loving people. It makes us wicked and selfish. It does not allow the poor and needy to receive attention, they are denied means of existence. The freedom to do what you like if it does not

offend others means you can kill if they are ignorant of it. Our values make us destructive. We justify evil as good.

Freedom to enjoy makes people drunkards, smokers, fornicators etc. Lack of judgment on one's action is the broad way to destruction. The right to defend oneself from danger, and from harm, and from threat without judgement is the reason for lying, deceit, revenge, strife, wars etc. Except our thoughts and actions are weighed and controlled using God's values, we will continue to be sinners and enemies of God, and the end is the lake of fire. The values of God are revealed in His word and kind of love.

Man is not a mere body of earth but the anchor of divine life as the image of God. The word of God is God Himself. Our spiritual life is about God's nature, character, conduct, behaviour and attitude which He ordained for us before creation. God is God because of who He is. We have not seen Him but we know Him by His life. We see Him by His word. The word is God. We were made as the image of God.

Man had sinned and is fallen short of the glory of God. He is alienated from God, a slave of Satan. His life had been cultivated with sin, and now the image of devil. His life is of the world, which is dominated by devil. The world had taught him what to do and how to do it. He is a product of the world. He does not know God anymore because he has been blinded by the adversary. But God has come to remove his blindness, to reveal himself for man to have knowledge of Him.

The word becoming flesh means God making His will, His thoughts, His wisdom, knowledge and understanding manifest in Christ Jesus to penetrate into our consciousness to live and dominate us with his life. The body of man is a “land” that can be cultivated with a kind of life. What you see depends on what is cultivated. What is cultivated depends on the one who cultivated it. God had made himself known to us in the person of Jesus. What he wants from us had been demonstrated by Christ as the doer of it. He has revealed what He wants and we have to put ourselves in His word to be what He wants. His word is to be a substitute of our lives. Christ and His works are God’s epistles to the world. If we are in Christ then we are also the epistles of God to the world (2Cor. 3:3). God is now to speak through us.

God is love. Man was created in the image of God, as the image of love. It was love nature taking form in a person manifesting as the image of the living God. No one had seen God except Jesus Christ who came from heaven.

The *loving Man* is the one acting as the Father, taking the position of the Father to care and to provide for the needy. He gives counsel to the ignorant. He chastises the fool and erring and gives wisdom to the humble. He acts as an ambassador to the Father. He uses his righteous ability to save souls, and create Joy and welfare for mankind.

He is light to the world. This is light of knowledge, wisdom, understanding and ability, as image of God.

When we contact God through the word in Christ, it transforms us from a state of wicked life to the love of Christ. It influences our conscience, and changes us, to the desired character, conduct and behaviour. It produces fruits of its own kind in us. We are born again by the word of truth (1Pet. 1:23, James 1:18). The Holy Spirit is given to convict us of the word. He is a teacher of the word. He is a guide, a teacher and comforter. He recreates us through the word. He is in us to teach, to guide, to lead and to make the word real in us so that we may attain the fullness of Christ.

Every believer of Christ is the light of God to the world. The Father reveals Himself through him. The light of Christ is to change our conscience to dominate our thoughts and to make us new kinds of people. It is to convert us to his kind of obedience (2Cor. 10:5) reconciling our conduct and behaviour to that of the Father.

The blood of Jesus cleanses our spirits, but we must cleanse our mind, will and heart from evil thoughts and our bodies from unclean habits by His word. Obedience to the call of God to give up to God to allow Him rule us. We are to meditate on the word, and to act on it, to let the word live in us and become part of us. The word is to speak and manifest itself in us for others to see what spirit we have become (Rom. 8:9).

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

John 14:1-6 shows the understanding the disciples have at the time they were with Jesus. Jesus told them he was going to the Father to prepare a place for us, and after that he would come back and take us. That where he is, there we shall be also. And in **verse 4** he said, “*And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*” But Thomas knew he did not know the way, so he told Jesus, Lord we don’t know where you are going and we don’t know the way? And “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” This lack of understanding is the same with the Christians of all over the world.

John 21:18, Jesus told Peter, “I tell you the truth, when you were young, you dress yourself and went to wherever you wanted, but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go. When you were a babe you reason like a babe without understanding and sense of responsibility, and commitments. But when you become old, because of your children you go to places you do not like to go, you do not eat what you would want to eat, and will not have the comfort you suppose to have. A true Christian is the one that has taken the position of the Father over the lives of His children and the lives of those without understanding, who can kill and have by violence.

