

The Word Of God - Lesson III A

Humanity's Sinfulness

The Condition

We have learned that the first man and woman disobeyed God. This caused a separation between them and God. However, their disobedience has affected all of humanity born after them because everyone born after them has been born with a sinful nature as we can read in:

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way sin came to all men, because all sinned.

Scripture confirms in many places that all of humanity is sinful, regardless of colour of skin, status in life and gender and is therefore separated from God. God's Word makes it very clear as well that humanity is not able to save itself. We can read this in:

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 5:18a

Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men...

Romans 5:19a

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners...

Romans 6:23a

For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 8:6a

The mind of sinful man is death...

Romans 8:7-8

The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

The Result

Because of disobedience human beings have come under a curse of death and consequently are separated from God. Moreover they are not only separated from God in this life, they are separated from God after they die. This means that at that time their bodies will be buried but their souls will go to a place called hell waiting for a time of final judgement as we can read in:

II Thessalonians 1:8-9

He (Jesus) will punish those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power.

Revelation 20:11-15

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which was the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

God's Remedy

Since humanity is not able to save itself, God, in His mercy, has provided a way back to Him through His Son Jesus Christ, the Second Adam. This means that God has made it possible for human beings to enter into a relationship with Him in this life.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Furthermore when they die, even though their bodies will be buried, their souls and spirits will enter God's dwelling place as we can read in:

II Corinthians 5:6-8

"Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith and not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord."

Philippians 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven and we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The First Sacrifice

God's plan of salvation was already put in place when the first man and woman sinned as we can read in:

I Peter 1:18-20

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

After the first man and woman had sinned God sacrificed an animal to cover over their sins as we can read in:

Genesis 3:21

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

This verse implies that an animal was sacrificed because blood needed to be shed in order for their sins to be covered over and the skin of the animal was used to cover their bodies.

Furthermore, God will have taught the first man and woman the need for ongoing sacrifices so that their sins would continue to be covered over.

The first man and woman in turn will have taught their children the importance of ongoing sacrifices as we can read in:

Genesis 4:3-5a

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the first born of his flock. The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour...

Both Cain and Abel would have learned from their parents that an acceptable offering to the Lord would require the shedding of blood in order for their sins to be covered over.

However, Cain's offering was an offering of the fruits of the soil. Therefore no shedding of blood had taken place. Consequently his offering was not acceptable to the Lord since his sins had not been covered over. These sins remained between him and God and kept him separate from God.

On the other hand, Abel's offering had required the killing of an animal. This meant that blood was shed. Consequently his offering was acceptable to the Lord since his sins had been covered over. This made it possible for him to continue to be in relationship with God.

What God taught the first man and woman was the beginning of a sacrificial system which He eventually put in place under Moses as we can read in:

Exodus 24:3-4a

When Moses went and told the people all the Lord's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the Lord has said we will do." Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said.

However, this sacrificial system was not able to make men perfect as we can read in:

Hebrews 10:1-4

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming –not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshippers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

The sacrificial system under Moses only covered over the sins of the people. These sacrifices were not able to remove their sins. Therefore this system was only a temporary

measure until the time for the final Sacrifice in the form of God's Son Jesus Christ. Even though God had planned for Him to be that final Sacrifice at the foundation of the world this did not happen until the time was right for it to take place as we can read in:

I Peter 1:18-20

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

We will look at God's Plan of Redemption in greater detail in our next study.

The Word Of God - Lesson IIIB

God's Plan Of Redemption

The God-Man

We have learned that the sacrificial system put in place under Moses only covered over the sins of the people but was not able to remove their sins. However, in time God sent a Sacrifice which was sufficient to deal with the sins of humanity, namely His Son Jesus Christ, the Second Adam as we can read in:

Romans 5:19b

...So also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

God the Son has always been part of the Godhead with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. However, it is God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who came to earth in human form so that He could become the Perfect Sacrifice to redeem humanity back to God as we can read in:

John 10:10b

...I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

And in Romans 3:24

And are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

And in Romans 5:8

But God demonstrated His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

And in Romans 5:18b

...So also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.

