

## The Place and Purpose of Creation Science ©

Creation Scientists tell us understanding saving faith is incomplete without comprehending biblical creation. Yet I have not found this to be the case. I meet professed believers having no interest in understanding Creation. I realize these persons have less expectation and curiosity compared to some others who are interested in scientific creationism. They may not know the first 11 chapters of Genesis hold the key to understanding the rest of the Bible. They may not know the Second Law of Thermodynamics proves all things are devolving, not evolving. But they do know they are uniquely made in the image of God, not an upgrade of evolved anthropoid primates. They know we need only look to the seasons, to the birth of grandchildren, and to life ending in death, to see the Maker of all things. Agreed, it is enlightening that science, truthfully applied, does reveal evidence the earth was abruptly created out of nothing by El'ohim; that a young earth as outlined by Bible genealogy is accurate; and that the global flood actually occurred, verified by every fact of geologic evidence. Young earth creation scientists present the best of science that explains HOW it all came to be. But we must remember while it is possible to agree Creation is true, only saving faith grants eternal life. Let us use the facts of Creation Science to steer lost souls to receive as Savior their physical Maker, who died that all may spiritually live.

### Crooked Paths Lead to Perdition (Psa 125:5, Eccl 1:15)

These false teachings about the afterlife do not truthfully describe reality:

**universalism** (every soul is essentially and eventually received into blissful existence)

**purgatory** (any soul not immediately received into blissful existence continues in a 'probationary' state until purged of any demerit, eventually achieving the same universal existence)

**reincarnation** (all souls are repeatedly born in new lives, never experiencing final judgment)

**soul sleep** (material death ends any conscious perception of reality since God intends no judgment)

**annihilation** (souls cease to exist because this is the purposed end of judgment/suffering/punishment)

**nirvana** (salvation through Brahma, achieving total freedom and bliss through rigorous self discipline)

**karmic justice** (in concert with reincarnation, the soul experiences necessary and effective correction)

**nihilism** (embraced by achieving enlightened consciousness, all existence is denied as being real)

Why are any of these lies believed by otherwise normal, rational individuals? Because knowing God is good (Mk 10:18) they erroneously assume His loving nature cannot condemn any soul also considered to be 'good'. But this is a sobering truth: Hell is enlarged with 'good people'! "How can this be?!" Rather than goodness assessed by the absolute standard of God's perfection, fool's compare their lives to other mortals —and the worst examples possible are used to justify their own life. Hence, self delusion gives way to horror at Judgment when deficient 'goodness' is rejected. Whether lost souls are judged at Christ's Second Coming, (surviving the Tribulation) or later at the Great White Throne, the results are the same: "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment..." (See Mt 25:12, Lk 13:27, Mt 25:46, Rev 20:11-15.)

While God's love, grace and goodness endure forever, three times in one Psalm (107:15, 21, 31) He declares the same sobering truth using the exact same words each time: "Oh that *men* would praise the LORD **for his goodness**, and **for his wonderful works** to the children of men!" Of what wonderful works is the Psalmist speaking? The greatest work ever completed. Christ's work of Salvation. Christ's atoning death on the Cross. Christ Jesus' final perfect sacrifice that provides the only Way to peace with God, the only way to be justified and counted among the living righteous.

There is a universal experience for all souls. It is the reality of entering eternity: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb 9:27-28). May each of you celebrate Christ's love, grace, goodness and mercy during this Advent season. Maranatha!

### Christ's Body Born at Pentecost•

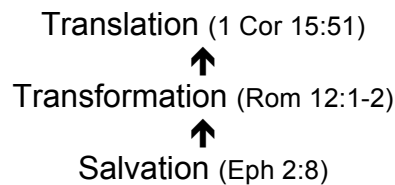
The following are false beliefs regarding the origin and identity of the body of Christ, the church:

1. God instituted the church in the garden of Eden.
2. The church began when God made a covenant with Abraham.
3. The church began during Christ's earthly ministry.
4. The church began when Christ called His disciples.
5. The church began when the Lord's Supper was first observed
6. A Jewish church began under Christ during His ministry.
7. A gentile church began after Christ, during Paul's ministry.