We are to follow the way that is revealed in what Jesus passed through. What Adam did was very bad, because he brought the whole human race into condemnation. But

there is solution to our condemnation. God sent Jesus to come to earth to show us a new way to his presence

It is a way that shall be spoken against, and the wise men of the world will not believe. It is the way that brings about oppositions, persecutions, and sufferings. We know what happened at the birth of Jesus. The day he was dedicated, Simeon blessed Mary and said (Luke 2:34b). “Behold this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and a sign which shall be spoken against.” Rom. 9:33 “As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offence.” Those on the way will never be honourable before men in the world, a way of suffering and travail.

The moment we become the body of Christ, to bear witness of him, we automatically become partakers with him of the cup of his suffering and baptism of death. In Matt. 20:23A Jesus told the disciples that of a truth they will be baptized with the baptism he will be baptized with. Rom. 8:36 said, “As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

To confess Jesus is to show the way which the world will speak against. The way is not to overcome physical death but to overcome sin, and the evil world, we are to pay for the evil people do against us with good. We learn to walk in the way that is provided for our perfection and entry into heaven. We walk in the truth about him. Jesus had made it known of what we should expect to see. Matt. 10:32-39 “*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also*

before my Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." It is the will of God that we should suffer with him and be gloried with him. Many have thought it as of the ability to perform miracles and acquire wealth, as a position of honour and respect (Phil. 1:29). The will of God is for us to give up ourselves, no longer to own ourselves to work for our interest, but to live our lives for him. We are to offer ourselves to him as living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1-2). Jesus offered himself as a living sacrifice for us and we are to offer our bodies as living sacrifice for the salvation of others.

Many do not know the way, and as they see what they do not expect, they begin to agree with the world. Our knowledge of God is the knowledge of Christ suffering and of the love of God and the righteousness which is now available to us. We are to agree with new covenant and reject the wisdom of strife and violence, and be a model of the loving kindness of God. The disciples were told of the way and they accepted it (1Pet. 4:12-14).

All the apostles knew of the fruit of their suffering and were not offended in their trials, because it is the way for our perfection. Paul was a minister of Jesus and of the gospel because he followed the way, the truth and the life given.

All those who call on Christ are on this way. The scripture said, there are two ways. Both could be followed in the name of Christ. But only one that leads to heaven, the other leads to hell and everlasting destruction. The way to heaven is strait and narrow, without room for life careless life. It is defined and cannot be added or subtracted. In the broadway, whatever you like you do it. If we are not willing to suffer, we cannot walk in the right way. If we cannot abstain from stealing money that is committed to our care, we cannot rule to bring joy to people's mind. In Matt. 7:22-23 Jesus said, "*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*" These people really preached Christ and prophesied and did wonders in his name. But were not in the right way, they were rejected. We may give all we have to a church, and donate our land and property to it, but except we repent and be filled with agape love, we amount to nothing. Jesus said, many will preach him, prophesy in his name, and perform miracles, but he said, he would deny them because the issue of sin was not resolved in their lives. They did not repent, but remained as sinners till Christ came. Jesus did the Father's will because he kept the commandment of God. He gave up himself for mankind as the Father required. He satisfied the obedience required for

man's salvation. He suffered in the world created by him to show the new way required for salvation.

It is not possible if we have not denied ourselves of our pleasures and personal interest. The offering of our bodies as living sacrifice is about self discipline, self-denial and abstinence from worldly pleasures and comfort. We are to love as Christ loved and to be righteous as he was righteous, to carry the burden of others and to create peace, rest and joy for them. If you are not willing to deny yourself of your personal liberty and comfort, there is no way you can love as he loved. You clamour and fight to have all, and desire for the fall of others that you may rise, you steal, rob, extort, and kill with the wisdom of devil, and blinded. You are cut off from the true way by your desire and evil heart (Col. 3:1-10).

In Luke 8, Jesus talked about the parable of the sower and interpreted it in verse 12:15, he said, *"Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."* And in verse 18 he said, *"Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be*

given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have."