And in Romans 6:23b

....But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

The Final Sacrifice

God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to be the final sacrifice by being crucified on a Cross as we can read in:

Isaiah 53:5

He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

John 19:16b-18

..... So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called "Golgotha"). Here they crucified Him, and with Him two others – one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

And in Matthew 27:45-46

From the sixth hour to the ninth hour darkness came over the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachtani?" – which means, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"

This three-hour period is very significant for it is the time period that Jesus bore the sins of the world. During that time God the Father looked silently on as the Son bore the sins of the world. Consequently, Jesus felt completely forsaken by the Father as we can hear from the words He spoke, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Jesus had then fulfilled His task and died as we can read in the following words recorded in:

John 19:28-30

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put a sponge on the stalk of the hyssop plant and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Matthew gives us some further details regarding the moment that Jesus died as we can read in:

Matthew 27:51a

At that moment the curtain of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom....

The curtain in the Temple separated the Holies from the Holies of Holies, the Place of God's Presence where only the High Priest was allowed to enter once a year. However, at the time of Jesus' death this curtain was torn to indicate that from then on every believer could enter the Presence of God. Moreover the fact that the curtain was torn from top to bottom shows us that it was God Himself who tore the curtain.

The author of the Book of Hebrews writes the following:

Hebrews 7:27b

...He (Jesus) sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself.

And in Hebrews 9:26b-28a

But now He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people...

A Blood Sacrifice

When the first man and woman disobeyed God He sacrificed an animal to cover over their sins as we have read in:

Genesis 3:21

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

They had tried to cover over their guilt and shame with fig leaves as we have read in:

Genesis 3:7

Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made covering for themselves.

However, their own covering was insufficient. Blood needed to be shed for their sins to be covered over so God sacrificed an animal. Furthermore God had must have taught Adam the practice of offering an animal sacrifice for we have read that one day Abel and Cain brought an offering to the Lord in:

Genesis 4:3-4a

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the first-born of his flock....

Only Abel's offering was acceptable to the Lord because blood was shed as we have read in:

Genesis 4:4b

The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering.

We have learned as well that animal sacrifices were only a temporary measure since the people's sins were only covered over through the blood of animals but were not removed as we can read in:

Hebrews 10:1-4

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming – not of the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshippers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of

bulls and goats to take away sins.

Salvation Through Christ's Blood

Therefore, in time, God sent His Son to be the final Sacrifice. His shed blood was sufficient for the redemption of humanity as we can read in:

Romans 3:23-25a

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood....

Romans 5:8-9

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we now have been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him.

Ephesians 1:7-8

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Colossians 1:19-20

For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him (Christ), and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood shed on the cross.

Hebrews 9:11-12

When Christ came as High Priest of the good things that are already here, He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:13-14

The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great Priest over the House of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

I Peter 1:18-19

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

I John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

Revelation 1:5b

To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood.

Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with Your blood You purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Satan's Defeat

The death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross, caused Satan to be defeated. God foretold this long ago as we can read in:

Genesis 3:15b

He (Jesus) will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.

Paul mentions this defeat of Satan in Colossians 2:15

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

From Death To Life

We are all born with a sinful nature and are under a death sentence as we have learned from:

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.

However, through Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross our death sentence can be removed from our lives and in its place we can receive life in Christ as we can read in:

John 10:10

(Jesus speaking)The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

Romans 3:23-24

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 5:9-10

Since we now have been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life.

Romans 5:18b

So also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.

Romans 6:11

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1-2

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the Law of the Spirit of Life has set me free from the Law of sin and death.

Romans 8:5b

But those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on that the Spirit desires.

Romans 8:6b

But the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive a Spirit that makes you a slave again to sin, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

II Corinthians 5:21

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith – and this in not from yourselves, it is the gift of God –not by works, so that no-one can boast.

Colossians 3:3

For you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Those who have received the Life of Christ have entered the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Life as we will see in our next study.

