

# THE LAST ADAM



"The first man Adam became  
a living being; the last Adam,  
a life giving spirit."

Apostle Paul

*Brother Woody Brohm*



**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.**

**As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

**As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth:**

**It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:8-11).**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **Section One: Sin**

**The Origin of Sin for Mankind**

**The Law of Sin and Death**

**The Sinful Nature**

**Personal Sin**

**The Fallacy of Human Logic**

**Awareness**

**Summary of Section One**

### **Section Two: Redemption**

**Adam v2.0**

**The Necessity of the Death of Christ**

**The Beauty of Christ's Sacrificial Death**

**God is Not Imputing Sin to Man Anymore**

**God's Discipline**

**One Cause, Two Effects**

**The Next Life**

**Summary of Section Two**

### **Section Three: Justification**

**Justification by Faith**

**Sanctification**

**The Present Struggle**

[Spiritual Gifts](#)

[The Future Glory](#)

[Summary of Section Three](#)

[Appendix A: Dispensational Timeline](#)

[Appendix B: Abraham's Timeline](#)

[Glossary](#)

[About the Author](#)

[Copyright 2012](#)

**Section One: Sin**

## The Origin of Sin for Mankind

The Bible is a collection of sixty-six different books composed by about forty human authors over a period of approximately fifteen hundred years. Its subject matter covers things we would never possibly understand without God's revelation. The *origin of sin* is just one of the many things that would remain unknowable without inspired revelation. The combined testimony of both the Old and New Testaments is that together they form the inspired Word of God. The revelation of the supernatural world, the creation of earth, the end of time, and many thought-provoking stories make the Bible the most fascinating book of all time.

God revealed things to mankind in stages. These stages are reflected in the current arrangement of the books of the Bible. Students of the Bible refer to this as a *progressive revelation*. One stage is established, then another, and so on. The key to an accurate understanding of the individual stages is to rely on the Apostles' teaching as recorded in the New Testament. God chose these men and gave them authority to formulate sound doctrine for us to believe.

In the beginning God created the earth, and there is a wealth of revelation contained in that amazing feat. Later, many exciting truths were spoken through the prophets in various ways. Eventually, God sent Jesus Christ, whose testimony is authoritative and true. God raised Jesus from the dead which validates the fact that the holiness of God had been propitiated. God is satisfied with the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ, but He did not stop there – God went on to choose the Apostles to evaluate, interpret and proclaim the proper

conclusions for us. Of course, the Holy Spirit accomplished that by working through the chosen Apostles, but the point is that their writings correlated all previously revealed truth into sound doctrine. We must not ignore what they recorded.

The origin of sin for mankind provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate this point. Since the Bible is accurate and true in its entirety, then some believers would turn right to Genesis and identify the origin of sin for mankind (Genesis 2:15-3:24). The narrative would reveal that Satan tempted Eve to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Though she knew better, she ate some of the forbidden fruit and then gave some to her husband who ate it too. Those facts are accurate, but the Apostles' teaching combines some other facts along with those and comes out with a doctrine that we probably would have otherwise missed. A careful study of the whole Bible is necessary when affirming sound doctrine.

In his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul refers back to the temptation in the garden and adds light to the subject. "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned — To be sure, sin was in the world before the law [of Moses] was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come [Christ]" (Romans 5:12-14).

There are two main points to observe regarding this passage. Notice that Eve is not mentioned. The sole source of sin coming to all

people is identified as Adam and his decision to eat the forbidden fruit. We are able to understand why this is stated by turning back to the Genesis passage. Adam was formed from the dust of the earth, received the breath of life, and was directly addressed by God. Eve was not formed until after God's command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was spoken. In the beginning, all mankind was contained within Adam, and this one person represented the whole of mankind. He was the first and the head of the natural race. When the head sinned, we all sinned.

This introduces the doctrine of imputation. Adam's sin resulted in Adam's immediate spiritual death (the fall of mankind) and led eventually to his physical death. The Apostle states, "sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned". Not only does he identify Adam alone, he also states that death comes to all people because "all sinned". In other words, we all sinned when Adam sinned. Exactly why God explains it that way is not entirely clear. Either we were all in Adam because he was the seminal (original) man, or he acted as the head of the race representing all of us as he sinned. In either case, the result is the same. Sin entered the world through Adam. Therefore, death comes to everyone because of the imputation of that original sin.

The second main point to observe is that the Apostle then references a period of several thousand years. By using two significant public figures, he identifies a large group of people who lived from the time of Adam to the time of Moses. He stated that people from this period died because Adam disobeyed God's command, not because of their



own sins. God's command to Adam was not to eat the forbidden fruit. God's law was revealed through Moses many generations later. The period in question is the several thousand years between these two events. The Apostle stated that the people who lived in this period did not sin by breaking a command as did Adam. Additionally, personal sin was not counted against them because there was no law. Nevertheless, they died. Now we can begin to understand that when God warned Adam that he would die if he ate the fruit, God meant not only Adam, but the entire race of mankind. At the end of time, God will destroy the created heavens and earth, judge mankind, and human life as we know it will cease to exist. Therefore, the Apostles' teaching affirms that all mankind was represented in Adam and the human race will certainly die because of his original sin.

We will expand on this concept as we continue. The main point will conclude that the origin of sin was the disobedience of Adam, the one man God created from the dust, the head of the race.

## **The Law of Sin and Death**

Looking carefully into God's Word we see a consistent message regarding the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2). Before sin entered the world, God had warned Adam that if he sinned by eating the forbidden fruit, he would certainly die (Genesis 2:17). After he had sinned, an innocent animal suffered death (as a sacrifice) by God who provided skins for Adam and Eve to wear (Genesis 3:21). That sacrifice initiated the idea of substitutionary death. Much later when the Law was revealed through Moses, it incorporated several animal sacrifices for sin offerings and atonement which expanded the concept of substitutionary death (Leviticus 9:1-23). Christ ultimately bore the penalty of death for mankind (Romans 8:5-11) which fully demonstrated God's just means of forgiveness through imputation, the death of one for the sin of all (John 11:49-53; cf. Hebrews 10:14-18).

Those who reject God's sacrifice by unbelief will suffer not only physical death, but also a lifetime of spiritual death as they are separated from fellowship with their Creator. Additionally, if they persist in their unbelief, they will ultimately suffer what has been described as a second death. Therefore, after dying physically, they will spend eternity in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:6-8). As we just quickly stepped through God's Word, we see a consistent message that sin results in death.

## **The Sinful Nature**

Mankind is faced with innate problem. When Adam sinned, he revealed his sinful nature and was no longer considered innocent. He found himself naked and ashamed, removed from the Garden of Eden and without the communion with God that he previously experienced. Because of subsequent revelation given through the Apostles, we can understand that God judicially declared him to be under sin (Romans 3:9-20; Galatians 3:22); he was enslaved to sin because of his sinful flesh (Romans 7:14-35); and was unable to overcome that condition on his own, no matter how acceptable he would try to become (Ephesians 2:8-10). So as Adam and Eve procreated, their children also inherited his sinful nature (Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 2:1-3). Subsequently, they passed their sinful nature down to the next generation, and so on. Therefore, all individuals, through all generations, possess a sinful nature.

The sinful nature is transmitted to us through birth. The resulting condition is spiritual death, or separation between man and God. As sons of Adam, we are born physically alive yet spiritually dead. The communion enjoyed by Adam and Eve with God before the fall was lost as symbolized by their sense of nakedness, the instinct to hide from God, and their banishment from the Garden. They were graciously allowed to live out their natural lives, but it was with a degree of separation from God that was not previously experienced. In the same way, their posterity has been separated from God and are longing for that acceptance and reconciliation. Simultaneously, the sinful nature entices sinful gratification. This creates an internal conflict, which adds to the despair of mankind in the fallen world in

which we reside. We desire communion with God, but the efforts of mankind fail to achieve it. This dire need for approval is why false religions that incorporate various forms of idolatry are so alluring (Acts 17:16-31). They suffice to give us approval from peers and a false sense of divine approval.

Therefore, we arrive again at the core of the problem. We do not have divine approval. We have come under divine judgment because we are sinners. We do not become sinners as we grow up and choose to sin. We sin because we are sinners! An apple tree bears apples. Ever since Adam sinned, the fruit of mankind is sin (Galatians 5:19-21). Sin characterizes the essence of what we are (Psalm 51:5). All men have a sinful nature (Ephesians 4:17-24).

## **Personal Sin**

We must recognize that we are all guilty of sins we commit personally. This is normally the first thing that comes to mind when the sinfulness of man is mentioned. Personal sin may consist of overt acts such as lying, stealing, and various deeds of immorality; but it may also be the neglect of things known to be inherently right such as caring for the helpless, promoting justice, and forgiveness of others. It can also include sins of the heart and mind, such as pride or lust. Sin is either a violation of or lack of obedience to God's Holy standard of perfection. A cursory self-examination of anyone would reveal sinful acts, sinful practices and evidence of a sinful history. We are sinners, and there is no escaping that blunt truth (Romans 3:23).

The Apostle John teaches that mankind's sin stems from three basic desires inherent in human nature: the cravings of sinful flesh; the lust of his eyes and; the pride of life (1 John 2:16). This was the pattern of Satan tempting Eve in the Garden of Eden. It is also consistent with the temptation of Christ in the desert (Genesis 3:6; Matthew 4:1-11; cf. Luke 4:1-13). Every member of our race has a powerful attraction to this cursed world and the repulsive fleshly gratification that the sinful nature craves. While it is hard to comprehend, we demonstrate it to ourselves over and over again. Christ was the only exception as he was conceived by the Holy Spirit so he was not a son of Adam and never did sin, nor did he desire to, nor could he (Hebrews 10:7; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

## **The Fallacy of Human Logic**

Mankind is easily lured to rely on mere human logic. We often seek justification by comparing ourselves with others instead of comparing ourselves to God's perfect standard. Deflection of the truth is a common tactic of the guilty. It is obvious that some men are better than others, but without exception, all fall short of perfection (Romans 3:23). Many false gospels promote the concept of self-improvement and gaining greater merit than demerit during your lifetime. False teachings of earning God's favor through meritorious obedience to God's Word are common even within Christian churches. However, God's message is clear: Sin is the problem — not the lack of meritorious works (Genesis 3:17-19). Because we are sinners, all the merit we can accumulate will not matter (Romans 11:6).

Those who achieve a high moral standard hoping to be declared righteous based on their superior record will be disappointed. They will actually increase their own condemnation (Romans 2:1-29). God is communicating these things to us ahead of time, and we would do well to listen to His warnings. Sin is not canceled out by goodness or weighed against obedience. Sin requires death—that is the final word on the subject! Failure to acknowledge that fact is the first step towards condemnation.

Perhaps an analogy will be helpful to emphasize this critical point. Imagine two boys in front of a vending machine wanting a soft drink that costs \$1.00. One boy has three quarters and the other a nickel. Which one will be able to purchase the drink? Neither. It is the same way with mankind. Some men are morally better than others but

neither have Divine approval because we all come up short. It does not matter that some have a greater moral record than others any more than one boy having more money than the other. Neither boy will get the soft drink, nor will any son of Adam receive God's approval based on his own merit or good works (Romans 1:1-4:25). God has revealed himself as Perfect, Righteous, and Sovereign. His message to mankind is that we are sinners so we fail His standard based on that fact. We fail before any consideration is given to how morally acceptable or immoral we may be. The veracity of this conclusion is confirmed by the cursed world in which we live. We are cursed with sickness, deterioration, and despair. Existence in this life whether rich or poor, happy or miserable, pleasant or discontent, is nothing more than a grand exercise in futility because we all end up dead in the end (Ecclesiastes 1:1-12:14). Exclusion from God's Presence is what we justly deserve. "Life sucks—then you die!" That is not just an obnoxious bumper sticker; it is an accurate paraphrase of what God said to Adam in the Garden of Eden after he sinned (Genesis 3:17-19).

The main thing to remember about personal sin is that personal sin is not what condemned us; it is merely the fruit of the sinful nature inherited from Adam. What we are condemns us, not what we do. Because we are sinners, we are dead. Without help from an outside source, we would have no hope.

## **Awareness**

Many of us have seen a pickup truck with a winch attached near the bumper. Most of the time we'd glance and shrug it off not caring at all. However, if you found yourself stranded at the bottom of a deep pit out in the wilderness, your perspective would change. From there, if you saw the driver arrive and initiate a rescue effort, your attitude about that driver and his truck would change drastically.

Sinful mankind will not be grateful for God's help unless we recognize that we are in a precarious predicament. The law of sin and death is so powerful that some may subconsciously repress the reality of its force. Many people do not care that God has gone to extraordinary lengths to initiate a rescue effort on behalf of our race.

Appendix "A" details God's full demonstration of the sinfulness of mankind. The sinful condition of the race has led to our fallen world full of illness, despair, and death. The sinfulness of mankind is consistent throughout each member of the race even inflicting its curse of death on the seemingly innocent members of the race. Whether we are young or old, rich or poor, moral or immoral, there is no difference: sin and death universally and comprehensively speak of God's judgment of mankind. We are effectively at the bottom of a pit.



## **Summary of Section One**

The Bible describes God as Light. This characterization represents perfection. God has revealed Himself to the whole of mankind just as the light of the sun is broadcast over the whole earth. The sin of man is thereby revealed to each of us.

We are guilty of sin because of the direct imputation of Adam's sin. Furthermore, we are guilty because of the sinful nature, which is transmitted through the generations that leads to the personal sins of every man. The more Light received; the more sin is revealed. God's Son stated, "Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). It is as if we are ashamed of what we see in ourselves and run away from the light of day, and try to hide in the darkness of night. That instinct alone reveals the knowledge of sin. If even we do not like to see ourselves exposed, it is fairly easy to understand God's estimation of us.

Some men may not know all the details of the Bible or understand God's offer of help, but every man knows his own sinfulness. If he rejects what light he has received in the revelation of himself as compared to God, his condemnation is sure (Romans 1:20-28). There is no-one righteous, no not one (Romans 3:9-19). All mankind is under the law of sin and death (Romans 8:1-2).