The way does not allow us to see ourselves as lords and masters over any one's life but as servants. Adam committed a high treason against God, desiring to rule himself. He refused obedience to Father God. And we were born out of his rebellion and arrogance. Now if we humble ourselves and be abased and begin to see ourselves as nothing, our rebellion will be forgiven and be remembered no more.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. What he did to the Father is what we are going to do, and what he did for us is what we are going to do for others. Learn from the parable of the master and servant, (Matt. 18:23-35). To forgive is the work of faith in God, it is sign of obedience to God, the willingness to suffer in the name of Christ. It is the love of God in operation. If we do not forgive, we cannot bless our enemies? John 15:9-10 said, *"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."* And in John 14:30-31 said, *"Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence."* He died because God asked him to die for his lost children. Now we are to suffer for the salvation of others. When you pray that sinners, and witches and your enemies should die, you become his enemy because these are the

people God had sent you as an ambassador to save. Just as he sent Jesus to the world who took him as enemy and killed him, and salvation is now available to us, we are to labour and suffer for the salvation of those who hate us.

But that he was taken as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep is dumb before his shearers, so Christ did not open his mouth. On the cross, instead of him to pronounce evil, he blessed and prayed that his killers should be forgiven. Stephen prayed for those who persecuted him to be forgiven. These are the utterances of people who have the same mind, the same life and hope in God Matt. 12:37 said, *“For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by the words thou shall be condemned.”* You are a new creation with everything new; new heart, new mind, new life, new conduct, new pattern of behaviour, new manner of speech, etc. you are to be justified through your actions, so you don’t bother how foolish you may look. If you pray for the death of those who hate or offend you, God says, if this is the way you want, then my grace is not for you. We are to agree with God to live in a dispensation known as Grace, according to the terms of the covenant which He has made with mankind. God first demonstrated it and he wants us to follow in the way He has done. Grace means underserved love which God showed to us by not only forgiven our sins but by killing His only beloved son, righteous Jesus, to cleanse us from our past sins so that he could own us. We hated him yet he loved us and died for us: we despised him, and mocked him and spat on his face, yet he loved us and save us; we killed him, yet he pleaded that our sins be forgiven, this is grace. Now God is saying, if we can agree with the government of Grace to walk

with the same love he had for us, to love the evil and the abnormal and wicked people of the present world as he loved us, then we will be saved. After he has saved us, he says the love of God is now our life. Now we have known what God has taught us. That the law was a shadow of good things to come. Now we worship Him in spirit and our death through sin is of the spirit where the spirit of the sinner is longer for the home of the living (heaven), but for the home of the spiritually dead, hell.

SECTION

4

THE GRACE OF GOD IN CHRIST

Saved by Grace through Faith

The law and the Grace are two different things entirely. Those under the law were justified by the works of the law but we are justified not by the works of the law but by the grace of God through our faith in Christ.

Grace means an undeserved favour which God gave to us by forgiving our past sins, and cleansing us and giving us His life in Christ that we should be His children.

John 3:16 said, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* The work of grace is the making available to man the life and righteousness which make somebody the image of God as it was from the beginning.

It means the restoration of the authority that man lost at the Garden of Eden to enable him defend himself and his house-hold from the enemy, devil. It is the removal of the condemnation God gave to man, after the sin of Adam, if he accepts Jesus.

That God has accepted you not because of good works which you have done, but because of his loving-kindness. Now you have the opportunity to approach Him through Jesus.

How to accept Jesus is the problem of man today. The only sin you commit now which will take you to hell is your rejection of Christ. John 3:17-18 said, *“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

God said, not by your works but I made it for you. I have made up my mind to accept you. Repent of your past life and come to me in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:7-9). The parable of the prodigal son is an illustration of the grace of God on us. The son rebelled and break away from the Father, and wasted his Father's wealth. He said his Father should give him his inheritance in advance, that he would no longer live under him, he wanted to live of his own. And the Father gave him and he left. Very soon, he became a slave to someone who made him live and eat with pigs. Then he began to feel the impact of his separation from his Father. And when he knew of how he was going to end up his life, he decided to go back to his Father. He returned with repentance, with the mind that he was not worthy to be called son because of what he did. The Father has his first son with him but was not happy over the lost one. His grief for him was greater than the joy he has over the one with Him. Though his son has sinned

and did wickedly, He still desired for him. When eventually he saw him coming back home he was moved with such a joy that made him organized a feast with his best stock of herd. He received back his son not with remembrance of the past. He did not accept him with the condition that he should return all the properties he wasted. He forgot about the past and saw him as a new man different from what he was. This is grace indeed because the son was no longer worthy to have right in the house of his Father. This lost son that has returned, is accepted with the condition that he will never do what he did in the past. God does not accept those who do not repent of their sins.