**Rather, the one church, the body of Christ, was born at Pentecost — described first in Acts 2 when individual members were filled with the Holy Spirit's gift.** The birth of the Body follows Christ's ascension. It is only Christ's death, burial and resurrection that provide the **basis for His body's life**. Christ **purchased** His future bride **with His blood**. He **guaranteed** her eternal, resurrected life when He was raised to life. The body's life, baptism, sealing and gifting require the indwelling

by God's Spirit, which **first** occurred at Pentecost **after** Christ's ascension. (See Ron Bigalke, Eternal Ministries, Inc. for this teaching on the church.)

## 3-Point Power Presentation<sup>©</sup>



Some who claim salvation are not impressed with the power of this divinely simple plan. Why? The western church is infused with eastern thinking—in their worship, fellowship and witnessing. So, a simple life, dead in Christ, waiting only on the Lord, and glorying only in the Cross of Christ does not appeal to minds saturated with everything focusing on 'me'. EX: I just brewed a cup of green tea and noticed the tea bag string holder which read: "**Appreciate yourself** and **honor your soul.**" Where's that power source? Right where the adversary puts it: in **soulish self**. But God's Word declares **I** have been bought with a price—**I no longer live** but it is **Christ who lives in me**. Hindu and Buddhist philosophy are accepted as adjunct but compatible with the Christian life. Yet a holy (**separated**) life glorifies only in these 3 powerful points. The moment we are saved (and the future event of our translation)—are instantaneous. But our perfecting **transformation** is effected over a lifetime of selfless submission to Christ living in and through us.

## Got Interruptions?<sup>©</sup>

Solomon teaches that nothing exists without serving a purpose. God—by his superintended sovereignty—wills, allows and/or permits everything that occurs and exists. Have you ever wondered what (good) purpose interruptions serve? If you say you do not experience interruptions you may be more patient than me. While I find this life riddled by interruptions, I am learning to be thankful for them, realizing they serve divine purposes. These irritations serve to **change me**. Been interrupted lately? When interruptions are HUGE God is effecting HUGE change in us.

## Security through Election?<sup>©</sup>

Investor's Business Daily news-paper informs about economic news. "**Large U.S. banks may collapse**" (8-20-08) is the title of a 47 word notice of impending U.S. recession and monetary collapse. One can read similar reports all day long. These reports don't explain a thing in terms of what the Creator has willed from eternity past. As set apart (sanctified) children of the God who "owns the cattle on a thousand hills", why do some embrace such reports—the world's wisdom—believing it **better** informs, guides and protects us? Why do we reject true prophecy that declares the beginning from the end? Why do we believe that **if** we make certain decisions, **if** we elect certain

leaders, and **if** we stand for certain values we will be insulated from the downside of culminated history? This way reflects only carnal, temporal **desire for self preservation**. Dear reader, do we comprehend the time in history we've been placed by our Heavenly Father? Do we recognize the season which is upon us? Just as Yeshayahu (Isaiah) asked, "Who has believed our report?" we can either trust what we see or we can embrace the "evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). The magnitude of problems we see are necessary in order to ready the world for "the Wicked". (2 Thess. 2:8.)

## Remembering Dr. Adrian Rogers®

One of the best Bible teachers, Dr. Adrian Rogers, is now with our Lord. He reminds us why affirming truth matters:

"It is better to be divided by truth than to be united by error. It is better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills. It is not love and it is not friendship if we fail to declare the whole counsel of God. It is better to be hated for telling the truth, than to be loved for telling a lie. It is impossible to find anyone in the Bible who was a power for God who did not have enemies and was not hated. It is better to stand alone with the truth than to be wrong with a multitude. It is better to ultimately succeed with the truth than to temporarily succeed with a lie. **There is only one Gospel and Paul said, "If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."** This is why I believe as I do, and write what I write. I will suffer loss at the Judgment Seat if I honor compromise, complacency or convenience over Christ's truth.