# Section Two: Redemption

## **Adam v2.0**

Jesus Christ, the Creator of the Universe, became a man and represented all of mankind just as Adam did. Without diminishing the glory of our God and Creator, we will be speaking of Him as a human being and comparing Christ to Adam as necessary. The gospel declares that Christ bore the sin of the world in His body as He died on the cross. By rising from the dead, Christ has become the First and Head of the New Creation! The natural race is doomed because of sin and death; the new creation has begun with Christ. The title, Last Adam, signifies the end of the natural race and the beginning of the new spiritual creation. This characterization embraces the conclusion that Christ fulfills all that Adam failed to achieve. The Apostle Paul compares the first men of their respective creations in this way, "So it is written: 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45). Just as humanity originally bore similarity to Adam, we now have the opportunity to become part of a new creation! Adam was the first of the natural creation and Christ is the first of the new (spiritual) creation. The problem with the original creation is sin and death; all that remains associated with the natural creation is under divine condemnation. The good news of the gospel is that God sent Christ to pay the full redemption price to free us from sin and death! We will extend this fundamental doctrine with a brief comparison and a close look at the relevant Scripture.

God's authority has established both Adam and Christ as extraordinary men whose actions affect the entire race (1

Corinthians 15:22). Adam was a pattern of the One to come; Christ came and fulfilled all that Adam failed to achieve and more!

Adam was created. He came from the earth. He disobeyed God. His sin caused a spiritual gap between mankind and God. He transmitted his sin nature to his descendants. His sin resulted in physical death for all men. He lost his dominion over the earth. He returned to the earth from which he was formed, and his tenure as a representative for mankind ended.

Christ was the Creator. He came from heaven. He obeyed God. He paid the penalty for man's sin. He redeemed mankind from sin and death. He returned to heaven. He will come back and reign over the earth (as was intended for Adam). He will reign as King in The Eternal Kingdom of God.

Let us return to the main text from the Apostle Paul:

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Nor can the gift of God be compared with

the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous (Romans 5:12-19).

In this key passage of Scripture, the Apostle clearly states that all people have sinned. He associates sin with judgment, condemnation, and death. Fortunately the gift comes by grace, which means it is undeserved; therefore, it is accessible to all people! The source of the gift is identified as God and Jesus Christ. The words associated with the gift are righteousness, justification, and life. He states that those who receive the gift will reign in life through Jesus Christ! For this gift to be valid, Christ became obedient to death for the forgiveness of sin and God raised Him to life for justification; the gospel of our salvation! (cf. Philippians 2:6-8; Romans 4:25; Ephesians 1:11-14).

## **The Necessity of the Death of Christ**

By God's standard, a perfect and sinless sacrifice was necessary for the forgiveness of sin. Unfortunately, no descendant of Adam could ever succeed to serve as this sacrifice. It would not matter how many exceptional candidates we may have considered, sin would always disqualify every son of Adam. We required a *substitutionary sacrifice*.

The Old Testament era featured animal sacrifices, but these were temporary and were only effective because they anticipated the eternal sacrifice that God would provide. The animal sacrifices were divinely established to teach mankind the concept of Substitutionary sacrifice. It is necessary to note that all the animal sacrifices were performed at recurring intervals, which is evidence that they were not intended to remove sin permanently (Hebrews 10:1-18).

Since the beginning of creation, only one qualified candidate has ever existed or ever will. That one is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and miraculously existing as a man. Apart from the Substitutionary sacrifice of Christ, mankind would have been doomed with no way of salvation. There was no deed humanity could have possibly accomplished to make things right with God. Sin requires death and that is a divine law that the Holiness of God demands and enforces.

Christ was God, but he became a man so he could die. It is enlightening to realize that this sacrifice represented the greatest thing God could have done (the figurative use of human limitations is necessary because the infinite attributes of God are incomprehensible). It exhausted all His Might, Wisdom, and Power to execute this plan of redemption (Ephesians 1:18-23). If there would

have been something harder or greater or more costly than the death of Christ, that would have been chosen—there was not.

Christ's death satisfied the requirement established by God for the penalty of sin. It is momentous to note that God was aware of this sacrificial demand long before Adam sinned. God's Omniscience led Him to choose a plan for creation and redemption that required His Omnipotence. The plan was conceived, executed, and completed according to the design of God the Father (Ephesians 1:3-14). Christ accomplished the work of redemption. The Holy Spirit is accomplishing the indoctrination of believers.

## **The Beauty of Christ's Sacrificial Death**

It is incredible to realize that God loves mankind. He demonstrated the extent of that love by sending Christ to die for us (Romans 5:8). God's offer of salvation is available to every member of the race. We all fell under the curse of sin and death when Adam sinned, but because of God's passionate love for us, the debt for sin was paid in full. Christ came as a man, died in place of all mankind, and rose again. The key to God's salvation is to believe the gospel revealed through the death and resurrection of Christ. That belief leads to God's imputed righteousness, followed by justification. Once God declares us to be righteous, we become a new creation that includes life through Christ! The beauty is that God did it all. God loved us; God sent Christ; Christ died in place of mankind. God raised Him from the dead. Christ sent the Holy Spirit to lead us into an understanding of what God has accomplished. The Holy Spirit illuminates the truth and leads us to believe at which point we are made into a New Creation. The believer's new identification in Christ provides ample assurance of full protection against any and all threats.

All that effort and protection is done for us, which completes the salvation of believers. The process of salvation, in no way, includes anything we could do ourselves. Belief is the opposite of doing something. We believe that God did it all! God chose us, redeemed us, justified and protects us. The way we receive this generous gift is through the believer's new relationship with Christ, namely becoming one with Him. Nothing we could have done would save us because what we did was sin; what God did was everything else! The triumph



was that God took the sum of mankind's sin and imputed it to Christ. It is beautifully simple to understand, and belief is within reach of any of us.

God has clearly communicated his divine law of Substitutionary sacrifice. The sacrificial death of an innocent substitute results in forgiveness of sin and removal of guilt. We'll clarify this idea by briefly reviewing three key highlights from God's Word.

In the beginning, when Satan tempted Adam and Eve, God came and spoke to them. He told Satan that Eve's offspring would crush his head. In light of the historical record of Christ's death and resurrection, we are now able to understand what that statement meant. In context, it is clear that God was referring to the eventual coming of Christ who would disarm and defeat Satan (Colossians 2:15; Genesis 3:1-19; Revelation 20:1-10). Satan's greatest achievement was the death of the human race, which he had just acquired by causing man to sin. When Christ came and died in place of mankind, that substitutionary sacrifice defeated Satan, and he lost all he had gained. Christ died in our place, and the guilt of our sin was forever removed. Christ's redemption of mankind frees us from the penalty and power of sin. So as early as the Garden of Eden and immediately after the first sin, we have God's Word that He would be providing redemption from sin and death for all mankind.

A second reassuring example can be discovered if we fast-forward a couple of thousand years or so to the time of Moses. By this time, God had chosen Israel as a Holy Nation. He used Moses to redeem them from their slavery in Egypt (Exodus 19:5-6). Part of the process of being set apart from the other nations included a complete set of

rules known as the Law of Moses. This was God's Law given through Moses to the Nation of Israel. It included the Ten Commandments plus much more. The section we'll be looking at briefly can be found in Leviticus 16. Two goats would be chosen for use in the ritual imputation of sin. The sin of the people would be transferred to these two goats. One goat would be sacrificed which demonstrates the penalty of sin. The other was led to the desert and released, never to return again. This sacred ritual confirmed the previous message which promised the forgiveness and removal of sin. This is a fundamental concept that God established and confirmed each year (while the Law was in effect) to teach people this concept of Substitutionary sacrifice. Sin can be paid for by the death of an innocent substitute who suffers the penalty of death followed simultaneously by the removal of guilt.

The third revelation comes from the Prophet Isaiah who explained that Christ would be the one who would be the substitutionary sacrifice for all mankind. The collective sin of humanity was imputed to this one Man who suffered death for us all! The Prophet made this revelation several hundred years before Jesus was born. "But he [Christ] was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

So we hear God communicating in the Garden of Eden that one would be born who would become our Savior. We hear God communicating through the Law of Moses that sin requires death, but that sin and guilt are removed once the sacrifice is completed. Additionally we hear God communicating through the Prophet Isaiah

that Christ would be the one who would fulfill this requirement for the race. Every Christmas and Easter we are reminded that Christ did appear. He was miraculously born as a man, and eventually suffered death on the cross, followed by His Glorious Resurrection. In so doing, our sin was paid for and removed! Once removed, it will not be held against us any longer. What a beautiful revelation that has proven to be for those who believe!

## **God is Not Imputing Sin to Man Anymore**

Since God imputed the sin of mankind to Christ, there is no reason that He would impute it to us any longer! Let us now examine three major imputations recognized by students of the Bible:

- 1) Adam's sin was imputed to all of mankind.**
- 2) The sin of mankind was imputed to Christ as He died on the cross.**
- 3) The righteousness of God is imputed to those who believe the gospel.**

Some of us may struggle with the overwhelming significance of these imputations, but let's remember that we are paying less attention to viewing things from a mere human outlook and more attention to understanding God's revelation to us. These doctrines are revealed to give us insight to things that rise above human understanding. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts ... " (Isaiah 55:8-9).

In the beginning, God imputed Adam's sin to his posterity. As a result of that imputation, we still live in mortal bodies in a fallen world. Thankfully, God did not end with that imputation. Clearly God went on to impute Adam's sin to Christ, the One represented by the first animal sacrifice in the Garden of Eden, which provided the covering for Adam and Eve to wear. The men who lived before the death of Christ anticipated the Divine Atonement accomplished by Christ; the

men who live after Christ accept it as a historical fact. In either case, consequences for sin do remain such as the curse put upon the race, but a temporary consequence is much different from the ultimate effect. The effect, described as death—was suffered by Christ. God imputed the whole sin debt of mankind to Christ, and He bore the sin of the world in His Body and died vicariously for the race. Therefore, God is propitiated and has declared that the sin debt has been settled. It has, in fact, been paid in full (Colossians 2:13-15; Romans 5:6-11).

As stated in the first Scripture reading, Romans 5:12-19, the Apostle Paul established that the men who lived from Adam to Moses did not suffer death because of their own sins but because of Adam's sin. Their personal sin was merely the fruit of the sinful nature inherited from Adam. They entered life as sinners. God promised redemption to them. Whether or not they chose to believe, their sin and accompanying guilt was obviously imputed to the coming Christ. We know certain men from this period are men of faith who experienced salvation. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and others are all recorded in the (unofficial) believer's hall of fame (Hebrews 11:1-40). Undoubtedly the offer of salvation was available to all but only some received God's provision of grace, which was accepted by faith.

The rest of mankind undoubtedly follows the same pattern as the segment of humanity who lived before Moses. We are born sinners and are heading towards death from the moment we were conceived. Faith in God's redemption is the key to salvation. A lack of faith will lead to condemnation in spite of Christ's sacrifice.

As we move forward in the timeline to present day, we see that God is not presently imputing sin against us (2 Corinthians 5:19). The fact that mankind still exists; the reason Christ came and died; the crowning achievement of God's power and love hinges on the doctrine of imputation! God imputed Adam's sin to all of us making us equally guilty. God then went on to impute the sum of mankind's sin to Christ, equally freeing us from the law of sin and death. God removed the sin of the world via the death of Christ and made a way for all of us to be eternally reconciled to Him. To make all this feasible, God made the decision (before the creation of the world) not to impute sin against us as clearly taught by the Apostle Paul, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world [all mankind] to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us [believers] the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin [Christ] to be sin for us [all mankind], so that in him we [who believe] might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

In this passage, we can see that God made Christ to be sin and suffer death in place of mankind because He desired reconciliation. He is no longer "counting people's sins against them". Mankind is redeemed from the consequence of sin and death. The full redemption price was paid by the death of Christ. Therefore, sin is not an obstacle to salvation; failure to believe the gospel is the

problem. There is no impediment to God's mercy and grace other than the individual decision to reject the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World.

## **God's Discipline**

Even though sin and guilt are forgiven and removed, temporary consequences remain. The ongoing sin of mankind continually reminds us of our innate sinfulness and fosters an opportunity for God to lovingly discipline people with a view to promote reconciliation. As a dutiful father disciplines his son because he loves him and wants what is best for him, so also God disciplines His children. He loves each and every one of us as we are made in His image and likeness. Man is His offspring. As a godly father patiently establishes an appropriate environment for learning through a combination of affirmation and discipline that expands in scope as the child matures, so also God has established the fallen world as a comprehensive learning environment in which we can learn of sin, judgment, and righteousness.

God desires us to be reconciled to Himself. To that end, He has brilliantly crafted the world with all its features and cycles to appeal to the intellect and will which we all possess. He requires that we willingly seek Him. As we reflect on the cycles of nature, the course of mankind, the demise of our earth and the next life, we can begin to see God's revelation come into focus. Instead of acting as a powerful slave trader who redeemed us only to force his will on us as his slaves, God acts as a loving father who welcomes us back and provides love and security counting us as His heirs. For our own benefit, He provided physical and spiritual death so we would experience and understand the loss of fellowship with our Creator and long for this reconciliation. All the time, Christ was (and is) present and sustaining life for humanity. God allows us to sin and fail



so we can understand that we cannot make it alone. It is when we trust entirely in the finished Work of Christ that we can experience peace with God and rest in His righteousness. This is a concept that needs to develop over the course of time. It may be compared to a young adult who realizes that the discipline received during childhood was for his own benefit. Once that light comes on, there is a higher level of understanding which results in a new appreciation and respect for his parents.

## **One Cause, Two Effects**

When God demonstrated his displeasure by sending the Great Flood during the time of Noah, the water is what brought judgment to the ungodly. The rains fell; the springs of the earth opened up; the water level rose so high that the entire population was destroyed, except for those in the ark (Genesis 7:6-24). Notice that the same water that brought judgment also provided salvation for those who floated safely above the water in the ark. The water brought death to some and salvation to others. The same is true of Christ. He will bring judgment to the unbelieving world while simultaneously providing salvation to those who believe. Christ will be Judge as well as Savior.