We are saved by grace through faith. We have to believe from the scripture, that God is waiting for us to return to Him with repentance, that He has already forgiven us our sins. If you return, the deeds of the past are no longer remembered. But if you do not come back to Him, it means you have decided to continue in your wicked ways for life. At the end you will be cast into the lake of fire. God does not want this to happen to us, and He strongly desire for our repentance (Luke 15:7, Rom. 5:1, Rom. 6:1-2). He expects every man to return to Him with repentance like the prodigal son.

This grace of God is poured on all men. Luke 2:32 said, *"A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."* Jesus said I do not come because of the righteous, but because of sinners including the gentiles (Rom. 4:4-8). We are saved not because of what we did, but God saved us by the sacrifice of Christ, and He asked us to come

to Him. Jesus prayed for us in John 17:14-17 and he told the Father that he has given us the word and because we receive the word the world has hated us. He said, *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* Sanctify them through thy truth means impart thy love nature to them through thy word and separate them from the evil world. Verse 19 said, *"And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."* He walked in the love of God for our sake. He showed the goodness, the kindness, the meekness, the gentleness, the long-suffering etc. because of us. He was sent as a light to lighten the people. And he said, if you love me, keep my commandment. If you accept Jesus and keep his commandment, you will be transformed by a joint operation through your action and through the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). A gift had been given, and if we accept it, we see ourselves in the realm of Jesus Christ (1Cor. 1:30). Christianity is not mysticism, it is not having our sins forgiven, it is we becoming new creations by the operation of God. Salvation comes through the understanding of the operation of the grace of God (John 3:16, Rom. 5:15-17,21).

The highest thing we have received from God as condemned people is His grace that has changed the whole course of our history and life by which we now have hope in God. We have to believe of what he has done, of what He has made for us. We have to believe and by faith we come to him through repentance, and we have all that he has for us. Our hope in His grace is to be higher than our suffering in the world. We know we have been reconciled, we know we are partakers of Him, we may have nothing in the world, but we have what is greater than the world (2Cor. 12).

We were not worthy for God's salvation, yet God did it for us. No price is too big to pay to maintain it. This is the operation of faith.

That though we were condemned in the past, the grace of God once more has brought us nearer to Him. That though we fell from our position of dominion as sons of God, the grace of God has once more made it possible for us to be uplifted to the position of sons with power and might. That we fell short of the glory of God, and were rob of our wealth and had nothing, because devil took the world and every thing in it, yet God has blessed us through grace with His true riches (Mark 10:29-30).

We have been saved, blessed with spiritual blessings in heavenly things (Eph. 1:3). The excellency of the glory of God which is to be revealed in us, we cannot frustrate it. We are to separate ourselves from the unnecessary things of the world. We know of things we shall avoid now, no matter the price, because it will not be compared to the glory that is to be revealed in us. We cannot worship idols or any manner of beast, we cannot take part in devilish feast and ceremonies, we cannot limit ourselves by observing bad and good omen, we will not pass through devilish rites to become chiefs in our villages, we will not engage in devilish modes of marriage and burial ceremonies (Col. 2:8). Though we might be accused of going against the tradition of the people, we know it first happen to Jesus, because we now have two kingdoms with too different traditions. We belong to God (Matt. 15:1-14).

It cost God the life of Christ to bring us back to himself. He saved us on legal ground because He created us as sons. After he has paid the penalty for our sins, Eternal life is given to our spirits to change our nature to the image of God's son Jesus (Col. 1:13). The substitutional sacrifice of Jesus has brought back to us the glory and authority we lost and devil and his circumstances are now subject to us.

Confession of Faith

We are saved because we have confessed him. Confession means showing your acceptance and faith in God, showing the reality of your belief and faith in Him.