## Life in Christ Pictured®

Dr. Donald Hubbard illustrates five pictures that 'develop' the moment we are born again (John 3:3, 5, 7):

1. The **Natural Picture** is the Vine (Christ) and the branches (believers). Vineless branches wither. John 15:1-8.

2. The **Physical Picture** is the Head (Christ) and His Body (believers). Headless bodies are lifeless. 1 Cor 12:12-27.

3. The **Marital Picture** is the Bridegroom (Christ) and His Bride (believers). Eph 5:25-27.

We don't 'see' this picture right now. It is fulfilled at the rapture.

4. The **Family Picture** is the Brother (Christ) and His siblings (believers). John 1:12-13 No longer alienated, no family rift can dissolve this relationship.

5. The **Spiritual Picture** is God (Christ) living in His Temple (believers). 2 Cor 6:16, Eph 2:19

We do not "join this Church". We do not choose to be in these pictures by a decision or through a vote. Instead, we are spiritually born into Christ's Body by the power, presence and work of the Holy Spirit, the Eph 1:9 mystery.

## Romans 8:1<sup>©</sup>

“There is therefore now **no** condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who **walk not** after the flesh, but **after the Spirit.**”

But **why** is there **no**, none, zero condemnation? Because we are **in Him**, in **Jesus**. Hidden **in** HIM, but **neither** hiding behind Him **nor** hiding from Him, we stand justified. It is only when we grieve the Spirit, preferring **our own righteousness** over Christ’s righteousness, that we receive condemnation in our spirit.

### An Antidote for Sensational Teaching about Prophecy\*

Continuing last month's discussion on true and false ideas about the Antichrist, this issue features this one topic. Following are excerpts from the book ***How Democracy Will Elect the Antichrist*** :

"...Satan is now working feverishly at bringing about a peace that is based strictly on the achievements of mankind. Democracy is one of the most successful tools Satan keeps stored in his arsenal to deceive the world" (p. 222). "We have experienced democracy as a political system that works best at this moment. Democracy provides certain unprecedented freedoms... but as we analyze the system from a biblical perspective, we will find that democracy, no matter how good, will ultimately install the Antichrist" (p. 268). "The danger of democracy lies in the ironic fact that it will ultimately not tolerate any opposition. The new world democracy of the last days will become, in effect, a world dictatorship....In the end, a united world [under democracy] will prepare for battle against God...the miraculous works accomplished by the nations [under democracy] will have a specific aim: the gathering union against God Almighty" (p. 273). "Today more than ever, Christians must make sure that their position is that of spectators, looking over the political field, not down on the turf fighting it out with the pagans. Our goal is to serve the risen and exalted Lord, spread the liberating Gospel, and prepare ourselves for His return" (p. 274) [Pagans don't know they are pagans. If they did, they'd repent! Preach less but pray for them more.]

First released in 1997 (revised in 2007), the 347 page book by Arno Froese is a valuable one-volume primer for anyone with an interest in Bible prophecy. 295 points are covered in 21 chapters on selected facets of unfulfilled prophecy. Written in clear, everyday language, all 295 paragraphs are identified with a heading, those headings also listed in the Table of Contents. The book's title does not do justice to the extensive content. The scope of the information far exceeds explanation of how democratic policy embracing human rights will usher in Antichrist's rise to power. Of higher value is the book's parallel evangelical sub-themes. Arno Froese, Director of Midnight Call Ministries, repeatedly identifies his intent to **first, assuage fear rather than sensationalize prophetic truth** (a failing by other authors) and **second, urge unbelievers to accept saving faith in Jesus Christ** as the primary goal intended by the revelation of the prophetic Word. Froese integrates numerous isolated points into an accurate, convincing picture of prophesied truth. Extensive scripture is quoted

and expounded. This is not a work that scoffers of Premillennial theology will easily refute. Froese's commentary on prophetic scripture indicates we certainly are living in the last moments of the last hours before Christ's return, preceded by the translation of His Body.