The Word Of God - Lesson III C

The Kingdom Of God

The moment we, by faith, receive the life of Christ, we enter the Kingdom of God through a born again experience. This takes place when:

a. We recognise that we are sinners who deserve to be eternally separated from God and we cannot save ourselves, as we can read in:

Ephesians 2:12

Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

b. We pray to God confessing our sinfulness, asking for His forgiveness as we can read in:

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

c. By faith we then receive His forgiveness because 2000 years Jesus took upon Himself our sins when He died on the cross as we can read in:

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us on the cross.

d. By faith we believe God has heard our prayer and has forgiven us the moment we ask Him to as we can read in:

Acts 10:43

All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of their sins through His Name.

e. At that moment we have become a child of God and are part of God's family and we have become citizens of the Kingdom of God as we can read in:

I Thessalonians 2:12

Encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His Kingdom and glory.

f. The Holy Spirit of God has come to life within us to help us live in a way that is pleasing to God as we can read in:

Romans 8:5-6

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.

The Apostle John writes about the need to be born again in order for us to enter the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven as we can read in:

John 1:12

Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

John 3:5-8

Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at My saying, You must be born again. The winds blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

John 3:14-18

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned but whoever does not believe stand condemned already because he has not believed in the Name of God’s one and only Son.

Jesus taught much on the Kingdom of God as we can read in the Gospels. Some examples are:

Matthew 4:23

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 24:14

And the gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Luke 17:20-21

Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God does not come with your careful

observation, nor will people say, Here it is, or, There it is, because the Kingdom of God is within (or among) you.”

John 18:36

Jesus said, “My Kingdom is not of this world. If it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now My Kingdom is from another place.”

The Apostles continued to preach on the Kingdom of God as we can read in:

Romans 14:17

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 4:20

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

I Corinthians 6:9a

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of God?...

I Corinthians 15:50

I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Galatians 5:21

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy, drunkenness, orgies and the like. I warn you as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:5

For this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person – such a man is an idolater – has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God.

Hebrews 12:28

Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Kingdom Of Darkness

We have come out of the Kingdom of Darkness the moment we have entered the Kingdom of God as we can read in:

Ephesians 2:1-2

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the Kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Colossians 1:13

For He has rescued us from the Dominion of darkness and brought us into the

Kingdom of the Son He loves.

The God Of This World

We are no longer controlled by the god of this world, satan, as we can read in:

II Corinthians 4:3-4

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

No More In Bondage

We should not allow ourselves to be in bondage any longer as we can read in:

Galatians 5:1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery

Colossians 2:6-8

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no-one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run the race with perseverance.

We will briefly deal with the subjects of justification, sanctification and glorification in our next study.

The Word Of God - Lesson III D

Justification

The Word of God teaches that anyone who trusts in Jesus is justified. This means that we have right standing with God. It is a one-time event when we are declared “not guilty” even though we are sinners. We are cleared of any charges against us because of Christ’s sacrifice at the Cross. At that time He was punished in our place, satisfying the demands of the Law and God’s justice upon sin.

Romans 3:21-26

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace,

through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – He did it to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 4:5

However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:18

Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.

Sanctification

Sanctification is a process. It begins the moment we are born again and continues throughout our life on earth. It is the process whereby we, as believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit become increasingly more Christ-like in character. The Apostle Paul explains the role of the Holy Spirit in the sanctification process in:

I Corinthians 6:11

But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

II Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

It is important to remember that, unlike justification, we as believers are to co-operate with the Holy Spirit in the work of sanctification as the Apostle Peter tells us in:

I Peter 1:14-16

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: Be holy, because I am holy.

This sanctification process involves our minds being renewed through the study of God's Word as we can read in:

John 17:17, which is part of a prayer Jesus prayed:

Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth.

Paul writes about the importance of the renewed mind in:

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Glorification

Our glorification will happen at the return of Christ as the Apostle Paul describes for us in:

I Corinthians 15:51-53

Listen, I tell you a mystery, we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

It is at the time of glorification that our sanctification process will be fully complete. Our bodies will be changed, our old sin nature eliminated and we will see the risen Christ in all His glory as we can read in:

I Corinthians 13:12

Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

Next, we will study the subject of the Second Adam which will show us that Jesus was indeed the Second Adam who was able to take away the sins of the world.

The Word Of God - Lesson III D

Justification

The Word of God teaches that anyone who trusts in Jesus is justified. This means that we have right standing with God. It is a one-time event when we are declared “not guilty” even though we are sinners. We are cleared of any charges against us because of Christ's sacrifice at the Cross. At that time He was punished in our place, satisfying the demands of the Law and God's justice upon sin.