The word of God demands total belief. It is either belief or unbelief, there is no middle way. It does not accept doubt. People reject the word by admitting doubt into their consciousness and confessing it. This is known as unbelief. Faith depends on knowledge, understanding and wisdom. We know that what God says is final with us. This is the foundation of fellowship, and prayer result. We are here on earth to do His will, and when we pray, we know it is His will. He answers because it is according to His instructions (1John 5:14,15). We do not struggle to believe that the prayer is answered because we know it is His will.

By faith we know we are the righteousness of God in the world. This sense of righteousness is the truth of our confession and key to a successful prayer life. Righteousness is the ability to stand before God without sin consciousness or sense of guilt. God has given us a sense of righteousness because He said He has cleansed us from our sins and has

given us His eternal life. We have believed and by faith we know we have it. We have learnt to allow the life come out of us. Our faith has made us sons and daughters of God. With God's righteousness in us, we can go boldly to His throne with quiet confidence and say, **"Our Father, we thank you because you always hear us."** John 11:41.

We have obtained the righteousness of faith through Jesus' substitutional sacrifice. We approach God through his name (John 16:23,24). Jesus came to do the will of the Father which is in heaven. And we are acting in his stead. Even our prayers are in doing what he would have done. We show our union and oneness with Christ in doing the will of the Father, showing the life he has given us, telling others about his salvation, using his ability to create joy and welfare for people. We are confessing that we are the truth about God's children (John 14:6).

We belong to the family of overcomers. We show we are overcomers indeed. The arrows of devil pass through us every second. The messengers of death are sent to kill us, always by our door knocking. Different kinds of signals and messages pass through our hearts and minds, they are from the world and devil, the prince. They come through members of our body speaking to our minds, showing the way of death to educate our minds about the world, appealing to us to accept the ways of hell. These are waves of temptations that come to us every day.

But we have believed the word of the Father God. We have overthrown reason and worldly arguments. We have

given ourselves to Him and have anchored our souls in His word. We show devil that he cannot change us from the truth of the Father God. We are more than conquerors because we have faith in the Father. When trials come to us as they came to Jesus, we know we are in his stead. We know we are those in authority. God has given us all things and we cannot disappoint the Father as Adam did but to please him as Christ pleased him

He shoots missiles into us and we feel the pain but we refuse to accept that we are sick. We know it is an attack from the enemy. He attacks our business and place of work and reminds us of want and poverty, but we remember our true riches and we say 'praise God!' He brings false and evil report against us and scandalizes our names, but we have the righteousness of faith which God has given us and we refuse to accept that we are what they say. He sends his prophets to us with the prophecy that we will die, but we refuse to recognize his authority. We are masters of his power. We are more than conquerors. When the issue of physical death arises, we know we will now be with the Father and we say "Praise God!

Established by Faith

We are established in Christ through the word of God, in righteousness, through His grace, through the knowledge of our redemption and of the life given to us in Christ. We are redeemed and made the righteousness of God in Christ. By the grace of God we are saved not because of what we did but because of the love He has for us. Grace means the giving of underserved love to those who are not worthy to be loved.

The believer should know of the sacrifice Christ did and what He has made him to become through his sacrifice. He should know of his justification. Righteousness is the ability to stand before God without sin consciousness. We have received it through the work of Jesus Christ. God's love, mercy and forgiveness are now given to us to enable us approach Him without sense of guilt. The word of God is the message about our redemption from sin, and the life God has given to us. The life is revealed in Christ. Our knowledge of him brings salvation. It changes our minds and gives us new consciousness and hope (Heb. 13:9). It quickens our dead spirits. By believing and acting on the word of God we are reawakened to God's own life. The word of God is the food of our recreated spirits. It makes us rooted in God such that our whole being is filled with his abundant life, with His love nature dominating us, and we are swallowed up of His life (Rom. 5:5).

God promised He would establish us in righteousness, and the fruit of it will be seen in us (Isa. 54:14, 32:17). See Isa. 30:15. He is to convert us to His image to be His righteousness in the world. He has done His works and now we know have become what He said. (2Cor. 5:21). We know we have the life because it is given to us through the substitutional sacrifice of Christ. We are new men, new creations in Christ (John 6:47, 2Cor. 5:17).

The hope of man is eternal union with God. The Father promised and did it, and gave us all that we want. We are to put ourselves into this union by faith in Christ. Faith is

the belief that we have what we hope to get, base on the evidence we have though not seen. The Father promised, and did it, and said we have it now if we accept Jesus as Lord and saviour. We believe we are saved now, not because of our works or religious observances. The evidence of our salvation is the word of God. We believe in what he has done.