Two errors in particular must be discarded by the student of prophecy: **Error 1:** There will be no future, literal, millennial reign of Christ. **Correction:** Amillennial, Postmillennial and Preterist teachings are in error. A literal 1,000 year earthly reign from Jerusalem will follow the return of Christ Jesus with His Bride = His Body that was born at Pentecost and completed at the Rapture. **Error 2:** Believers must usher in that earthly reign by a process now that "culturally Christianizes" the world (to prepare for Christ's return.) **Correction:** Kingdom Now, Dominionist, Restorationist, Apostolic Revival and similar teachings are in error. The Lord will present a perfect Bride to His Father, not because she "cleaned up her act" (and mopped up the world as a by-product), but because His work on the Cross removed all need or ability to offer human sacrifice. It is finished. It is not possible to Christianize the world, this side of the Millennium. Our job is to expectantly wait for His midnight call.

What else fuels Antichrist's rise to power? Self. Self-absorption. "...the majority of the world's religions accept the theory that man has a "good nature" within himself, and in a matter of time he will progress to godhood" (page 230). "Most people actually believe that sinful and corrupt men can be changed by proper analysis of self through behavior modification programs" (page 120). "... people actually believe all problems can be solved by their own initiatives" (page 118). This is humanism. This self-delusion claims salvation and peace originate from within us...that we are gods possessing 'a spark of the divine'. We see coming to pass this outworking in man of Satan's "Five I Wills", spoken in defiance of God. (See Isaiah 14:13.)

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). "But this holy nation is not found in any geographic or political identity. This holy nation resides within the nations of the world and each individual member of this holy nation is known by the Lord Himself" (p. 92). "When Christians become politically partial, then we are actively participating in the political process and become part of the world" (p. 250). "...we who are born again of the Spirit of God are heavenly citizens. Our home is in heaven regardless of where we live" (p. 206). Therefore, our first allegiance must be heavenly, not earthly. Some rebel against this directed walk of separation.

When the Body is translated to heaven, the Triune Godhead will be reunited --the Son having previously joined the Father at the right hand of His heavenly throne. "...comfort will no longer be available [in the world] when the Holy Spirit has departed with the Church" (p. 100). This truth, although contested, is pivotal in order to prayerfully witness to the lost. John 14:16-17 declares, "*And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever. Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*"

Confused prophecy students err in the **object** of their focus and attention: They look for the Antichrist and the events of the Tribulation. But earthly events are not our signposts. Much false teaching on prophecy diverts attention toward the Gentile world, away from the Jews. Rather, the Antichrist's primary role is that of deceptively appearing to safeguard peace and security for Israel through treaty re-confirmation (Daniel 9:27). Now, prior to the advent of Antichrist, we bring shame on the name of Christ by speculating regarding the identity of this pseudo super hero. During the last millennium speculators fashioned elaborate explanations for why Prince Charles was the Antichrist. And during the 2008 U. S, Presidential campaign ill-advised persons accused candidate Obama of being a disguised Muslim, ready to fill Antichrist's shoes. Historically, persons expressing such sensational ideas only expose their ignorance of both the spirit and specifications the Bible reveals must accompany this prophetic figure. Democratic Germany elected Adolf Hitler; but all the fingering of him as the Antichrist only left confusion in its wake. You cannot both watch for Christ and look for the Antichrist. Many have believed the lies the adversary offers through some of the writings of Augustine, Calvin, Luther, and in modern times, Peter Marshall's **The Light and the Glory**. "Unfortunately, most people and even many Christians have accepted Satan's propoganda that our country is God's country and we are one nation under Him, but according to Scripture that is not true" (p. 234). "Politicians, intellectuals, leaders of the world, and the news media are in total darkness when it comes to knowing the future; therefore, we must consult Him who holds the future in His hand and invites us to, "Ask [Him] of things to come" (Isaiah 45:11).