The ark provided salvation from the flood. The way to salvation from the law of sin and death is to believe the gospel. The full cost of redemption was paid for humanity by the death and resurrection of Christ. If a man believes that Christ died to pay the penalty for sin, and rose again to declare justification for those who believe—he will be imputed with the righteousness of God. Life in the new creation awaits those who believe the gospel, and a second death awaits those who reject it.

## **The Next Life**

Conscious life will not end with the death of the bodies we now possess. We must seek revelation from God to obtain reliable information regarding the future. The Apostle Paul was selected to contribute to the doctrine of spiritual life.

But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?' How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who

are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man (1 Corinthians 15:35-49).

## **Summary of Section Two: The Key to Salvation is Belief in the Gospel**

The gospel presented in the Bible is the good news that God may declare someone to be righteous even though they are sinful. This is a gospel of grace, meaning that the one in question has not done anything to earn or deserve it and that God has provided this salvation freely to all of mankind regardless of the extent of their depravity, their race, social status, or former creed.

God has arranged a just means to declare a person righteous. The sin of man is not overlooked or brushed aside but rather was paid for in full by the death and resurrection of Christ. God sent Christ to become a man. He was the only man who ever lived a sinless life. He thereby demonstrated His qualification to the world as a perfect and sufficient sacrifice. God divinely imputed the sin of mankind to Christ, and Christ died in our place. Not only did He die for the forgiveness of our sins, He was raised from the dead and exalted to the highest place of honor at God's right hand declaring justification for all who believe.

God has provided a solution for the salvation of man. It begins with the personal acknowledgment of the deadly result of sin. Having made that acknowledgment, we must exercise faith by believing that God is satisfied with Christ's Sacrifice and sin is forgiven and removed. Exercising faith in God's solution to the sin problem also means dismissing any other way of becoming right with God. Additionally, we must recognize that more than merely a forgiveness of sin; believers receive the righteousness of God as their own by

their intimate association with the Risen Christ. God, through Christ, makes the believer holy.

**Section Three: Justification**

## Justification by Faith

“Yet he [Abraham] did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why ‘it was credited to him as righteousness.’ The words ‘it was credited to him’ were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead” (Romans 4:20-24).

Some 2000 years or so before Christ, God promised Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation with many blessings (Genesis 12:1-4; 13:14-17; 15:1-7; 17:1-8) This seemed impossible because Abraham’s wife had been barren and was past the childbearing age. Abraham believed God in spite of the odds, knowing that God had the ability to deliver on His promise. God immediately credited Abraham with righteousness because of his faith. Through this example, we see that righteousness is divinely imputed based on belief, not deeds. See Appendix “B” for a timeline of Abraham’s journey of faith. Justification comes by faith, not by works. E.g., when a man believes God’s promise of redemption through Christ, he is immediately credited with God’s righteousness and divinely proclaimed as righteous (Romans 4:1-25).

Students of the Bible refer to this divine proclamation as *justification*. Because God is just, the only possible way to achieve redemption was by the sacrifice of Christ. The sin that would have otherwise condemned us was not overlooked or brushed aside; it was weighed, cataloged, transferred to Christ and paid for in full by His



death. Now it is forever removed. Moreover, instead of just being back where we started at the state of innocence, believers are credited with the righteousness of God. It is an immeasurable turnaround. It is more than just the removal of a negative; it is also the addition of a positive that was previously far beyond the reach of mankind! The Apostle Paul declared that the death and resurrection of Christ made it all possible. "He [Christ] was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification" (Romans 4:25).

## Sanctification

Sanctification is a process that sets apart a believer from the unbeliever—the Holy from the unholy. The sanctification of a believer has three main aspects which set the believer apart from sin. A believer is set apart from: (1) the penalty of sin, (2) the power of sin, and (3) the presence of sin.

**1. Positional sanctification** occurs at the moment of justification. At that time, a believer's spiritual condition changes instantaneously. He moves from a state of spiritual death to spiritual life. This regeneration is the first step of a believer's journey as part of the new creation. It is, in essence, the counterpart to birth in the natural creation. From that moment on, the believer is set apart, or positionally sanctified (Hebrews 10:10; cf. Ephesians 4:22-24).

**2. Experiential sanctification** relates to the believer's new life in holiness. This aspect of sanctification is not something that is achieved, but is experienced during the believer's natural lifetime. It is an ongoing learning process in which he learns to resist sinful behavior and live by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches believers about their new standing in righteousness and leads them into a life of holiness. This is done while believers are bound to their sinful bodies in a fallen world. It is no small undertaking (2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Romans 12:1-2).

**3. Ultimate sanctification** occurs when we arrive in heaven. Once a believer passes from this life into the next, they will be

purified to such an extent that they will be unable to sin. The old creation will be destroyed, and by that means, they are removed from the presence of sin. The believer will, in fact, lose the desire or ability to sin (1 John 3:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

Therefore, sanctification progressively sets the believer apart from all aspects of sin. The penalty of sin is death. Because of our regeneration and our union with Christ in the new creation, we are no longer dead, but spiritually alive. We are set apart from the power of sin, which is our sinful nature. The believer shares Christ's divine nature (2 Peter 1:4) The Holy Spirit enables our new nature to overcome the sinful desires that our flesh craves. Victory over the power of the sinful nature is available through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. He helps us identify and resist the temptation to sin while enabling us to serve others by using our new spiritual gifts. Sin is a clear and present danger while we remain in our fleshly bodies, but that is a temporary situation. After our death and resurrection, we will receive new, purified bodies. We will, in a true sense, be forever sanctified.

The experiential sanctification phase is the most challenging for the believer as failures and blunders are inevitable. We must acclimate to our new holy standing. Like children that need to learn acceptable behavior, so also the new believer needs to learn to be holy. God anticipated this and of course, has made provision for the sin of believers. He requires that we confess our sins. Christ is presently serving as an advocate and mediator for believers. Our sin is washed away by the blood of Jesus who continues to serve as High

Priest in the true tabernacle of God in heaven. As we acknowledge our failures, we learn to depend on the Holy Spirit who has been sent to help us. He will grant us the wisdom and power to accomplish the works that will bear witness to our faith (Ephesians 2:8-10). Believers will either give in to our fleshly desires, or obey the Holy Spirit. It takes time and effort to get it right. The Apostle John encouraged believers saying, "But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure" (1 John 3:2-3).

## **The Present Struggle**

The present dispensation of grace began with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and will continue until the end of the great tribulation (Acts 2:1-4; Revelation 16:1-21). During this age, believers will continue struggling through the conflict between following the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the desire to fulfill our fleshly desires. Confession of sin will be an essential part of our spiritual lives (1 John 1:5-10). We will practice baptism of new converts to show our identification with Christ, and we will continue to partake of The Lord's Supper in which we remember the life and death of Christ symbolized by the bread and wine (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). We will rely on the Holy Spirit to accomplish all that God intends to accomplish in this dispensation. We will serve others through the spiritual gifts we receive (Romans 12:3-8). We will press on with purpose and meaning, even knowing that in the end, the Church will fail to convert the mass of humanity (Revelation 16:10-11). We will witness the infiltration of false teachers and spiritually blinded members to the church. The false church will grow exponentially and the antichrist will unite the world in purported peace (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12).

The present struggle is divinely designed to stimulate the spiritual growth of individual believers. This begins with the understanding of an Apostolic doctrine regarding spiritual baptism. The believer and Christ are inseparable because of a spiritual union. This association is described as a co-death and co-resurrection with Christ. In a true spiritual sense, believers have been crucified, buried, and resurrected along with Christ. To begin to understand the meaning of

Christ's resurrection, the believer must accept the reality of this relationship. We will reference the inspired words of the Apostle Paul.

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:3-11).

The contemporary style of believer's baptism by immersion is often used to describe how believers were included with Christ in His death and resurrection. As a believer stands and makes a profession of faith, he is then laid down under the water as if dead, and raised up out of the water, as if resurrected. This symbolizes a complete change. We must recognize that as dramatic as the physical act of baptism may be, and as large of a change as it may indicate, it merely symbolizes what has happened spiritually. Upon belief of the

gospel, the Holy Spirit enters (indwells) our bodies; He sanctifies us to be simultaneously spiritually baptized into Christ. By means of this spiritual baptism, we become intimately joined to Christ.

The believer's union with the indwelling Spirit; his oneness with Christ; and sonship with the Father will never be broken. The security of our salvation is sure since it is based on the Word of God. Nevertheless, the believer is encouraged to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). To that end, we will continue to explore some enlightening illustrations provided for our benefit. These figures illustrate the unity of Christ to believers in our dispensation. Reflection on such matters will prove to be invaluable in times of sin and doubt. An educated believer is a fruitful believer. Knowledge cancels out fear as light displaces darkness.

**1. Christ is the Head; believers are the body** (Colossians 1:18; cf. Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-29; 1 Corinthians 11:3). This figure is remarkable as it takes a complex relationship and compares it to something even a child can understand, the human body. The head is the source of direction and intelligence. However, the head is incomplete without the body. The individual believers collectively comprise the body which makes all of them dependent on the same head. The unity of this relationship is obvious.

God has brilliantly orchestrated an abundance of examples from our natural world to illustrate spiritual truths; none is as fundamental as Christ and believers as one body.

**2. Christ is the Vine; believers are the branches** (John 15:1-17). The emphasis in this figure is on the importance of being

connected to a life source. Fruit is formed on the branches, but not without a nourishing connection to the vine. Christ supplies all we need to bear spiritual fruit: e.g., compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love (Colossians 3:12-14). As a branch must rely on the vine to bear fruit, so also the believer must rely on Christ to love others. An added element to this figure is God the Father who administers effective disciplinary action for believers who are unfruitful. As a master gardener strategically prunes to increase healthy yields, so also God is involved attaining all that He desires in each one of His beloved children.

### **3. Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as the Bride**

(Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 19:6-9). In this unique example, the believers together comprise the figure of the bride. Christ has demonstrated his love for the church by paying the full redemption price to free us from the bondage of sin. He demonstrates His loving attention by cleansing us through the washing of the Word (Ephesians 5:26-27). He has left to prepare a place for us (John 14:1-3). We are anxiously awaiting our heavenly life with our Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. This figure effectively incorporates all that Christ has done, is doing and will do for believers. We are assured that Christ will return and we will reign with Him eternally (Revelation 22:1-17).

The love of Christ was unrevealed without an object of affection with whom to demonstrate His love. Christ's love for the Church prompted Him to share the accomplishment of great things through



them. Christ promised that the believers would do greater things than he did personally in his earthly ministry. The potential of this spiritual relationship is infinite!

The preceding examples from Scripture are more than sufficient to communicate our union with Christ. Our position, as believers, is secure. Our security does not depend on our effort or endurance, but on the infinite power, love, and promise of God. In his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul rejoices in God's love for us:

“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ... 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” (Romans 8:31-39).

## **Spiritual Gifts**

The work of God is to call believers out of the world and into salvation. God has honored Christ with the task of accomplishing this important mission. Christ has already come and offered Himself as the sacrifice for mankind and is continuing to serve believers as High Priest. He is our advocate and mediator in heaven, seated at the right hand of God (Hebrews 10:1-18). Christ has dispatched the Holy Spirit to work through believers in the accomplishment of God's plan (John 16:12-15). As the Holy Spirit manifests Himself in individual believers, various tasks are performed which work together to accomplish God's overall plan. These manifestations of the Holy Spirit are spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). They may include wisdom, knowledge, faith, generosity or any service that is needed to assist in accomplishing God's plan. Prayer is a common privilege of all believers and is in addition to any spiritual gift. Love is the core of any gift. The believer serves others and expects nothing in return (1 Corinthians 13:1-13).

Each person has physical attributes and intellectual abilities that make them unique. These may be incorporated into the use of a spiritual gift, however they should not be confused as being the spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts are reserved for believers. They didn't exist prior to the individual's belief of the gospel, and are only possible because of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. A spiritual gift is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer (Acts 2:18).

All believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit but not all are filled with the Spirit (Romans 8:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30). Sin

and willful disobedience will halt a manifestation of the Spirit. However, the Holy Spirit will use a believer who is actively involved in the confession of sin and willful obedience to God's plan.

God has revealed portions of His plan to the world. He has increased understanding of His plan to believers. However, no one should be deceived into thinking that they understand the details of God's plan. It rises so far above human comprehension that we must simply rely on the Holy Spirit to lead us into individual tasks, and believe that they fit into the overall plan. The complexity of God's plan may be compared to a heavenly kaleidoscope. There are so many variables, so many complicated factors involved, that we could never participate on our own. We simply trust the Holy Spirit to manifest Himself through us in whatever way, time, or place that He wills. As God's plan unfolds and we witness the beauty of it, we rejoice in His wisdom and love (Ephesians 4:1-21).

Believers will be judged according to use of their spiritual gifts. Any service that is performed using mere natural abilities, cultivated skills, or self promotion will be judged and eliminated (2 Corinthians 5:10). The only lasting credit will come from the use of a spiritual gift allocated by Christ, and powered by the Holy Spirit. We would do well to judge our motivation and execution of service based on these prerequisites. The Apostle Paul compares God's plan to the construction of a building with Christ as the foundation. He compares the authentic manifestation of the Spirit to lasting materials, and mere human effort with combustible materials. He refers to the judgment seat of Christ as fire that will purify each man's work. Fire is often used in the Bible to represent judgment. Christ has been

described as having eyes of fire (Revelation 2:18). The idea is that as he looks at our work, only the work accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit will remain (1 Corinthians 3:13). Everything accomplished by other means will be consumed. Believers must constantly evaluate the motive and means of service to others.

“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames” (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

## **The Future Glory**

At a time appointed by God, Christ will remove the remaining believers of the true Church and execute the tribulation judgments on the earth. New believers will surface during the tribulation period and will suffer considerably under the antichrist. These tribulation believers will receive special recognition in heaven (Revelation 6:9-11).