SECTION

5

THE BEAUTY OF CHRIST TO THE NATIONS

The word of God to Israel was a shadow of things to happen to us in the present. God was revealing the secret of our union with Him, how it will look like, showing the beauty of it, the secret of success and victory over Satan.

God knew we may not understand because we are of the flesh being ruled by our senses. And to help our weaknesses, He came and revealed Himself to us in Christ, that we may know Him in the way He has declared of us.

Christ is God manifested in the flesh that we shall see Him. No one has seen God except the way Christ revealed. God is love. 1John 4:8 said, *“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”* Love is not only a nature but the spiritual person of God. It is the nature of those with Him in heaven. This is the meaning of holiness. God wants us to be united with Him through his nature, that we might be sanctified through His life. Love is our sanctification.

The word is God and God is love. And we are to be born into the image of His love to be the fullness of Him. Col. 2:9 said, *“For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”* Verse 10 said, *“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:”* This is the fullness

of His love as the true image of His person God. Love is kind, gentle, meek, lowly, humble temperate, long-suffering, etc. love does not enslave, it does not despise or discriminate, it is full of mercy and truth, it does not pretend, its ways are truth. Love is the spirit of liberty, freedom, the absence of strife, and hatred and oppression.

Love is our mark of perfection, it is our holiness and sanctification, and redemption. It is our power of salvation, the High Way to Heaven John 13:34 Jesus said, *“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another.”* John 15:10 said, *“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in His love.”* Love cares, it provides, it overlooks, it forgives, it considers the welfare of its enemy. It is our ability to overcome the world, our redemption, and the realm of God. 1Cor. 1:30 said, *“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:”*

Our righteousness is love. Its fruits are known as fruits of the spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23). It is the seed of Father God. Love enables us walk in its ability.

It is our pillar of defence, and justification (Ps. 62:5-7). We overcome His judgement because we are partakers with Him of His perfect love. 1John 4:17 said, *“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of Judgement: because as he is, so are we in this world.”* Love makes us overcome hatred, oppression, evil speaking, false

witnessing and lies. It is the wisdom of God, and this wisdom is Christ. Love is a miracle worker. It makes us do what is impossible with men. It puts us into God's collective will as co-labourers. It gives us the spirit of oneness and makes us walk in His realm. Our faith is built upon his love. We walk in His power and ability because we are in Him and He in us. Our ability is love, and our confidence in Him is love. We can do all things through his love because it gives the righteousness that leads us to prosperity. Prov. 14:34 said, *"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."* Love is the seed of God. It is our oneness with him. It brings out potentials, which are known as spiritual gifts. It enables us use our potentials in the highest order. It leads to inventions that usher us into better civilization. This wisdom is Christ (Prov. 8:12, 14-21).

Love creates peace, humbles in meekness, appears in gentleness, induces kindness, mercy, etc. It guarantees effective co-operation and division of labour. It produces good policies; it designs good programmes, it gives the ability to do what is right. It is the secret of good governance.

Empires failed because they were not built upon love. They were founded upon wars and oppression. People were held through coercion, they were gathered together and made subjects through military force. The empires were built upon sorrow, pains and travail. It was the survival of the fittest. Nations were built upon treachery and soon they were taken away by strife and war.

They were destroyed because they were built upon selfishness. Selfishness is a destroyer. It clamours for its own, it cries and fights for its share. It envies, steals, oppresses, robs, etc. It leads to war and eventually, destruction. Selfishness is the realm of failure, and anarchy. It does not allow for potentials to appear. It retards collective ability and division of labour, it is the image of devil.

Past civilization could not endure because the international community stood on strife, wars, robbery and alienation. Christ brought the love that has led us into a better civilization. Though individuals have not accepted him, he really has changed the course of history. The international community has accepted his love as the principle of international relationship. They have acknowledged freedom to life and liberty to the weak. This has created a better civilization than in the past. It has given room for invention, which leads to reduction in man's physical burden. We communicate in seconds around the world, we move in the air, land and sea beyond the speed of sound. It has put to end colonialism, invasions and barbarism.