Romans 3:21-26

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed

beforehand unpunished – He did it to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

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Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.

Sanctification

Sanctification is a process. It begins the moment we are born again and continues throughout our life on earth. It is the process whereby we, as believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit become increasingly more Christ-like in character. The Apostle Paul explains the role of the Holy Spirit in the sanctification process in:

I Corinthians 6:11

But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

II Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

It is important to remember that, unlike justification, we as believers are to co-operate with the Holy Spirit in the work of sanctification as the Apostle Peter tells us in:

I Peter 1:14-16

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: Be holy, because I am holy.

This sanctification process involves our minds being renewed through the study of God's Word as we can read in:

John 17:17, which is part of a prayer Jesus prayed:
Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth.

Paul writes about the importance of the renewed mind in:

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as

living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Glorification

Our glorification will happen at the return of Christ as the Apostle Paul describes for us in:

I Corinthians 15:51-53

Listen, I tell you a mystery, we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

It is at the time of glorification that our sanctification process will be fully complete. Our bodies will be changed, our old sin nature eliminated and we will see the risen Christ in all His glory as we can read in:

I Corinthians 13:12

Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

Next, we will study the subject of the Second Adam which will show us that Jesus was indeed the Second Adam who was able to take away the sins of the world.

The Word Of God - Lesson III F

The Second Adam (Part 2)

The study on the Second Adam (Part 1) dealt mainly with passages which focussed on His birth and early years.

The study on the Second Adam (Part 2) deals mainly with passages which focus on His time of ministry, especially the time of His crucifixion as we can see from:

1. Isaiah 9:1-2

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past He humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future He will honour Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan - the people walking in darkness have seen a great light, on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.

Fulfillment

Matthew 4:12-16

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, He went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali - to fulfil what was said by the prophet Isaiah: and

of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

2. Deuteronomy 18:15

The Lord your God will raise up a Prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to Him.

Fulfillment

John 6:14

After people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.

3. Psalm 110:4

The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind. You are a Priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

And Genesis 14:18

Then Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine. He was Priest of God Most High.

Fulfillment

Hebrews 6:20b - Hebrews 7:3

.... He has become a High Priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. This Melchizedek was king of Salem and Priest of God Most High.... Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

4. Isaiah 53:3

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with sufferings. Like one from whom men hide their faces. He was despised and we esteemed Him not.

Fulfillment

John 1:11

He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.

5. Isaiah 11:2

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him - The Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, The Spirit of Counsel and Power, The Spirit of Knowledge and of the Fear of the Lord.

Fulfillment

Luke 2:52

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men.

And Luke 4:16-21

He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue as was His custom. And He stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it He found the place where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed

Me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom from the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him and He began by saying to them, Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.

6. Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Fulfillment

John 12:13-14

They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel! Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion, see, your King is coming, seated on a donkey's colt.

7. Psalm 41:9

Even My close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared My bread, has lifted up his heel against Me.

Fulfillment

Mark 14:10

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them.

8. Zechariah 11:12

I told them, if you think it best, give me my pay; but if not keep it. So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.

Fulfillment

Matthew 26:14-15

Then one of the Twelve - the one called Judas Iscariot - went to the chief priests and asked, What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you? So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.

9. Zechariah 11:13

And the Lord said to me, Throw it to the potter - the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the House of the Lord to the potter.

Fulfillment

Matthew 27:3-5

When Judas, who has betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. I have sinned, he said, for I have betrayed innocent blood. What is that to us? They replied. That's your responsibility. So Judas threw the money into the temple and left...

10. Psalm 27:12

Do not hand Me over to the desire of My foes, for false witnesses rise up against Me, breathing out violence.

Fulfillment

Matthew 26:59-61

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put Him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two came forward, and declared, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days.

And John 2:19

Jesus answered them, Destroy this Temple and I will raise it up again in three days. The Jews replied, It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and You are going to raise it in three days? But the Temple He had spoken of was His body.

11. Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth, He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep before his shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.