At the conclusion of the seven-year tribulation period, Christ will return to the earth. He will reign as King from David's throne in Jerusalem. This earthly kingdom will remain for 1000 years and all believers will be involved in some capacity, though the details are not made clear in the revelation we've received. At the end of the 1000 years, Satan and all the dead will be consigned to the lake of fire. The present earth and heavens will be destroyed by fire (Revelation 20:1-15). With all enemies of Christ judged, and everything that was originally cursed by Adam's sin destroyed, Christ will hand the purified Kingdom over to The Father (1 Corinthians 15:24-28). The Eternal Kingdom will consist of the New Heaven and Earth, the New Jerusalem, and all believers that received new life through Christ. We will serve God in His Eternal Kingdom forever. We will live in perfect communion with Jesus Christ, the Head of the New Creation! It is a magnificent hope we share, indeed.

## **Summary of Section Three**

Believers of the gospel are imputed with the righteousness of God and stand divinely justified. Glorification and communion with God for eternity will complete the process of sanctification.

The righteousness of God is something we could never have earned on our own. We did not earn or deserve it but received it as a gift from God. This righteousness is gained through our union with Christ our Savior. The believer has been baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit and is presently joined to Him forever. In this life, we have received the Holy Spirit as a deposit as we await the resurrection (or translation) of our bodies. Once glorified, we will enter the presence of the Lord thus possessing our full inheritance. We are assured that we are heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ!

Students of the Bible recognize three key imputations that God has revealed through His Written Word. They are as follows:

1. The sin of Adam was imputed to all of mankind.
2. The sin of all mankind was imputed to Christ as he died on the cross.
3. The righteousness of God is imputed to those who believe the gospel.

Jesus Christ became the Head of a New Creation by His resurrection from the dead. All who believe the gospel are miraculously transformed and will become part of the new creation along with Christ. We will live new spiritual lives, use our spiritual gifts, and reign with Christ eternally.

Justification is God's declaration of righteousness for a sinner who was saved by grace. The righteousness of God is imputed to one who believes the gospel. Therefore, justification is by grace through faith in the gospel. Salvation is a work of God for mankind, not a work of man for God. If God justifies a person, there is no condemnation.

The death and resurrection of Christ was the monumental demonstration of God's love and power. By these incredible feats, believers will live forever and serve the Head of the New Creation; The Last Adam!

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20-21 KJV).

## **Appendix A: Dispensational Timeline**

We can break down the timeline of the world into seven segments herein referred to as Dispensations. By distinguishing these periods, we will be able to see an interesting perspective of mankind.

A Biblical Dispensation begins with a divinely set standard. Mankind will be tested; God will discipline mankind if the test is failed. As a new dispensation begins, it builds on the knowledge gained in the previous ones. As the challenge increases so will the divine enablement. As time advances, God reveals more about His Nature and man learns more about human nature.

God provides these dispensational tests so that we can understand and agree that we are sinners and will fail to meet His standard of perfection every time. He demonstrates our utter sinfulness to us collectively and individually.

### **The Dispensations: A Sevenfold Demonstration of Man's Sinfulness**

We'll start back at the beginning when man was created. At this point in history, there was a perfect creation and no guilt for mankind. Reasonable duties were assigned such as tending to the garden and naming the animals. The basic test was merely to obey God as we lived in communion with Him in the Garden of Eden with permission to enjoy all the plants and trees except one. In time, man was tempted and failed the test by disobeying God and eating the forbidden fruit. The result was that God demonstrated man's sinfulness to mankind. Various judgments, including death, were implemented as punishment. This is often referred to as the



Dispensation of Innocence as man began with no guilt, failed the test, then lost his innocent state and suffered divine punishments. That judgment resulted in a huge gulf between man and God (Genesis 2:4-5:5; Romans 5:14; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45; 1 Timothy 2:13-14). This failure was the only one necessary to condemn us; the following dispensations validate the accuracy of the original test six ways to Sunday (entirely).

Next, mankind was banished from the Garden of Eden. They had gained knowledge of good and evil because of the fruit they ate, and they became aware of their conscience and were expected to use that ability. Time advances for many generations and evil choices were habitually made until mankind became so thoroughly depraved that God sent the massive flood. So it is clear that mankind living by conscience alone will not result in good but rather in overwhelming evil. This dispensation is commonly referred to as the Dispensation of Conscience and began with mankind living a new (fallen) life outside the Garden of Eden and living with no other standard from God except to utilize the conscience that they possessed. The failure of the test was so widespread that God punished mankind with a flood that overwhelmed the sinful race and destroyed all but Noah and those with him in the ark (Genesis 2:4 - 9:17).

Next, God instituted the idea of man governing one another. This is a step up from personal conscience, and it sets up the premise that we may be able to guide the behavior of the community. Established standards and leadership are arranged in an attempt to make progress in the struggle to become obedient instead of evil. For example, if we work together to punish evil when we see it, we may

gradually learn to become better by experience and eventually become collectively morally upstanding. The specific divine instruction was given to go ahead and exercise capital punishment for one who murdered another. Additionally, further instructions were given to multiply and spread out around the earth. These are logical directives that were well within the capabilities of mankind. However, because of pride and a sinful disposition, the descendants of Noah decided to settle in one area and make a name for themselves. They erected the Tower of Babel to reach the heavens. Ironically, God came down from heaven, punished them by confusing their language thus forcing them to do the thing they least wanted to do, spread out over the earth. Once again God demonstrated man's sinfulness to man. This judgment included the confusion of their language as a divine punishment. The consequence of this judgment fulfilled God's original instructions to spread out over the earth. This is commonly referred to as the Dispensation of Human Government. Though mankind failed the test for both the Dispensations of Conscience and Human Government long ago, we still use both of these tools today to curb immorality (Genesis 9:18-11:9).

Next and with a new approach, God decided to work with a select group of mankind instead of the entire population at large. He called Abram and promised him that a nation would be formed from his offspring. God promised that this nation would enjoy a land of their own, special blessings, and protection from their enemies if they only believed God's promises to Abraham and lived accordingly. The disobedience of the patriarchs was demonstrated by their decision to relocate to Egypt instead of the land God gave them. They entered that land as a clan of about seventy and multiplied into a nation of

600,000 men (plus women and children), yet they became slaves to Pharaoh, which served as divine punishment. This is commonly referred to as the Dispensation of Promise, and the whole world (even to this day) observed the failure of this segment of mankind. They failed to live under the simple condition of believing God's gracious promises, willingly obeying God's clear instructions, and gratefully accepting God's provision (Genesis 12:1-Exodus 1:14).

Still working with this select segment of mankind, the Israelites, God chose Moses to serve as a redeemer for this enslaved nation. They miraculously left Egypt after the ten plagues and crossed the Red Sea. Upon reaching Mount Sinai, God revealed the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Law Code through Moses. The Nation of Israel was redeemed from slavery in Egypt and free to make choices for themselves. When The Lord offered to provide them with His Law, they promptly agreed. Despite being divinely taught about the sinfulness of man and the Holiness of God, the Old Testament Scriptures detail the repeated failures of this Holy Nation of Israel. They were given many chances and allowed to experiment with obeying and disobeying, receiving blessing and cursing appropriately much as a child learns acceptable behavior from his godly parents. However, like the prodigal son who traded wisdom and wealth for worldly pleasure, Israel chose sinfulness over and over again. They became so depraved and spiritually blinded that they failed to recognize Christ and crucified their King. This is commonly referred to as the Dispensation of Law, and it ended with the tearing of the Temple curtain at the time of Christ's death. The Temple was eventually destroyed in A.D. 70, and the nation was

dispersed throughout the world as divine punishment (Exodus 1:15-Matthew 27:51).

Next, with Christ having died and raised from the dead, God moved on to calling out people from the earth's population at large again, both Jew and Gentile. He chose some from every race to form The Church, the called out ones from the world and equipped them to be witnesses of the gospel of grace. God's standard for the Church is to believe in the accomplishments of their miraculous Savior.

Additionally, they were provided with the guidance and gifts of the Holy Spirit. With greater privilege and responsibility than the ones in previous dispensations, the Holy Spirit provided extensive enlightenment and understanding of the full revelation of God's Written Word. Additionally, God's greatness is revealed more than ever before through the Person and Work of His Son Jesus Christ, which resulted in true worship and a level of intimacy with God never experienced previously. These believers are placed into a Holy position upon acceptance of the gospel apart from any meritorious works. Individually they each begin a process to become conformed to the image of Christ. They are spiritually baptized into Christ Himself who is described as the Head and the believers comprise the Body of Christ. Because of this unique union to each other and collectively with Christ, they are promised to do greater things than Christ did in his earthly ministry. With the bar raised high and the divine enablement increased accordingly, God allows time for observation of how this demonstration progresses, approximately 2000 years and running. While it may be hard to prove convincingly how this will turn out since this dispensation is presently in progress and it is here that we cross over the line from history to prophecy, the

result is sure—failure. Remember, the original test was failed, and these tests are just adding to the validity of God’s judgment of mankind.

Presently, the Church is obviously divided and beginning to regroup as a worldwide false church. Even the best of local churches are blinded with watered down doctrines that focus on rituals and allow sinful behavior to be accepted. The finished work of Christ on the cross is often neglected. In time, the failure of the Church will become evident to all as Christ returns to administer the tribulation judgment upon the earth thereby confirming the failure of the Church and the sinfulness of man during this dispensation. This is commonly referred to as the Dispensation of Grace. God’s grace is demonstrated and proclaimed so explicitly to a world that certainly understands their dire need. Only a few respond by faith and reap the benefits of their new lives even though salvation is proffered to all. The chosen ones who are saved by grace have not done anything to deserve or earn the esteemed privilege they have been given. They are not expected to do anything from their own power. They must rely on the indwelling Holy Spirit. He provides (1) enlightenment for understanding; (2) unusual gifts and abilities for works of service; (3) all that is needed to accomplish the purposes of God.

The failure of the Church is due to love for the things of this world and the sinful desires of the flesh. The Church's failure to live by the Spirit and to be called out and separated from the world will not go unpunished. The counterfeit church will infiltrate and overtake the weakened True Church. While the process is advancing gradually,

the sense of denial has overtaken the church. We think we are doing great, but from God's perspective, we are "wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked" (Revelation 3:14-22). So the True Church will fail and fade and the remaining called out ones will finally be removed via the Rapture. Throughout the duration of this dispensation, the Church will have had a limited influence on the world, but in the end mankind at large fails to seek God through the testimony of His Church. Instead, mankind will rally around a false god commonly referred to as the antichrist, who promises peace and ultimately will demand worship. Failure does not seem to describe this situation adequately. We should probably emphasize it with greater words, but no words will capture the vastness of the disgraceful tenure of the Church. Grace seems to be the best description of God's willingness to redeem any of the human race.

It is intriguing to note the contrast between the Dispensation of Promise and the Dispensation of Grace where the former started with one person, Abram, and many were added, like a pyramid. Then with the Church, many are called and conformed to the image of one person, Christ, which is more like a funnel than a pyramid. It seems as if God is using all possible scenarios to present his case against us. The Dispensation of Grace ends in a Divine Judgment detailed in the book of Revelation and commonly known as The Tribulation. This severe divine punishment will drastically alter the created world as we know it (Revelation 16:1-21), and almost all mankind will be destroyed except for the remnant that have become believers and survived this time of great tribulation. This period of seven years will follow the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) and will close out the Dispensation of Grace (Romans 1:1-Revelation 22:21).

God's final dispensation for the race will feature Christ as King of an Earthly Kingdom that will last for 1000 years. He will reign from David's throne in Jerusalem with an iron scepter. In other words, He will establish Righteousness and Justice by managing the affairs of men Himself through a Kingdom network that answers directly to Christ the King. Since the Tribulation Judgments will have culminated in the elimination (death) of all unbelievers, the Kingdom of Christ on earth is initially comprised of those who have placed their faith in Christ the King. Satan will be bound in the abyss. All who live in the world will have knowledge of the Lord. God's standard is that they honor and obey Christ whose reign will establish peace, justice, and righteousness. Over the course of 1000 years, these original redeemed humans will procreate and as many generations are added the world population will grow exponentially. The curse on earth will be diminished during this reign of Christ; length of life will be extended for most, as death will only affect those who defiantly sin. The descendants of the original remnant will be born with a sinful nature like all human beings have been since the beginning, and they will also be imputed with the guilt of Adam like all members of the race. They will outwardly profess honor and worship for Christ the King to avoid death. At the end of the 1000 years, Satan will be released from his prison (the abyss), and he will rally a large rebellion of many who will attempt to overthrow Christ. The point is that even under these near perfect conditions of the Dispensation of Christ's Millennial Kingdom on earth, mankind as a whole will fail to meet the standard God has given. The sinfulness and depravity of man will once again be thoroughly demonstrated to mankind. A remnant of believers will survive as has been the

gracious precedent established in all previous dispensations, but the heavens and earth will be destroyed by fire as divine judgment (Psalm 2:1-12; Isaiah 2:1-5, 11:1-16; Jeremiah 31:31-40; Revelation 19-22).

The conclusion of the dispensational demonstrations is that mankind is proven to be utterly sinful under all the circumstances of these tests of the seven dispensations. This problem can be traced back to Adam and the original sin he committed and the sinful nature that was passed down to the rest of us. God has been demonstrating mankind's total depravity through the ages of the history of the world, and the pages of His Written Word. Presently, some of this dispensational truth is history and some is prophecy, but by the time of its conclusion it will all be history and the grand demonstration of the sinfulness of mankind will come to an end along with the created world. It will literally be the end of time. The only thing left will be for Christ to hand over the then purified Kingdom to His Father (1 Corinthians 15:24-28†). The chosen ones of the race will enter God's Eternal Kingdom. The Eternal Kingdom exists apart from all that was cursed by the fall of mankind. The natural creation will be destroyed by fire. He will make all things new (Revelation 21:5). However, the fiery lake of burning sulfur, which was originally created for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 19:20), will be the eternal abode of those who refused to believe God and His Gracious Redemption Plan, also known as, The Gospel (Revelation 21:8; Isaiah 66:22-24).



## **Appendix B: Abraham's Timeline**

Paul spoke of Abraham as being justified by faith (Romans 4:1-25). James spoke of Abraham as being justified by works, not by faith alone (James 2:14-24). These passages are often compared out of context as if only one could be correct. A review of the life of Abraham may be helpful to see how both are correct in their respective contexts.