If we accept the Jesus' kind of love, it is certain that we will see the highest civilization on earth. But this may be wishful because the nations have rejected Christ. One thing is certain; if the international community is standing on the love of Christ as the principle of non-interference then Christ will now be reigning at the world level. If individual nations and citizens receive Christ, we will see a higher one, if not, the end is at hand.

Christ came with the life that destroys our uncontrollable desire for things of the world. The desire for material things is the reason for war and man's failure in the world. We know, man was created for joy, for power and for prosperity, but sin actually turned the eternal purpose of creation upside down. The ground is now in the hands of devil and man is to labour and sweat before he eats. This man already is evil and corrupt, with nature of devil, wicked and self-centered. His wisdom is to satisfy self-interest. This is the reason for oppression, strife, clamour and war. Man is worldly, materialistic (Gal. 5:19-21), and vain in all his imagination, ready to kill in order to have.

He sees himself in terms of material possessions. He sees his relationship with others in terms of their wealth. Those who have, feel higher because of the value of what they have. It is the reason for pride, boastfulness, arrogance, despising etc. Men acquire wealth by fraud and treachery to make up their life and add to their. This is sin (Prov. 21:14, 1John 2:15-16, Rom. 12:16).

Jesus said, *"Take heed and beware of covetousness for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth"* (Luke 12:15). Christ brought the life that changes our minds from insatiable desire for things of the world (1Tim. 6:7-8).

The gospel has made known that the Father knows our needs and has made provision for us. He has given us the wisdom and the ability to work as co-labourers with Him, He will provide for our needs as those working for him. There

are those who get beyond their needs. They will learn to carry the burden of the poor because God is to provide for them. We are co-labourer with God, to walk on His behalf, and it is our duty to give. Our desire should be for the joy and welfare of others. This is known as charity. God gives wealth, so that His people will be fed The part that belongs to the owner is the part he actually makes use of, otherwise it is just the memory that it belongs to him (Eccl. 5:11). The excess belongs to God for the less privileged, the poor, the fatherless, widows, strangers etc. (Eccl. 5:13-16). The wealth in stock is God's own property under your management and care, and will give account of how you manage them.

Christians have their gifts and ministrations, not every one is a millionaire. Prosperity is in things of the spirit of God, in what one can do to bring peace, rest and joy to the human race. Wealth acquired at the expense of others is evil (Prov. 23:4).

The gospel of Christ has brought new men in the world whose duty is the peace and welfare of people. But a new thing different from that of Christ is also in place to overthrow the world. It looks like the church of Christ but is not the true gospel. It is the gospel of mammon, devil. People worship mammon in the name of Christ through lust for worldly wealth.

Money gospel is almost a substitute of the true gospel of Christ in the world, the end is at hand.

God has made a way for us to be blessed but we have refused the blessing. We have chosen our own way, every man on his own, in his selfish interest. Men are swift to take what belongs to others. If husband and wife become united and work as a team with a common interest, to achieve a common goal, they are blessed with substance. If the wife is working for herself for her selfish end, and the husband for himself, the family is divided already and love dies.

Love makes people work in the fear of God. It makes us honest and responsible. To be honest is not in the fear of governmental laws but in the fear of God. The doctrine of Christ gives room for true democracy based on the equality of individuals. It necessitates division of labour with the full benefits of it. Every knowledge, skill and ability will be utilized, individual potentials will be discovered and utilized in full. Every one will receive the reward of his strength and ability, and the joy that is in them will bring out wonderful things.

Righteousness exalts a nation because love makes people work as a family with sincerity and truth, each person putting the best that he can, and receiving the fruits that meet with his needs. Sin is a reproach to a people because will not allow for true division of labour. It will not even encourage it unless one is at advantage.

Nature of devil puts one first in all things, making him fight against others. It kills the ability of others, it suppresses human potentials and brings poverty. It does not recognize or rejoice in the achievement of others. It does not allow others

to receive except himself, so there is no reward for labour. It removes the blessings ordained for man by God.

The only solution to our problem is Christ. By accepting what he has given us that our minds can be renewed to work as normal people for our joy and prosperity. To overthrow evil is a collective responsibility with God at the head. 2Cor. 10:3-5 said, *“for though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of stronghold, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”*

This mighty weapon that destroys people’s wicked imaginations is the word of God, not even the constitution or laws of your country. But the word that makes people have hope in God which changes the way they reason to a better collective life that ensures peace and prosperity.