Froese writes on p. 221: "Finally, I must emphasize that believers in the Lord Jesus Christ will not be integrated into this system...We do not place our hope in developing a better United States, a higher standard of living, or the implementation of justice and righteousness. Our home is with the Eternal One. We have not been given any promise, command or instruction to solve the political problems of the world. No matter how hard we may try we will never eliminate crime, pornography, homosexuality, corruption and abortion. We are unable to impose justice and liberty in this world because the people of this world are not willing to bend their knee to Jesus Christ. Paul reminds us: "...let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober." Watch 4 Jesus.

## What is Phariseeism?©

A Pharisee is not just a Bible character. Pharisee 'theology and doctrine' is preached by professing believers in 2008. The Pharisee views others through **self**-imposed filters. Pharisee beliefs and attitudes select and condemn only **certain** sins, in order to rate others and describe the lives of those who do not meet the Pharisee's standards. The Pharisee's morals become his measure of all faith. The Pharisee boldly claims those standards are required by God as evidence of suitable, saving faith. But the obvious **self**-centeredness of the Pharisee's expressed **self**-righteousness is never **self**-evident to him or her. This is because he or she supposes a

**life** in Christ equates with one's **witness** for Christ. But the Holy Spirit's moment-by-moment correction of, and conformance of any life in Christ, is not available for **self**-oriented Pharisees to inspect! Phariseeism is a condition of the heart and mind, void of spiritual life and truth. May we be willing to trust the Spirit who knows all hearts, leaving correction to Him alone.

### Are Any Ashamed?©

I have a disagreement with some of my brothers and sisters. This may seem petty, but it has baffled me for years why many well meaning persons easily and often say to others "God bless you" or "God loves you" or "God cares for you". While these are all biblically, technically correct statements, they miss the mark of what we are supposed to do as we witness to others, sharing the life giving truth that "Ye must be born again." I have a lapel pin with a cross and the words "Not Ashamed" —signifying Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." (If anyone can find these in a catalogue, please tell me.) I've increased my wearing of the pin. It actually draws others to stare at it. Even strangers cannot keep from looking back to it as they speak to me. Why? Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." We are to speak the Son's name when we witness for His gospel.

### Are Pets Heaven Bound?©

"Whoever lives and **believes** in Me shall never die." (Jan 11:26a)

From this single text, can we rationally conclude that pets (and all animals) are mortal? While it is comforting to believe we will see beloved creatures in heaven, we do not have to fear that harm will come to them if they simply cease to exist. Otherwise, we must be careful, avoiding any belief that borders on reincarnated souls.

### Comfortable or Comforted?©

Late in the night, Memorial Day 1980, I experienced a most profound blessing of peace and fellowship with my Lord. After 9 years of suffering a cruelty (all during that time praying to be **relieved** of it), I knew then that Philippians 3:10 was written to **comfort** me —and all members of Christ's Body (experiencing **in Him**) many kinds of intense hardship, persecution or

grievous loss He allows for our benefit. “That I may **know** Him, **and** the power of His resurrection, **and** the fellowship of His sufferings, **being made** conformable unto His death.” Conformable means to “make similar in nature or character.” Unless we humbly **experience** His suffering (and we cannot do that by watching a movie depicting His crucifixion), we are not able to be conformed to the character He wills for us. Western Christian culture tries to project a life of **comfort** as God’s ideal—a comfort best afforded by political freedom to relieve any oppression or lack. This does not afford comfort in the midst of storms; this way only seeks **elimination** of storms. I’m still learning He does not take me out of storms. **He lovingly shelters and carries me through them.** Dear reader, do you desire to be comfortable or for **Christ to BE your comfort?** *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33)