**Approximately 2100 BC:**

**Age = 75, Abraham leaves Haran (Genesis 12:4).**

**Age > 75 Abraham parts with Lot (Genesis 13:8-9).**

**Age > 75 Abraham justified by faith (Genesis 15:6; cf. Romans 4).**

**Age = 86 Ishmael is born (Genesis 16:16).**

**Age = 99 Sign of circumcision instituted (Genesis 17:24).**

**Age = 100 Isaac is born (Genesis 21:5).**

**Age > 100 Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19; cf. James 2:20-24).**

**Age = 137 Sarah dies (Genesis 23:1-2).**

**Age = 175 Abraham dies (Genesis 25:7-8).**

We know that Isaac was a young man when Abraham received instructions to sacrifice him. Referring to the timeline, we can estimate that more than thirty years would have passed from the time that Abraham was justified by faith until he demonstrated his

faith through his actions. In other words, Paul was referring to an event that happened thirty-plus years before the event that James was referencing. That observation helps clarify much confusion on the subject.

It may be concluded that justification from God comes by faith. In the due course of time, God's judgment will prove to be true in the eyes of men. The only means men have to judge is by the works they observe. Justification in the eyes of men comes by works.

Of course, justification by God is salvation. Justification from men merely validates God's judgment. All God's judgments are true (Revelation 19:1-10).

## Glossary

This word index contains commentary primarily to aid the reader in understanding the usage of these words within the scope of this work. It may double as a reference guide to any Bible Study.

[A](#) - [B](#) - [C](#) - [D](#) - [E](#) - [F](#) - [G](#) - [H](#) - [I](#) - [J](#) - [K](#) - [L](#) - [M](#) - [N](#) - [O](#) - [P](#) - [Q](#) - [R](#) - [S](#) - [T](#)  
- [U](#) - [V](#) - [W](#) - ([XYZ](#))

### A

**Abel** - A son of Adam and Eve who was murdered by his brother Cain. Abel brought an appropriate sacrifice to the Lord that infuriated Cain who refused to comply with God's requirements. Abel's story is told in Genesis 4 but he is also mentioned in the New Testament, "By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead" (Hebrews 11:4).

**Abraham** - The man God chose to be the progenitor (father) of the Israelites. This particular line would come through his son Isaac and grandson Jacob. Jacob's name was subsequently changed to Israel. The Twelve Tribes proceeded from Jacob's sons and became the Jewish Nation. Familiarity with the life and career of Abraham is critical to understanding the Bible. See Appendix "B" for reference. God told Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore (Genesis 22:17-18). The former may represent his spiritual lineage while the former may represent his natural lineage. "If you belong to Christ,

then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29).

**Abyss** - A place where certain demons are held in bondage until released. "And they [many demons] begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss" (Luke 8:31).

**Adam** - The seminal work of God in creating mankind. From Adam's side Eve was formed, and from his posterity emerged everyone who has ever existed with one exception, Jesus Christ. Adam was formed from the dust of the earth. God breathed life into him, and Adam became a fascinating union of body and soul complete with intellect, conscience, free will, and accountability. Adam's sin had the effect of death on all mankind. Christ has been described as the Last Adam as he had a similar yet opposite effect by redeeming us from death. "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous" (Romans 5:19).

**Advocate** - One who speaks for another in an official capacity much like a lawyer does for a client. Christ is presently fulfilling this role for sinning believers as he defends them against Satan. He would defend them by the mention of His own blood that was presented to forgive all sin (Revelation 12:9-11). The Holy Spirit is also described as our advocate as He knows our hearts and intercedes accordingly; expressing things we would not be able to put into words (Romans 8:26-27). He also teaches us the things of God, as the need arises. "The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for 'Who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to instruct him?' But we [believers] have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:14-16).

**Angels** - An innumerable army of spirit beings who possess supernatural abilities. Apparently divided into ranks with various capabilities and authority, they perform duties as assigned by God. Satan was originally a high-ranking angel and sinned. This rebellion resulted in a judgment that included a number of minions usually now described as demons. Angels do not propagate or die. The Lake of Fire was prepared for the Devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Angels are normally mentioned as being in the presence of God and assisting in a wide array of tasks. "I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man [Jesus] will also acknowledge before the angels of God ... " (Luke 12:8).

**Antichrist** - A man who will emerge as the leader of the world. Satan will indwell this man and will manipulate world events to accommodate his rise to power. His popularity, authority, and purported peace are the culmination of the counterfeit kingdom of Christ. After promising peace, the antichrist will demand worship at a temple in Jerusalem.

"For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back [The Holy Spirit] will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts

of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness” (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12). See also Revelation chapters 19-22.

**Apostle** - One who is sent by the authority of the Holy Spirit who empowers them. After Jesus’ death, certain men were recognized as Apostles. The most famous ones were Peter, James, John and Paul. These and others established doctrines that have been recorded in their writings. Apostleship denotes leadership and authority whereas discipleship refers to a follower or student (Matthew 5:1-2). The original Apostles have died but the message must continue to be told. Therefore, the term now also includes those who have received a spiritual gift that enables them to identify and communicate the untainted message established by the original Apostles. Subsequently the Holy Spirit illuminates truth to believers validated by the full testimony of Scripture. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles (Acts 2:42-43).

**Apostolic** - Of or relating to the work or office of Apostle. The Apostles were given authority to establish and lead the early church. God has communicated to man in various ways such as through creation, through the prophets and His Son. However, nothing has been as explicit as the Holy Spirit working through an Apostle

resulting in an inspired written explanation of God's previous methods of communication. While the previous methods may be correctly or incorrectly interpreted by some of us, the recorded teachings of the Apostles formulate sound doctrine. Their writings are contained within the canon of the New Testament. They will prove to be the only reliable conclusions for those who seek a proper understanding of God's Message to mankind. "Consequently, you [believers] are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19-20).

**Ark** - A boat that was constructed by Noah according to God's specifications. "Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark" (Genesis 7:23).

**Ascension** - The movement of Christ from earth to heaven. This was a literal event where he visibly rose into the clouds and out of sight (Acts 1:10-11), but it also includes all that was implied including the fact that He was seated on the Throne of God. It denotes the distinguished honor bestowed on the Risen Christ by God the Father. Christ is now serving as High Priest, Advocate, and Mediator (Hebrews 10:5-10). At a time appointed by God, He will return and establish a Kingdom on Earth for 1000 years (Revelation 19:11-20:15). The Ascension of Christ is a pillar of Christian doctrine. "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on

things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1).

**Atonement** - An act that negates the effect of sin for one party by the imputation of sin and its effect to another party. God used various animal sacrifices to teach mankind the concept of substitutionary sacrifice and then sent Christ as the ultimate sacrifice as He died in place of mankind. The Divine atonement formula revealed to man is that sin requires the substitutionary death of a qualified candidate. Guilt is subsequently removed once the process of imputation and atonement is accomplished. “When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit (John 19:30).

## **B**

**Baptism** - A public act performed to signify identification to Christ, and consequently to others who have done the same. Believers are either immersed under water or have water applied to them shortly after they announce their belief in Christ. The Apostle Paul taught that in a spiritual sense, believers were baptized into death with Christ. This spiritual act identifies our choice to die to self and to live as Christ (Philippians 1:21). Additionally, believers are also described as being baptized with the Holy Spirit. “In him [Christ] you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead” (Colossians 2:11-12).



**Belief** - Denotes an informed, contemplated conclusion. The decision to believe or reject the gospel is the decision that will precede our eternal destiny.

“Then they [representatives from an unbelieving crowd] asked him, ‘What must we do to do the works God requires?’

Jesus answered, ‘The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent’ (John 6:28-29).

**Bible** - God’s revealed Word recorded and preserved in written form. A collection of sixty-six books (Genesis to Revelation) and broken down into two sections, the Old Testament and New Testament. Approximately forty authors contributed over a span of about fifteen hundred years. The subject matter ranges from the creation of the world to the destruction of the world and the next life. It covers activities of God, angels, Satan, and man. It speaks authoritatively on all subjects as the authors miraculously worked under the guidance of the Holy Spirit resulting in an inspired text. Its contents include history, science, poetry, allegory, parables, and many other literary devices to convey its message. It expands our minds by revealing God’s attributes, purposes, and glory. The Bible magnificently frames Jesus Christ as the Savior of the World. He is essentially concealed and anticipated in the Old Testament, revealed in the New Testament, and worshiped by all who believe. “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and

training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

## **C**

**Called-out Ones** - A term used when God called out someone to be set apart or Holy. God called the Nation Israel to be set apart from the other nations. He calls believers individually to be set apart from sinners. The term may be used to signify any or all believers as they were each called and responded accordingly. "Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" (2 Peter 1:2-3).

**Chosen Ones** - The Bible teaches us that God chose certain individuals for salvation before the creation of the world. God chooses every believer before we ever chose Him. There is no hindrance for any man to choose to believe except for his own will to reject the Gospel. "In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory" (Ephesians 1:11-12).

**Christ** - (Messiah or Anointed One) God's chosen one. His mission was to deliver the human race from the law of sin and death. Famously anticipated by the Israelites, God's Messiah would redeem not just their one nation, but also the whole of mankind. Additionally, He will rule over the world as God's Representative on Earth assuming the role originally assigned to Adam. Christ is a title; Jesus

is a given name. “Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth” (Revelation 1:4-6).

**Christ the King** - Jesus Christ fulfills many roles. He is the Eternal Second Person of the Trinity; He is the Creator; He is Savior; He is High Priest; and He will reign as King over the earth upon His Second Coming. While He is presently seated on God’s Throne and is the recipient of much honor and glory—that is still technically the Throne of God the Father. He will receive the Throne of David as promised and reign as King of Jerusalem and the entire world. His role as High Priest and the duties of Advocate and Mediator are the priority of Christ at this time. Upon His second coming, he will return in power, defeat Satan, bind him in the abyss, and then rule the earth as King. “Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter.’ He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords” (Revelation 19:15-16).

**Christmas** - A day that commemorates the Birth of Christ, the Son of God. The significance is that God became man so he could die as a Substitutionary sacrifice for mankind. “She [Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

**Colossians** - A book of the Bible that was originally a letter from the Apostle Paul. He wrote to the church in Colossae and included in-

depth spiritual instruction. “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father” (Colossians 1:1-2).

**Communion** - A healthy relationship between oneself and God. Sin inhibits this relationship for believers, but confession of sin restores it. At regular intervals, the Church celebrates the Lord’s Supper at which time the bread and wine (or grape juice) is shared which remind us of the life and death of Christ, the forgiveness of sin which we received, and the importance of maintaining fellowship. This ordinance, by its very nature, encourages the confession of known sins and also the fact of our sinful nature. The Church will continue this practice until Christ returns to establish His earthly Kingdom.

“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes” (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

**Condemnation** - The Divine judicial ruling of all who reject God’s provision for sin. “For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord (Jude 1:4).

**Conscience** - Knowledge of good and evil. Care must be exercised because we may be so conditioned to evil that we may consider the evil within us to be good. We must trust God's principles to guide us. "If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them" (James 4:17).

**Corinthians** - Recipients of two letters from Paul, 1 and 2 Corinthians. Paul apparently contacted them by letter other times as well, but these two were included in the canon (Bible) while the others were not. "Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:1-3).

**Creation** - All material things known to man including planets, stars, animals, plants, and mankind. "In the past God spoke to our ancestors 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 also he made the universe" (Hebrews 1:1-2).

**Creator** - Refers specifically to Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Godhead. "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through

him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:15-17).

**Cross** - The Cross that Christ was nailed to as He died carries with it the implication of all that was accomplished in His life, death, and resurrection. “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Colossians 2:13-15).

## **D**

**Daniel** - A prophet of God and the author of the Old Testament Book of Daniel. “Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge” (Daniel 12:2-4).

**Death** - Death represents a separation. Physical death is a separation of man’s body and spirit. Spiritual death is a separation between man and God. When a person dies, the body deteriorates and returns to dust while the spirit is contained at a place determined by God until the resurrection of the dead at which point body and spirit will be reunited for eternity. “And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another

book was opened, which is 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 they had done” (Revelation 20:12-13).

**Demerit** - Denotes evil behavior. Christians normally refer to this as sin where others refer to the same thing as demerit. Both believers and unbelievers mistakenly think that merit (or good works) can make up for demerit. The Bible teaches that man is evil and no good can come from him. Only once we are made into a new creation can the Holy Spirit accomplish anything good or holy in our life. “He [Jesus] went on: ‘What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person” (Mark 7:20-23).

**Demons** - Fallen angels. (See Satan.) “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons” (1 Timothy 4:1).

**Devil** - For all intents and purposes, used synonymously with Satan. “You [unbelieving Jews] belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44).

**Disciples** - Followers of Christ. Jesus chose 12 men to teach and travel with as He presented Himself as King to the Jewish Nation

during His earthly ministry. Of this group, Peter, James, and John gained special access and instruction. After the death of Christ, certain disciples became known as Apostles and provided leadership to the growing group of disciples. “So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7).

**Dispensation** - A biblical dispensation refers to a revelation from God that forms a standard for a segment of mankind during their time. The seven dispensations together span the timeline of the created world. These periods are not divided equally, nor are the durations the important issue as the emphasis is on the results of the portion of mankind who are under observation. Their stewardship (management) of the responsibility God entrusted to them determines whether or not they meet His standard. The conclusion in each dispensation is that man fails to meet God’s standard. God uses these dispensations to teach us a series of lessons about ourselves, and Him. “Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my [The Apostle Paul’s] gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen” (Romans 16:25-27).

**Divine** - Refers to God’s handiwork or God’s enablement. “For though we [believers] live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the



world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds” (2 Corinthians 10:3-4).

**Divine Solution** - God has a Glorious remedy for all man’s problems. It starts with our awareness of our sinfulness and moves on to our belief in the Gospel. To validate this solution, God sent Christ to be a substitutionary sacrifice for mankind. The Holy Spirit who instructs us on sin, judgment, and righteousness followed Christ. The final phase of God’s solution is the destruction of the created heavens and earth, mankind, and all that was cursed by Adam’s sin. Salvation from this destruction is the ministry of God for mankind. All other solutions will prove to be invalid. “Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told to you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things” (1 Peter 1:10-12).

