

Cross of Death and Resurrection of Life
(Releasing God's sons and daughters into their destiny)
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Mankind, a fallen race, without hope and without life. No one to guide them and no one who could attain right standing with a Holy God. Mankind with no light and no revelation.

God's answer to man's fallen state had to be big. It had to accompany complete restoration. He had to bring mankind from a fallen state and lift us up to where we belong. Our rightful place is with Him, in a fruitful relationship with Himself. But how does God take a rebellious race of human being and restore us to where we were intended to be without violating His nature of Justice and Righteousness? He would have to do two things:

1. He would have to satisfy the demand of His Justice upon the sins of the world, but that would mean death for all of mankind (Rom 6:23). (But that would defeat the purpose.)
2. He would have to place us into our rightful place and enable us to stay there for all of eternity, but do this without violating our free will to choose.

Yet, God, the One who wins with any hand which is dealt to Him, already had a plan for redemption. Before the foundation of the world He knew that His Son would become like His own creation and bear the penalty for the sins of this fallen mankind. And since His Son would be without sin, death couldn't hold Him and He would rise from the dead and be head of a new creation, which would be like Him in every way (Col 1:16-18).

God's answer to fallen mankind: **The cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, His Son.**

We know from Scripture that Jesus took our sins by bearing them upon Himself and He became sin for us and bore the wrath of God and the penalty of our sins, on our behalf. Yet, what did this sacrifice do? What did it crucify and what does it mean for us who are in Him?

One way we can answer it is like this:

1 Cor 15:45 speaks of Jesus Christ being the “last Adam”. What? Another Adam? You mean to say a second race of mankind? Yes, that is exactly what it is saying. He created a brand new order of creation. We see in Revelations 21:1 that there are **new** heavens and a **new** earth, because the first had past away. Also, in 2 Cor 5:17 it says that we who are in Christ are a **new creation**. We are born again. God, in and through Christ, inaugurated a new way of life, and it restores us back to fulfill God’s original intent for mankind. We see that we are new creations by Christ’s resurrection life, but what about His death on the cross, what did that provide for us?

Well, the first creation couldn’t be left to itself so Jesus came in the likeness of the first Adam and crucified the first creation with all of its fallen-ness; its sins, sicknesses, poverty, brokenness and rebellions. It was all taken on the cross. Jesus fully crucified the old man, the first Adam, and when He rose from the dead He ushered in a new order of creation, the “in Christ” creation.

You might say, “This all sounds well and good but what does it mean for us?” Everything! It is the difference between living in night or in day, in sin or in righteousness, in sickness or in health, in lack or in abundance.

If you have accepted Christ, “the old is gone and the new has come.” Being in Christ means **that you are no longer bound to live in the old state of mankind**, in the first Adam, **but are fully released to live in Christ**; fully redeemed and empowered to live as God intended for mankind to live; that is: without sin, sickness and poverty or said differently, we are released to live free of the results of the fallen state of man. It was Jesus’ death that took away sin and its fruit from us and it is in His life that gives the ability to live as He lives.

- Rom 6:5 “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.”

- Rom 6:18 “And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

- Rom 7:6 “...having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit...”

- Gal 3:26-27 “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

- Eph 2:6 “and (God) raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”

- Col 2:12 “(In Him you were) buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

Scriptures are clear that as we walk **through** the death of Christ we are able to partake of His life. We actually walk in the life of His new creation, in Him. This new creation looks, acts, thinks and walks like Christ Jesus. This new life was purchased by the powerful blood of Christ, the “new covenant in My blood” 1 Cor 11:25, which washes us from all sin (old nature/ first Adam) and enables us to live reconciled back to God into perfect relationship with Him. This relationship is to be a moment to moment interaction with the Spirit of God in and on us.

My reason for stating all this is to say and encourage you that, like 2 Peter 1:3 says, “...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.” That’s good news! If you are in Christ, He has supplied you with all things that pertain to your new creation life in Him. He has made us able to fully walk as we ought. If you are bound by any affects of the old nature / the fallen state of mankind God has already crucified it! It is dead! And in Christ you are set free and able to walk in His life. Paul says it best, in one of my favorite scriptures, Rom 6:2 “How shall we who died to sin (first Adam) live any longer in it?” That is a good question. If you hold a bottle of alcohol in front of a dead person that used to be an alcoholic does the person respond? NO! It is dead to it. In the same way how can we live in sin if we have died to it? We can’t!!!! The effects of sin are destroyed in your life if you are in Christ Jesus! That means; addictions, sicknesses, lameness, blindness, broken hearts, pains, poverty and lack are all dead on the cross and have no power over us, as we live in the new nature of Christ, the Last Adam. Jesus perfectly displayed this reality when He walked on the earth.