Fulfillment

Matthew 26:62-63

Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, Are You not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against You? But Jesus remained silent....

12. Isaiah 50:6

I offered My back to those who beat Me, My cheeks to those who pulled out My beard, I did not hide My face from mocking and spitting.

Fulfillment

Mark 14:65

Then some of them began to spit at Him, they blindfolded Him, struck Him with their fists and said, Prophesy! And the guards took Him and beat Him.

13. Psalm 69:4

Those who hate Me without reason, outnumber the hair of My head; Many are My enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy Me...

Fulfillment

John 15:23-25

He who hates Me hates My Father as well. If I had not done among them what no-one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have both hated Me and My Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: They hated Me without reason.

14. Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him

stricken by God, smitten by Him afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

Fulfillment

Matthew 8:16-17

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Him, and He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfil what was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah: He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.

15. Isaiah 53:12

Therefore I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong, because He poured out His life unto death and was numbered with the transgressors.

Fulfillment

Matthew 27:38

Two robbers were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left.

16. Psalm 22:16

Dogs have surrounded Me; a band of evil men has encircled Me, they have pierced My hands and My feet.

Fulfillment

John 20:27

Then He said to Thomas, Put your finger here, see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe.

17. Psalm 22:6-8

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see Me mock Me, they hurl insults, shaking their heads. He trusts in the Lord; let the Lord rescue Him. Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him.

Fulfillment

Matthew 27:39-40

Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads and saying, You who are going to destroy the Temple and build it in three days, save Yourself. Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God.

And Matthew 27:41-43

In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the Law and the elders mocked Him. He saved others, they said, but He can't save Himself. He is the King of Israel! Let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue Him now if He wants Him, for He said, I am the Son of God.

18. Psalm 69:21

They put gall in My food and gave Me vinegar for My thirst.

Fulfillment

Mark 15:22-23

They brought Jesus to the Place called Golgotha (which means the Place of the Skull). There they offered Him wine, mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it.

And John 19:28-29

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, I am thirsty. A jar of vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

19. Psalm 109:4

In return for My friendship they accuse Me, but I am a man of prayer.

Fulfillment

Luke 23:33-34

When they came to the Place called the Skull, there they crucified Him... Jesus said, Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.

20. Psalm 22:18

They divide My garments among them and cast lots for My clothing.

Fulfillment

Mark 15:24

And they crucified Him. Dividing up His clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

21. Psalm 34:20

He protects all His bones, not one of them will be broken.

Fulfillment

John 19:31-33

Now it was the day of preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man... But when they came to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

22. Isaiah 53:9

He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death, though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Fulfillment

Matthew 27:57-60

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock...

23. Psalm 16:10

Because You will not abandon Me to the grave, nor will You let Your Holy One see decay.

Fulfillment

Matthew 28:8-9

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell His disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. Greetings, He said. They came to Him, clasped His feet and worshipped Him.

In our next study we will look at the symbolic language used for Jesus throughout the Bible.

The Word Of God - Lesson III G

Symbolic Language Used Of The Lord Jesus Christ

The Bible uses a number of terms to describe Christ. They are as follows:

A. THE ROCK

Deuteronomy 32:4

He is the Rock. His works are perfect and all His ways are just. A faithful God, who does no wrong, upright and just is He.

II Samuel 22:2.3a

He (David) said: The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress and my Deliverer, my God is my Rock in whom I take refuge. My Shield and the Horn of my salvation.....

Psalm 18:2

The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress and my Deliverer; my God is my Rock, in whom I take refuge, He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my Stronghold.

Psalm 19:14

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 92:15

The Lord is upright, He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him.

Isaiah 26:4

Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal.

I Corinthians 10:1-4

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual Rock that

accompanied them, and that Rock was Christ.

This is a reference to Exodus 17:6

I (God) will stand before you (Moses) by the rock of Horeb. Strike the rock and water will come out of it for the people to drink.

And Numbers 20:11

Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

I Peter 2:6-8

For in Scripture is days: See I lay a Stone in Zion, a chosen and precious Cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame. The Stone the builders rejected has become the Capstone, and a Stone that causes men to stumble, and a Rock that makes them fall.