**Doctrine** - A teaching or truth that serves as a pillar to an organization. False doctrine will displace true doctrine in the Church, and in the end the church will fail. “As I [Paul] urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote

controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith" (1 Timothy 1:3-4).

## **E**

**Easter** - The day Christians traditionally celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith" (1 Corinthians 15:14).

**Ecclesiastes** - An Old Testament book of the Bible written by Solomon. He observed that life is seemingly meaningless with endless cycles of nature including death. He spent much time and effort exploring various life choices. Solomon was renowned for his great wisdom and he instructed leaders from all around the world. "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

**Enoch** - A descendant of Seth. Seth was a direct son of Adam who established a godly line of descendants. Enoch is said to have walked with the Lord for 300 years and was taken away without dying. "Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them [false teachers]: 'See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him'" (Jude 1:14-15).

**Eternal Kingdom** - The Kingdom of God in Eternity Future. At that time Christ will present the purified kingdom to the Father (1

Corinthians 15:24-28). “Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:10-11).

**Eternal Life** - Technically begins with belief of the gospel in this world, but the thrust of the usage means life in heaven for eternity as opposed to the eternal existence in the lake of fire. “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 (John 3:16).

**Eternity** - Where time doesn't exist. Time is apparently a mechanical system incorporated into our creation and marks the progress towards the ultimate destruction of all things that fell under the curse resulting from Adam's sin. Eternity past marks all things before the fall of man and eternity future begins (for us) with the destruction of the present heavens and earth. “In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire” (Jude 1:7).

**Eve** - The first woman formed by God from some flesh and bone taken from Adam. She became one with Adam through marriage and went on to be the mother of all the living. Though Eve ate the forbidden fruit first, her condemnation came because of Adam's disobedience to the direct command of God as Adam received God's command before Eve was formed. “And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for

when you eat from it you will certainly die.’ The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’” (Genesis 2:16-18).

## **F**

**Faith** - The Bible speaks of a faith that is abandoned, and a faith for healing, and saving faith. Saving faith is what is referred to in this work and the explanation can be found under the glossary entry for Belief. “God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith (Romans 3:25).

**False Church** - The one-world church that will emerge under the antichrist. The world will believe that it is the true church and that peace has been finally accomplished. Movement is already underway to this end though it is impossible to predict how near it will manifest itself in full. “The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?” (Revelation 13:3-4).

**False Religion** - All religious systems that do not rest on faith in the gospel alone as the sole source of salvation. Most religions emphasize either totally false doctrines or perhaps faith-plus-works in a way that denies the efficacy of Christ’s death and resurrection to some degree. False religion often puts the emphasis on man and enslaves the follower to an impossible set of standards. The gospel frees a person from sin and guilt and the Holy Spirit manifests Himself in believers who invariably serve others. “Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on

their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world” (James 1:26-27).

**False Teacher** - A leader in a church or some religious group that projects himself as knowledgeable in the things of God but rather leads his followers away from the truth of the Gospel. “But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping (2 Peter 2:1-3).

**Fire** - Often used biblically as a symbol for divine judgment. “By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly (2 Peter 3:7).

**Flesh** - The body our spirit resides in during our life on earth. Our bodies in this life are under the curse of sin and death and the sinful nature contained within will lure us to sin even after we are believers of the gospel. “For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live (Romans 8:13).

**Flood** - The Divine Judgment which wiped out all mankind except for Noah, his sons and their wives, eight people in all. God warned

Noah of the flood, gave him instructions on how to build the ark, and allowed time for its completion. Students of the Bible see many similarities between the flood and God's final judgment of mankind. He has warned us, given instructions on what to believe, and allowed time for the gospel to be preached to every people group. At a time appointed by God He will destroy the world again, except for those who believe the gospel. "But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly (2 Peter 3:5-7).

**Free Will** - The ability human beings have to make choices culminating in the choice to believe the gospel or reject it. Free will exists alongside predestination which means God set a plan in motion in which He controlled all things including our will. Obviously the logistics of such a plan rises above human comprehension. The fact remains that we are able to choose, we will be held responsible for our choice, and God's plan will be fulfilled down to the last detail. "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son (John 3:18).

**Fruit** - As a tree bears fruit that removes all possible doubt as to what type of tree it is, so also humans bear fruit, figuratively speaking. We either bear the fruit of our sinful nature or we bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. "So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another,

to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death (Romans 7:4-5).

**Futility** - The lack of purpose or meaning to life since we have been infected by sin and death. This observation is magnificently presented in the Book of Ecclesiastes written by King Solomon. “‘Meaningless! Meaningless!’ says the Teacher. ‘Everything is meaningless!’” (Ecclesiastes 12:8).

## **G**

**Garden of Eden** - The beautiful abode of Adam and Eve prior to their sin. The exact location is unknown. “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die’” (Genesis 2:15-17).

**Genesis** - The first book of the Old Testament authored by Moses the Prophet. Its content includes creation, the flood of Noah, and the story of the Israelites as they sought comfort in Egypt. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

**Gentile** - A person from any race or background other than an Israelite. All Israelites practiced Judaism and were called to be Holy or set apart from the rest of the world. So according to the Israelites there were Jews, and there was everyone else, or Gentiles. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that

brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile” (Romans 1:16).

**Glorification** - Describes the death of our physical body of sin and signifies our presence in Heaven where the power and presence of sin is gone. We will receive new bodies in the order of the Risen Christ. Glorification denotes the same state as Ultimate Sanctification. “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2).

**God** - The Supreme Being who for man’s benefit has created our universe and all things contained within including the earth, plants, animals, and mankind. He has progressively revealed Himself to us as One God but revealed in Three Persons; The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. While this concept rises above human comprehension it remains logical since God is, by nature, above human comprehension. God is Eternal, Righteous, Holy, and Sovereign. He is Omniscient, Omnipotent, and Omnipresent. God became flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ and Jesus died as payment for man’s sin. God’s plan for creation was determined before the creation was started, and nothing that happens will surprise or disappoint God. He has brilliantly orchestrated all things to accomplish His Will. As the concept of God is contemplated, consideration must be given to the Greatness of our God and Creator. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts



than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:8-11).

**God’s Right Hand** - The Highest Place of Honor. God (the Father) is Spirit but is often personified to poetically illustrate a point. “It [Spiritual Baptism] saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him” (1 Peter 3:21-22).

**God’s Word** - Used to emphasize that the Bible is authoritative since it originated from God and was miraculously provided to us through Inspiration. “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

**Gospel** - Good News, specifically the proclamation that Jesus Christ bore the sin of the world in his body as he died on the cross and rose again to declare justification to all who believe. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile” (Romans 1:16).

## H

**Headship** - A designation of authority where the submission is voluntary and mutually beneficial. Christ is the Head of the Church. A

husband is the head of his wife. Citizens should submit to the authorities. Children should submit to their parents. Everyone has a role and should accept the responsibility of that role. Even within the Godhead where the Father, Son, and Spirit are equal and considered One, the Son submits to the Father and the Spirit submits to both the Son and the Father. The Father sent the Son and the Son fulfilled the Father's will and sent the Spirit who is now working with believers. A willing submission is Christlike, mutually beneficial, and efficient. "But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3).

**Heal** - To change from a condition of illness or sickness back to healthy and normal. Many miracles included healing of various ailments including physical death. These infirmities are symptoms of our real problem, which is sin. Jesus heals us from sin based on His sacrifice that paid the penalty for sin, and His work as High Priest where he continually cleanses us from the filth of sin as we journey through this life. The penalty for sin is death. Jesus took our medicine but we were healed. "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

**Heaven** - A place that exists in the spiritual realm but is usually spoken of in human terms in reference to the place where God dwells with all His Holy ones. The Apostle Paul spoke of it as the third heaven. The first heaven would be the sky and atmosphere that surrounds planet earth. The second heaven would be outer space

where all the stars and planets are. The third heaven would be where God dwells. “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows—was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell” (2 Corinthians 12:2-4).

**Heir** - One who qualifies for a share of an inheritance. “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory” (Romans 8:16-17).

**Holy** - People, places, and things set apart from ordinary use for special purposes may all be considered to be Holy or sanctified. God is Holy as He is set apart from man or angels. Heavenly Angels are set apart from fallen angels. God established Israel as a Holy Nation as they were set apart from the nations of the world. Believers (saints) are set apart from sinners. Objects may be set apart (sanctified) for Holy purposes. God may set man apart to be Holy and man may set God apart to be Holy. “They [believers] are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified” (John 17:16-19).

**I**

**Imputation** - Primarily used in accounting, the concept of imputing means to credit or debit someone’s account. A change to the record may be necessary because of the direct action of the account owner

or someone acting on their behalf. The meaning of imputation has expanded over time to include more than just its use in ledgers. Honor, shame, legal judgments and other traits are often attributed to someone because of the actions of another. In this work, various forms of 'imputation' are incorporated to describe how God attributes sin and righteousness to individuals. "Since we [believers] have now been justified [declared to be righteous] by his [Jesus'] blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies [declared to be sinners], 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 8:9-10).

**Indwells** - The Holy Spirit lives within a believer. He is a deposit against our full inheritance. "You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ" (Romans 8:9).

**Ishmael** - Abraham's son born to Hagar, his wife's maidservant. This was the result of a human solution to the problem of Sarah's inability to bear children. "So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived" (Genesis 16:3-4).

**Inspiration** - The miracle of chosen men recording God's message through the Work of the Holy Spirit. All sixty-six books of the Bible are considered to be a complete collection of God's Written Word. "We also have the prophetic message as something completely

reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:19-21).

**Iron Scepter** - A scepter is a rod used as a symbol of power and authority by a king and an iron scepter denotes that his authority will be established by force. He will demand compliance by any and all means necessary! "Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron scepter.' He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Revelation 19:15-16).

**Isaac** - The promised son of Abraham. Spared from being sacrificed by his father, he went on to marry Rebekah who gave birth to twins Esau and Jacob. God revealed to Rebekah as she was still pregnant that the older son would serve the younger, indicating God's Sovereign choice of the line that would eventually lead to Jesus. "Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, 'The older will serve the younger'" (Romans 9:10-12).

**Isaiah** - A prophet from the 8th century BC who authored the Book of Isaiah. "The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son

of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah” (Isaiah 1:1).

**Israel** - The name given to Jacob but normally used to refer to the Nation of Israel, also known as Israelites (Jews). They descended from Abraham as a fulfillment of God’s Promise, were redeemed by Moses, and later dispersed throughout the world by God. Israel will eventually be regathered and exalted above all nations of the world during the Millennial Kingdom. “For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen” (Romans 9:3-5).

## **J**

**Jacob** - The grandson of Abraham and son of Isaac. After wrestling with God, his name was changed to Israel. The Jewish Nation emerged from his posterity. As the reigning patriarch, he decided to seek comfort in Egypt instead of the land God provided. This decision eventually led to slavery for his posterity until Moses arrived and redeemed them by a mighty display of the Power of God. “Then Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our ancestors died” (Acts 7:15).

**Jesus** - God in the flesh, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born to a virgin, living, eating, breathing, and dying as any human being. The only human who ever existed that didn’t originate from Adam. Jesus is the Creator, Savior, High Priest, King, and Judge of mankind. He is

the Eternal Second Person of the Godhead and was sent by the Father to be the Lamb of God to bear the sin of the world. Upon dying, He sent the Holy Spirit to instruct the world regarding sin, judgment, and righteousness. Of the offices listed above, King and Judge are awaiting the advancement of time. The office of Creator and Savior are history, and the office of High Priest is ongoing in the True Tabernacle of God (in heaven). Though seated on God's Throne, Jesus will return to earth at an appointed time, and reign from David's throne for 1000 years—followed by the judgment of the world. See Hebrews Chapters 7-10 for a synopsis of His Ministry to mankind. "In the past God spoke to our ancestors 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 also 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. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven" (Hebrews 1:1-3).

**Jew** - One who practices the religion of Judaism. These are descendants of Abraham and/or converts. Also known as Israelites, and includes various sects such as Pharisee, Sadducee, and others. They accept the Old Testament Scriptures but reject Jesus Christ as the Messiah. They are mistakenly still waiting for the messiah to arrive. They will experience reconciliation with God after the Rapture. "Then I (John) heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel" (Revelation 7:4).

**John** - Originally one of the twelve Disciples and later an Apostle. He authored the Gospel of John, three New Testament Letters, and the Book of Revelation. “The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:1-2).

**Jude** - Short for Judas, a son of Joseph and Mary and half brother of Christ (Joseph wasn't involved in the conception of Jesus). Jude authored the New Testament Book of Jude, which strongly warns us about the infiltration of false teachers in the Church. See Matthew 13 for validation of his warning as well as his identification as a brother of Christ. “Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance” (Jude 1:1-2).

**Judgment** - A disciplinary action of God because of sin. God has used a series of minor and/or major judgments for mankind, nations, groups, and individuals since the Garden of Eden, but the end will culminate with a final judgment of man and creation. “In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire” (Jude 1:7).

**Just** - An attribute of God consistent with Righteousness. Fair when considering perspectives of all parties concerned. “And I heard the



altar respond: ‘Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments.’” (Revelation 16:7)

**Justice** - Divine righteousness. Signifies the truthfulness, righteousness, and sovereignty of God in all matters. Humans may be just in a limited capacity or promote justice, however nothing compares to the perfect justice of God. “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom” (Psalm 45:6).

**Justification** - The act of God declaring a sinner to be righteous. Justification is awarded by grace through faith, which means the justified one didn’t deserve or earn it, but rather believed in the Person and Work of Christ—the Righteous One. Faith in the gospel results in imputed righteousness, which is followed simultaneously with justification. Only God can justify someone and His judgments are always right and true. Once justified, there is no way to lose that standing. Subsequent sin is dealt with in a Father-son type relationship as opposed to a Judge-defendant relationship. Christ serves believers as an advocate and answers all accusations with the power of His cleansing blood, which ends any or all accusations. “Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us” (Romans 8:33-34).