“Why then,” you might ask, “am I still in lack, still get sick, still sin, still hurting and have a broken heart? Why am I addicted, poor, sick, etc.?” Well, several places in scripture speak of this but I am only going to mention two. I believe that these two explain and give a solution to that question.

1. Rom 8:5-6 “For those who live according to the flesh, (the old Adam) set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, (have their minds set on) the things of the Spirit (new creation). For to be fleshly minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” **We have not renewed our minds to the reality of the new creation spirit in us.** We must be transformed by the renewing of our minds, Rom 12:2. Although, we are in Christ and all things are new we, in our minds, still believe in and live in the first Adam reality and **THUS** are bound to still live in the old creation. The new Adam, the in Christ creation, must become more of a reality in our hearts. Scripture teaches us that what we truly believe is how we will live. If then we are seeing the fruit of the first Adam in our lives then we must not truly believe in the Second Adam reality of what Christ has paid for. I am not saying that if there is fruit from the first Adam in our lives that we are not saved from hell, but I am questioning how saved into His life we are. So many of us Christians have stepped just inside of the front door of salvation and failed to go in to the entire house that He purchased for us. People who stay at the front door create doctrines, whether to teach others or just to believe

themselves, that say that the rest of the benefits of the salvation of Jesus Christ are for after we die and for the next age. They fail to see the commission we have, from the scriptures, to live a life like Christ lived and glorify God exactly like Christ did. Yes, it is true that the full manifestation of the salvation of God will be had in the next age, but to shrug off our responsibility to walk in that salvation now is likened to a foolish servant who buries His talent until the Lord returns, Mat 25:14-30. We are sons and daughters of God and we are to manifest the Son of God in and through our lives, by bearing the fruit of the new creation! Christ fully glorified God by perfectly displaying the Father to us. Christ never sinned, was never sick and was never in lack. Sin, sickness and poverty can never glorify a God who is Righteous (sinless), Healer (not sick), and Abundant Provider (not in any lack). God receives glory as His nature, the new creation in Christ, is manifested in and through our lives. "For as He is, so are we in this world," 1 John 4:17. We must renew our minds to this reality and commission of living in Christ.

2. 2 Peter 1:3 "... His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness **through the (revelation) knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.**" Revelation knowledge is the key to a transformed mind. The "ALL THINGS" mentioned in this verse comes "THROUGH" the "(revelation) KNOWLEDGE" of God. We can say with our intellect, and even think we believe it, that we are to be "holy as He is holy", 1Pet 1:16, but only if we have a true heart revelation of this knowledge of His holiness and believe it with our whole hearts will we see it bear true fruit in our lives. Satan can deceive us by making us think that we believe truth and we can even quote and preach the scripture about truth but we don't bear any fruit of it. It is a deception if we think we are ok by only believing it and not bearing fruit of it. True heart belief will always produce fruit. How much of Christ's salvation do we truly believe? Well, how much fruit of His salvation are you bearing? The answers to both of these questions are the same.

This is not a message of condemnation if you are bearing the fruit of the first Adam, for we all must continue to grow and mature, Phil 3:7-16, but it is a call to an active, intimate relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit so that we can receive revelation knowledge of God and then, with our minds renewed in the knowledge of God, we can bear true fruits of our 'new creation in Christ', John 15.

Our lives have purpose and that purpose is to bear the fruit of the new creation in every area of our lives and allow those who eat of that fruit to also experience the great salvation of being in Christ. Let me encourage you to walk past the doorway of the salvation of your spirits, venture through the rooms of the salvation of our souls and onto the patios of the out working of His salvation to our bodies and circumstances and let the world see the light that is with in you. God has made this all possible through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross and the life of Jesus Christ at the resurrection. How great a salvation we have! Praise God!