This is a reference to Isaiah 8:13-14a

The Lord Almighty is the One you are to regard as Holy, He is the One you are to fear, He is the One you are to dread, and He will be a Sanctuary, but for both Houses of Israel He will be a Stone that causes men to stumble, and a Rock that makes them fall....

Matthew 16:15-18

But what about you? He (Jesus) asked, Who do you say I am? Simon Peter answered, You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Jesus replied, Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by MY Father in heaven. *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this Rock I will build My Church and the Gates of Hades will not overcome it.

According to Vine's Expository Dictionary the word "Peter" is the Greek word "Petros" and the word "Rock" is the word "Petra". We are therefore to understand this verse in the following way:

*And I tell you that you are "PETROS" (meaning a detached stone or boulder, or a stone that might be easily moved) and on this "PETRA" (meaning a mass of rock) I will build My Church and the Gates of Hades will not overcome it.

B. THE WORD

Furthermore, Jesus is called the Word, as in:

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

This is a reference to Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

C. THE LAMB OF GOD

Jesus is called the Lamb of God in Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like

a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming towards Him and said, Look the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Revelation 5:11-12

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!

Revelation 5:13

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing, To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!

Revelation 17:14

They will make war against the Lamb but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings – and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers.

Revelation 19:9

Then the angel said to me, Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb.

Revelation 21:22-23

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives its light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

Revelation 21:27

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

D. THE TEMPLE

Jesus called his body a temple in John 2:18-22

Then the Jews demanded of Him, What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this? Jesus answered them, Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days. The Jews replied, It has taken forty-six years to build this temple and you are going to raise it in three days? But the temple He had spoken of was His body. After He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled what He had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

E. THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus called Himself the bread of life in John 6:35

Then Jesus declared, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and He who believes in Me will never be thirsty.

And in John 6:48-58

I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever. This bread is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, How can this Man give us His flesh to eat? Jesus said to them, I tell you the truth, unless you can eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and Drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.

Please remember that the above words are symbolic and are to be understood in a spiritual sense. They are not to be taken literally for Jesus said in John 6:63b
.... **The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.**

F. THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd in John 10:11

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

And in John 10:14-15

I am the good shepherd. I know My sheep and My sheep know Me just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father – and I lay down My life for the sheep.

G. THE GATE

Jesus called Himself the Gate in John 10:7-9

Therefore Jesus said again, I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before Me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enter through Me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture.

H. THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE

Jesus said of Himself that He was the way, the truth, and the life.

In John 14:6

Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes through the Father except through Me.

I. THE VINE

Jesus called Himself the vine in John 15:1

I am the true vine and My Father is the gardener.

And in John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.

In our next study we will look at Jesus after His return to heaven.

The Word Of God - Lesson III H

The Supremacy Of Christ

Having studied the humanity of Christ as the Second Adam, it is important for us to recognise that today Christ is seated with the Father in heaven.

We read of Christ's supremacy in Colossians 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the Head of the Body, the Church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things whether things on earth or things in heaven by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

The Son Superior To Angels

We read that Christ is even superior to angels:

Hebrews 1:1-4

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed Heir of all things, and through whom He made the Universe. The Son is the Radiance of God's Glory and the exact Representation of His Being, sustaining all things by His powerful Word. So He became as much superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is superior to theirs.

One Like The Son Of Man

John saw a vision of the Lord in Revelation 1:10-18

On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet which said, Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: To Ephesus, Smyrna, Perganum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. I turned round to see the voice that was speaking to me and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp stands and among the lamp stands was Someone

like a Son of Man, dressed in a robe reaching down to His feet and with a golden sash around His chest. His head and hair were white like wool; as white as snow, and His eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace; and His voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In His right hand He had seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid, I am the First and the Last, I am the Living One; I was dead; and behold I am alive for ever and ever. And I hold the keys of Death and Hades."

The Rider On A White Horse

John had a vision of the Lord which is still to be fulfilled in Revelation 19:11-13
I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a White Horse, whose Rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on His head are many crowns. He has a Name that no-one knows but He himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood and His Name is the Word of God

This ends Part III of our study. We will next look at the subjects of Water Baptism, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Gifts of the Holy Spirit etc.