## **K**

**Kingdom of God, Everlasting** - God is the Ruler of all things from everlasting to everlasting. At one point He decided to initiate a plan

that included the creation of our universe. This plan included things like sin, redemption, salvation, and glorification of those He chose for salvation. While God is altogether Holy and ruler of this world, He allows sin, evil, sickness, and injustice to achieve His purpose for the created world, which is to honor His Son Jesus Christ. So it's important to understand that God is the Ruler of all things including our rebellious creation. "David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, 'Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name'" (1 Chronicles 29:10-13).

**Kingdom of God, Proffered** - Jesus Christ began His public ministry by offering Himself as King to the Nation of Israel. They rejected Christ and crucified their King so that kingdom didn't ever materialize. "These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near'" (Matthew 10:5-7).

Kingdom of God, Spiritual - Believers of the gospel experience a spiritual Kingdom of God. They are no longer of this world but have become a new creation and are alive spiritually. They receive

spiritual food, spiritual gifts, and maintain a spiritual faith and hope. Christ is King in their hearts and minds but is not ruling the physical world they live in. “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval” (Romans 14:17-18). “Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place’” (John 18:36).

**Kingdom of God, Millennial** - Upon the second coming of Christ, He will establish an earthly Kingdom for 1000 years, the millennial kingdom. He will be present physically and will reign from Jerusalem with an iron scepter. At the end of the 1000 years, there will be an attempt to overthrow Him and He will execute the judgment of the Great White Throne. The heavens and earth will be destroyed by fire. “Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6).

**Kingdom of God, Eternal** - Once the cursed world and all wickedness has been purified by fire, all that will remain is what Christ made new: a new heaven, new earth, new glorified mankind and so on. He will then hand the purified kingdom over to His Father and His Kingdom will last forever. The eternal kingdom will (in a sense) merge back in with the everlasting kingdom but with several new features. “Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion,

authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he 'has put everything under his feet.' Now when it says that 'everything' has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all" (1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

## L

**Lamb of God** - Animal sacrifices were established by God to teach man the concept of substitutionary sacrifice. The most famous of these lessons was the Passover lamb, which happened when the Israelites were serving as slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt. The last of the ten plagues would be the death of the firstborn. God was preparing to kill the first-born son of each family and the first-born cattle from their herd. The Israelites were instructed ahead of time to sacrifice a lamb and put some of its blood on the door of their home. When the Lord came, he would pass over the homes with the required blood markings. In so doing, the Israelites were spared the death of their first-born sons and animals. (See Exodus 11:1 - 12:30).

Later, Jesus was described as the Lamb of God indicating that his blood would save man from death if applied as instructed (spiritually). The implication is that Jesus is God's Sacrifice for the sin of man. "The next day John [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" (John 1:29).

**Lake of Fire** - The future eternal abode of Satan, his demons, and all those who rejected God's Provision for sin. Fire often is used by the Holy Spirit to refer to judgment. Probably not a literal lake of fire, existence will invoke the knowledge of God's wrath and judgment. "In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire" (Jude 1:7).

**Language** - A way humans communicate with one another. The various languages used throughout the world are a result of one of God's judgments on mankind. These different languages led to nations who went to battle with other nations and we still are suffering from the effects of that judgment to this day. "That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:9).

**Law, Law Code** - God's revealed Law given through Moses, which includes the 10 commandments and much more. This Law was intended for the Israelites alone to teach them principles needed for sinful man to approach a Holy God and to set them apart from the other nations. This aspect of the Law ended with the death of Christ, however many of the moral principles have always and will always be in effect. For example, it was always wrong to murder, covet, and engage in idolatry. The Law wasn't given to make men righteous but rather to demonstrate that they aren't. Christ was perfect as the law demanded, and he also suffered the penalty of death the law required. By meeting the full requirements of the Law, Christ clearly

put mankind under grace instead of law. Grace requires nothing more than faith, and that is within reach of all mankind. "Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4).

**Law of Sin and Death** - A divine law that establishes that sin will result in death. Because of Adam's sin, all men are now under the law of sin and death. Freedom from this law is available to those who believe the gospel. "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:1-2).

**Leviticus** - The Third Book of the Old Testament authored by Moses. It details many of the rituals required by the Law that emphasize how sinful man can approach Holy God. "These are the commands the Lord gave Moses at Mount Sinai for the Israelites" (Leviticus 27:34).

**Life (New Life)** - Denotes the newness of life experienced by a believer when the gospel is accepted through faith. Sin is acknowledged to be forgiven and removed, purpose and meaning in our human existence is heightened because of our newly acquired spiritual gifts, and communion with Christ is experienced in this new life. "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25).

**Light to the World (Israel)** - The Nation of Israel was chosen to be light to the Gentiles. God's light would culminate in illuminating the truth of the gospel, however Israel failed to complete their mission. They isolated themselves from the world and became full of pride

and selfishness thereby hiding their light. “[Jesus saying] You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16).

**Light of the World** - Jesus became the Light of the World since Israel had neglected to fulfill that role. “[Jesus saying] While I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (John 9:5).

**Lord’s Supper** - An ordinance begun just before Jesus was crucified and will continue until He returns in Glory. (See Communion)

## **M**

**Man, Mankind** - A creation of God for the special purpose of revealing the depth of His love. To this end, God created man knowing he would sin and require grace, forgiveness, and redemption. The glory of God is manifested in Jesus Christ, the Man from Heaven, who gave Himself over to death to redeem mankind. Humanity has been equalized by the imputed sin of Adam so the individual depth or extent of any one isn’t significant. We’ve all sinned; we’ve all received forgiveness for sin. We must believe the Gospel to be reconciled with God. “Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous” (Romans 5:18-19).

**Man from Heaven** - Natural man came from Adam who was formed from the dust of the earth. Jesus Christ is distinguished from all other men by the fact that He came from heaven. He was miraculously born to a virgin and is fully man and fully God. "The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven" (1 Corinthians 15:47).

**Mediator** - One who serves as a link or bridge between two parties. Jesus Christ is serving as High Priest for mankind and one of the responsibilities of that role is to be a mediator between God and man. Even believers retain their sinful nature and require a mediator. It's important to note that we don't work through angels or saints to communicate with God, but through Christ. "For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people" (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

**Merit, Meritorious** - The perceived good that comes from within man through training and good choices. While some men are obviously better than others by comparison, all are sinful and the Bible teaches that no good can come from within man. Only when we believe the gospel and receive the Holy Spirit will He provide spiritual gifts, guidance, and enablement for good works. False gospels promote merit and meritorious works. "What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone [Jesus Christ]" (Romans 9:30-32).



**Moses** - Chosen by God to serve as redeemer for the Israelites from Egypt. He went on to be a great prophet of God as he received the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Law Code for Israel. He authored the first five books of the Old Testament. His story begins in Exodus Chapter Two but his tenure is closely tied to God's Law, which extends into the New Testament. "Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?" (2 Corinthians 3:7-8).

**Mount Sinai** - The place where Moses received the Ten Commandments. "On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain" (Exodus 19:1-2).

## **N**

**New Creation, man** - Natural man is made into a new creation upon belief of the gospel. The new creation follows the pattern of the Risen Christ (the Last Adam) rather than Adam. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

**New Earth** - The present earth will be destroyed by fire and a new earth will be made. "Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea" (Revelation 21:1).

**New Heaven** - Outer Space, or the universe that exists outside of the earth's atmosphere will be destroyed by fire and a new heaven will be made. "Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea" (Revelation 21:1).

**New Jerusalem** - The present city of Jerusalem will be destroyed with the present earth. A New Jerusalem will be the eternal abode of believers. "I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband" (Revelation 21:2).

**New Song** - A song of praise to Christ as we will have a greater understanding of His Greatness once we are in heaven. "And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9).

**NIV** - The New International Version (NIV) is a completely original translation of the Bible developed by more than one hundred scholars working from the best available Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts.

THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®  
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

**Noah** - A descendant of Seth and noted to be a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). Noah and his family were saved from the flood that destroyed the rest of mankind. "This is the account of

Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God” (Genesis 6:9).

## O

**Omnipotence** - An attribute of God that speaks of His Mighty Power. He is all-powerful. This is a conclusion drawn from the full counsel of Scripture and no particular passage sums up the concept adequately.

**Omnipresence** - An attribute of God that speaks of His simultaneous presence everywhere. He is all-present. This is a conclusion drawn from the full counsel of Scripture and no particular passage sums up the concept adequately.

**Omniscience** - An attribute of God that speaks of His Mighty Wisdom. He is all-knowing. This is a conclusion drawn from the full counsel of Scripture and no particular passage sums up the concept adequately.

## P

**Paul** - An Apostle of Jesus Christ who was uniquely instructed by the Risen Christ (Galatians 1:11-12). Embarking on several missionary trips he gained the reputation as the Apostle to the Gentiles though he sought converts from the Jewish community first wherever he traveled. He preached of justification by grace through faith and referred to this core doctrine as “my gospel” to set it apart from the many perverted and twisted versions of the gospel. Tainted truth was apparently as common then as it is today. Paul’s story is told in Acts and bits and pieces are scattered throughout his writings in the New

Testament which includes Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. “Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen” (Romans 16:25-27).

**Perfection** - An attribute of God that emphasizes His Pure, Holy Nature. When used in this context, nothing compares to God’s Perfection. One exception is made as a believer is made into a new creation and imputed with God’s righteousness. “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

**Person and Work of Jesus Christ** - Denotes that God has been revealed to us as One God, in Three Persons (The Trinity). God the Father is the First Person, Jesus Christ the Son is the Second Person, the Holy Spirit is the Third Person. The work of Christ was to become man, live a sinless life, offer Himself as a sacrifice for the human race, and rise again to proclaim justification for all who believe the gospel. “He [Jesus Christ] was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification” (Romans 4:25).

**Pharaoh** - A title used for whichever individual was presently King of Egypt. “Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of

Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt" (Genesis 41:46).

**Posterity** - The descendants of a person. Children's children encompassing all subsequent generations. "Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!" (Psalm 22:30-31).

**Predestination** - God initiated a marvelous plan for creation knowing all the details of how it would progress and end up. Mankind is included in this plan and we have free will. We don't understand how these two coexist but we know them to be factual as revealed in God's Word. Those who choose to believe the gospel realize that God chose them first. "In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory" (Ephesians 1:11-12).

**Priest, High Priest** - Under the Law of Moses the High Priest would make a special annual sacrifice for the Nation of Israel on the Day of Atonement. The writer of Hebrews compares and contrasts Jesus to that office of High Priest. He concludes that Jesus is superior for several reasons. The main point of the explanation is that there is no longer any need for sacrifice because sin is now forgiven by the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ. (See Hebrews 6:13 - 10:18).

**Prodigal Son** - Jesus told a parable about a young man who demanded his inheritance early and then proceeded to squander it. Upon returning home, he was welcomed back by his father. The

comparison showed how God would accept anyone who seeks Him and will rejoice when they arrive no matter what the circumstances. (See Luke 15:11-32).

**Prophecy** - The Divine gift to identify and communicate spiritual truth. This may involve interpreting Scripture accurately, advising wisely, or predicting the future with certainty. “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts” (1 Corinthians 12:27-31).

**Prophet** - A person designated by God as one who would reveal God’s truth to man. Often thought of as one who predicts future events, it also includes those who properly interpret past events and/or truth concerning the present. The world abounds with false prophets and caution must be exercised when weighing what is communicated. False prophets will be proven false when what they say turns out to be false. “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

**Propitiation** - A way or means to satisfy God. In regard to the sin of man, there would be two ways to provide atonement. The first would be the eternal death of the race; the second would be by the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ. “God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be

received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:25-26)

**Purified Kingdom** - At the end of the Millennial Kingdom there will be a rebellion against Christ the King. Christ will end this rebellion by destroying the world as we know it and judging all the wicked of all time and binding them to the lake of fire for eternity (Revelation 20). This act will purify the remaining features of the kingdom at which time He will hand over the kingdom to His Father. “Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he ‘has put everything under his feet.’ Now when it says that ‘everything’ has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all” (1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

**Q**

**R**

**Rapture** - Denotes the removal of the Church (also known as the Body and Bride of Christ) from the earth as the Tribulation Period begins. This includes a resurrection of the dead as well as the removal of the living believers. This event precedes the Second Coming of Christ to earth by seven years. At the Rapture we rise to

meet the Lord in the air. At the second coming, Christ establishes a kingdom on earth beginning with an unmistakable entrance (Zechariah 14:4; Revelation 19:11-21). The end times sequentially is as follows: Rapture; Tribulation; Second Coming; Millennial Kingdom; Destruction of Heavens and Earth; Eternal Kingdom. "According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever" (I Thessalonians 4:15-17).

**Reconciliation (with God)** - When Adam sinned mankind suffered a fall. The only way we can be reconciled to God is to believe that He has provided an adequate substitutionary sacrifice for us. God didn't move, we did. God initiated the sacrifice before the world was created. He accomplished it as Christ died on the cross. Our choice to believe or reject the gospel will determine if we are reconciled or not. "We (Apostles and all believers) are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:20-21).

**Red Sea** - A body of water that parted for the Nation of Israel to pass through but then closed up and wiped out Pharaoh's Army. "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the



Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left” (Exodus 14:21-22).

**Redemption** - Adam (and all mankind) sinned and fell under the Divine judgment of physical and spiritual death. God’s revealed law allows for substitutionary sacrifice where one party takes the place of another. Christ became man to redeem mankind from the bondage of sin and death by offering Himself as a pure and blameless sacrifice. God showed His approval of this substitutionary sacrifice by raising Jesus from the dead and awarding Him the highest place of honor on God’s throne.

An example of the redemption process can be seen in the redemption of Israel from Egypt. Jacob and his family entered Egypt as a clan of about 75 and after approximately 400 years developed into a nation of over 600,000 men plus women and children. You might say the nation was formed, or born in Egypt. Egypt was ungodly and may be compared to our cursed and sinful world. Israel may be used to represent mankind as we are born in a sinful world. Pharaoh, the leader of Egypt, may be used to represent Satan. Moses may be used to represent Christ as redeemer. God sent Moses and by a mighty demonstration of the power of God, Pharaoh was defeated and the Nation of Israel was redeemed from slavery. Subsequently, they chose to submit themselves to God’s Law received at Mount Sinai and began a journey to their promised land.

In a similar way, mankind was born into sin and held in bondage to death by Satan. God sent Christ and by a mighty demonstration of

the Power of God, Satan was defeated at the cross and mankind was redeemed from death. Though this happened as an event in time, it was an eternal certainty that God preordained. Therefore each man is presented with a choice to believe the gospel or reject it. Those who believe God will begin a journey to their promised abode in the New Jerusalem. Those who fail to believe will begin a journey to their promised abode in the lake of fire. The contrast is stark enough to be compared to life versus death. Just as Adam had a choice before he sinned, we each have a choice to obey God. Obedience to God is demonstrated by belief in the gospel. Disobedience of God is demonstrated by a rejection of the gospel.

“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:1-6).

**Remnant** - A small portion of the whole. There is an ongoing theme throughout the Bible of a remnant of believers over against the larger whole of mankind. “[Jesus emphasizing the point of a parable] ‘For many are invited, but few are chosen’” (Matthew 22:14).

**Revelation (Sixty-sixth Book)** - The last book of the Bible, which wraps up all the loose ends. The Apostle John wrote this prophetic

book in his old age. “The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.” (Revelation 1:1-3).

**Righteousness** - Perfection; as in no failure, blemish or shortcoming. Only God is righteous. Also used in a human sense where we are sometimes proven to be righteous though always qualified and limited to a certain act or duration. Man may gain a righteous standing with God by having God’s righteousness imputed to us. Our standing is much different than our state. A believer may have a righteous standing by believing the gospel but simultaneously be in a sinful state by committing some type of sin or sinful practice. The context must qualify the intended meaning. The believer begins immediately with imputed righteousness and continues the process of sanctification where righteousness is imparted or learned as the Holy Spirit is given control of one’s will. “God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:25-26).

**Romans** - A letter from Paul written to a group of believers in Rome. He contacted them in advance of his first visit to clarify his doctrinal

teachings. “I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil” (Romans 16:17-19).

## **S**

**Sacrifice** - See Substitutionary Sacrifice.

**Salvation** - An all-encompassing word that describes the work of God for sinful mankind. The death and resurrection of Christ is the only basis for the salvation of mankind. It includes redemption, forgiveness, reconciliation, propitiation, imputation, justification, sanctification, and glorification. “Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him” (2 Peter 3:15).

**Sanctification** - A process that takes one from a sinful standing and state to a Holy standing and state. The new standing, often referred to as positional sanctification, happens instantaneously with belief of the gospel. Following this initial act, a lifetime program of learning and practicing Holiness is instituted and guided by the Holy Spirit and this is referred to as experiential sanctification. Experiential sanctification occurs while we battle against and often succumb to our sinful flesh in this life. Finally as we cross over from this world and into the next we experience ultimate sanctification where we are removed from the power and presence of sin for eternity. So we are

Holy and are being made Holy simultaneously. All this depends on the Divine work of God on our behalf. "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).

**Satan** - The adversary of God and accuser of believers. He was originally a Holy angel who rebelled and suffered a Divine judgment. Though retaining some of his original attributes, he is awaiting his certain destiny in the lake of fire. He is often mistakenly thought of in connection with heinous acts of immorality but these are merely the fruit of man's sinful nature. Satan's goal was, and is, to be like the Most High God and is manipulating world events to that end (up to the extent that God allows). His present work involves arranging a counterfeit to Christ's Kingdom on earth in which he will deceptively offer world peace but will end up demanding worship. He showed his hand in the temptation of Christ where he offered all he possessed, the kingdoms of the world, in exchange for worship (Luke 4:5-8). Jesus declined, but the nations of the world will rally around the antichrist hoping for solutions to the world problems and Satan will receive the worship he so strongly craves. He is a wolf in sheep's clothing. He works through men and women who fit in as fine upstanding members of society and churches. He would have his

minions in all walks of life even promoting high morals, church attendance, and preaching and serving. However, he would stop just short of faith in the gospel, the key to salvation. He has an innumerable host of fallen angels, also known as demons, to assist with his worldwide manipulation. With many years of collective experience with a rather predictable mark, mankind, Satan is very adept at his art of deception. Satan doesn't need to tempt man any longer as that was taken care of in the Garden of Eden. The sinful nature from within lures us into sin now. He is referred to as the prince of the power of the air, the god of this age, and is obviously powerful. Angels and fallen angels are able to perform supernatural acts and they seem to be organized in ranks with various abilities and authority. If size equated to power and an average man was six feet tall, an average angel may be say ... ten feet tall to represent the greater powers they possess. Some angels that are more powerful or would possess greater authority may be much larger. In this hypothetical analogy, Satan would probably be as big as planet earth. The exaggeration is to suggest that we probably underestimate the power and authority of Satan much more than we should. "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4; cf. Ephesians 2:1-2, 6:12; John 12:31).

**Scapegoat** - While Israel was following the Law of Moses, two goats were chosen on the Day of Atonement. The sin of the people was ritually transferred to these animals and one was killed to demonstrate the penalty of sin, which is death. The other was led out to the desert never to return again demonstrating that as sin is paid

for it is also removed. The goat led to the desert was known as the scapegoat (Leviticus 16).

**Scripture** - The Bible contains a complete library of sixty-six books, which form the whole counsel of the Word of God. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**Second Coming** - The first coming of Christ was when He was born in a manger and later died on the cross. The Second Coming is when He will establish an earthly kingdom and reign for 1000 years in the same place He was rejected. "Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords" (Revelation 19:15-16).

**Second Death** - A description of a conscious eternal existence in the lake of fire. This term represents the contrast to second life that is for believers in the New Jerusalem serving the Lord with purpose, meaning, worship, and communion with all the Saints forever. Fire often is used by the Holy Spirit to refer to judgment. Probably not a literal lake of fire, the existence will invoke weeping, gnashing of teeth, and the knowledge of God's wrath and judgment (Revelation 20).

**Second Life** - Life in heaven after we experience glorification. Second life technically begins when we are born again in this life by believing the gospel but effectively starts when our resurrected body is reunited with our spirit. Used as an intentional antonym for the

second death. "Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death" (Revelation 20:14).

**Sin** - Anything done by man that falls short of the perfection of God. Adam was the first man who sinned and the guilt of that one sin was imputed to all mankind. Simultaneously Adam earned a sinful nature, which was transmitted to the entire race. The sinful nature manifests itself in various ways and to varying degrees. Sin may be an action such as lying or stealing, inaction such as failing to care for the helpless, or an internal desire such as lust or pride. God established the standard that sin must be paid for by death to teach us of His perfect righteousness. "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires" (Romans 6:12).

**Sinful Nature** - The innate desire to sin. The sinful nature signifies our separation from God and has been judged at the cross but not eradicated from existence. We must choose to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit bearing spiritual fruit rather than following our sinful desires bearing sin and consequences (Galatians 5:13-26).

**Solomon** - The King of Israel during its greatest historical expansion. He was granted great wisdom by God and was also blessed with wealth and fame. He authored much of the Book of Proverbs in addition to Ecclesiastes and a couple of Psalms. A synopsis of Solomon's character can be found in 1 Kings 3:5-28.

**Spirit** - The immaterial part of man. God formed Adam from the dust of the earth and breathed life into him. The former speaks of the body and the latter speaks of the spirit. The body will die and return to the earth while the spirit will continue on. While there may be a difference between soul and spirit in certain scriptural texts, it does



not seem to be consistent enough to draw definitive conclusions. The material and immaterial parts of man will be reunited in eternity. “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” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).

**Spiritual Baptism** - Believers have been baptized with Christ into death and raised with Christ to newness of life. This isn't something we experience but rather we accept it by faith (Romans 6:1-14).

**Spiritually Blinded** - The inability to see the truth no matter how clear it may be. This condition is more likely after a period of willful rejection or rebellion. “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

**Standing (Sin or Righteousness)** - God maintains an official standing for each individual at any given time. We are born in the standing of sin and move to a standing of righteousness when we believe the gospel. This may be in contrast to a person's present state. For example, a believer may have a righteous standing but be caught up in a sinful practice. We must remember that we are saved initially though we don't deserve it (because of sin) and we are kept safe though we don't deserve it (because of sin). “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

**Substitutionary Sacrifice** - God's revealed law states that sin requires death. In order to allow the guilty one to live, a substitute for death is required. The qualification is that the substitute must be blameless. In the Old Testament times, animals were used as innocent substitutes for man's sin. Ultimately, Jesus Christ became the substitute for the human race. "God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:25-26).

## T

**Thessalonians** - Recipients of two letters from the Apostle Paul. These two letters became two books of the New Testament. "Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you" (1 Thessalonians 1:1).

**Temple** - The place where God met mankind during the Old Testament era. This was originally a traveling tent or tabernacle and later became a more permanent structure. Over the years the temples were destroyed, rebuilt, and changed in various ways as noted in both the Old and New Testament. Presently one does not exist but after the Rapture, a temple will be established and sacrifices will resume (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12).

**Temple Veil** - A curtain within the Temple that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. This curtain was torn as Christ died

which indicated that access to God was available to all through Christ, not through the old way of the Law established by Moses. “The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom” (Mark 15:38).

**Temptation in the Desert** - Satan tempted Jesus in the desert. Jesus resisted and never sinned there or anywhere. The fact that God raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His Right Hand validates the fact that Jesus had been a pure and blameless Sacrifice. “Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God” (1 Peter 1:21).

**Timothy** - A missionary companion of Paul. He is the recipient of two letters from Paul known as 1 and 2 Timothy. “But as for you [Timothy], continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:14-15).

**Tower of Babel** - The descendants of Noah foolishly disobeyed God and erected a tower. As punishment, God confused their languages (Genesis 11:1-9).

**Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil** - One of the two special trees in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve ate the fruit of this tree and gained Knowledge of Good and Evil. This sinful act resulted in a pattern of sin that will continue until the end of the world (Genesis 2:9).

**Tree of Life** - One of the two special trees in the Garden of Eden. Apparently Adam had access to it until he sinned. Theoretically, if he had eaten from the Tree of Life, there would be no death and consequently no deterioration of the body (Genesis 2:9).

**Trespass** – A term for a specific type of sin, which refers to the willful disobedience of an established command. “But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!” (Romans 5:15).

**Tribulation** - A seven-year period that includes many things including a severe judgment of the present world. The details are revealed in the Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, and Seven Bowls that span a large portion of the book of Revelation. (Revelation 6 - 19:10).

**True Church** - Authentic believers of the gospel as opposed to fake believers. Fake believers exist for several reasons including financial gain, social relationships, and intentional deception instigated by Satan. “For this reason God sends them [those pretend to believe] a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness” (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12; c.f. Titus 1:4).

**True Tabernacle of God** - The writer of Hebrews compared the earthly Tabernacle and Temple used by the Israelites to a Heavenly Tabernacle where God really resides (Hebrews 8:1-2). The emphasis was on the superiority of Jesus as He took His own blood to the True Tabernacle and not the earthly facsimile. The earthly tabernacle was used to instruct sinful man how to properly approach The Holy God.

Since Jesus' Sacrifice, the only way is through Jesus. "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6).

## **U**

**Universe** - All of creation including man, animals, planets, and stars. "In the past God spoke to our ancestors 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 also he made the universe" (Hebrews 1:1-2).

## **V**

## **W**

**World (sinful)** - On planet earth, where man resides, everything has fallen under the curse of sin. Satan is the ruler of this realm and manipulates events under the permissive will of God. The system that Satan rules through his network of demons and men is considered the world. Believers are in the world but not of it. "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness" (John 12:46).

**(X, Y, Z)**

## **General Bibliography**

Chafer, Lewis Sperry. Grace. Taft Software, Inc. Kindle Edition, 2008.

Chafer, Lewis Sperry. Satan. Public Domain Books. Kindle Edition, 2009.

Chafer, L. S. Systematic Theology. 8 vols. Dallas, Texas: Dallas Seminary Press, 1947.

Chafer, Lewis Sperry; Walvoord, John F. Major Bible Themes. Zondervan. Kindle Edition, 2010.

MacDonald, William. Believer's Bible Commentary. Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition, 1995.

Ryrie, Charles C. Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth. Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition, 1999.

Ryrie, Charles C.; Ryrie, Charles C. C.. Dispensationalism. Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition, 2007.

Scofield, C. I. Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth. Taft Software, Inc. Kindle Edition, 2008.

Scofield, C.I. The Scofield Study Bible, New International Version. New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 1984.

Walvoord, John F. and Roy B. Zuck, eds. The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament Edition. Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983.

Walvoord, John. The Revelation of Jesus Christ. Moody Publishers -  
Kindle Edition, 1989.

## **About the Author**

Brother Woody Brohm has been a believer of the gospel of grace for most of his 48 years. After an extended period of willful disobedience to God's will, a final warning was given to this prodigal son in 2003 and everything changed. The positive response, surprising as it was, brought newness of life and motivation for studying God's Word and communicating God's message. The turnaround in this individual is unmistakably the handiwork of the Holy Spirit. After several years of ministry and Biblical studies, Brother Woody is now using his unique combination of intellect, observation, and personality to present The Grace and Knowledge Series: The Last Adam.

"Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!" (Psalm 22:30-31)



## **Dedication**

For my brothers and sisters in the Lord: May you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I would like to express a special thank-you to my prayerful parents, my faithful wife, and my loving daughters. May God also bless all the Christ-like believers who have impacted my life over the years. Your kindness and patience is greatly appreciated.

“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm” (Proverbs 13:20).

**Copyright 2012**

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

**Brother Woody Brohm - Gold Canyon, Arizona**

All Scripture quoted from the NIV unless otherwise noted:

THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®  
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by  
permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the King James  
Version. The KJV is in the public domain.

The use of selected references from various versions of the Bible in  
this publication does not necessarily imply the author's endorsement  
of the versions in their entirety.

**Comments Welcome**

[woody.brohm@gmail.com](mailto:woody.brohm@gmail.com)