## Israel is Vessel of Honor<sup>©</sup>

Some incorrectly interpret Romans 9 to mean God creates specific souls for the express purpose of either damning or saving them—that He **previously** elects this soul over that one, with no reason for His choice in each instance other than His sovereign will and pleasure. This perverted, false view of God’s grace and power fails to reveal God’s perfect plan. According to this ‘double predestination’ traced to Augustine and Calvin (summarized as TULIP), God pre-divided all souls according to a plan of **exclusion** rather than His plan of **inclusion**. On the contrary, according to correct exegesis of Romans 9, ‘vessel’ does not regard God’s choice of an individual, but a nation—the nation Israel—as His Chosen earthly vessel of honor. Paul teaches that other nations (vessels) are not selected for this role—instead serving valid but “common” use. Choosing Abraham culminates in national Israel’s salvation (Rom 9:27, 10:13, 11:26). Individual faith for both Jew and Gentile is discussed in earlier chapters. Paul’s primary teaching in Romans 9-11 is not individual salvation, but is a parenthetical presentation of Israel as God’s **elect** nation.

## False Foundation<sup>©</sup>

“Give none offence, neither to the **Jews**, nor to the **Gentiles**, nor to the **church of God**” (1Cor 10:32). “Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the **Gentiles**, to take out of them a **people for his name**. “And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, after this I will return, and will **build again the tabernacle of David**, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things” (Acts 15:14-17). “And that He might reconcile both [**Jew and Gentile**] unto God in one body by the cross...” Eph 2:16).

**Incorrect interpretation of Scripture leading to incorrect theology claims  
God ordains through man’s dominion.**

## Man-centered, man controlled theology teaches:

1. The sovereign Christian family is the foundational building block of the divine plan for man.
2. The sovereign, triumphant church is built on this foundation.
3. Sanctioned civil government is guided by the triumphant church's divine moral compass.

This scheme is not only biblically indefensible, it confuses the meaning of the Cross, deterring the effective evangel. Our identity in and loyalty to Christ is not founded and anchored in family; Further, Christ's heavenly Body does not sanction any earthly government. Finally, inability to successfully self-govern was exposed during the dispensation of civil government after the Flood. Instead, God's plan ordains and works His will through national Israel, Christ's spiritual body, and unrepentant Gentiles.

## Assurance of Salvation<sup>©</sup>

Assurance of salvation is taught by Jesus, Paul and John. They are the unified, undisputed voices teaching eternal security:

Jesus in John 5:24

Paul in Roms 8:38-39

John in 1John 5:11-13

Life in Christ never doubts the irrevocable gift of saving faith. If you have His life, you have His assurance of abundant and eternal life in Him. Rest in His promises.

## "As in the Days of Noah"<sup>©</sup>

We are again living "as in the days of Noah" (Matt 24:38, Luke 17:26) with wickedness filling the earth. Now, as then, God's longsuffering patience continues—but only for a season. God did not spare the old world—He will not spare the new. True to His promise, bows of color continue to grace the sky after the rain. This signifies His promise to never again cover the entire earth with water—no matter how many local floods bring tragedy. Destruction will come after Jacob's Trouble, after the Tribulation, after the nations are judged. But that destruction will be by fire, not water (2 Pet 3:10). There is only one true urgency, one universal imperative for every soul on the planet: Being found ***inside the Ark***, safe in Christ Jesus, by the washing of the Word and the life giving power of the Holy Spirit. Those whose sins are covered by the Son of God, Christ Jesus, being justified in Him only, are safe inside the Ark according to Heb 10:18-20. Ye must be born again according to John 3:3, 5, 7.

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**Rather, the one church, the body of Christ, was born at Pentecost — described first in Acts 2 when individual members were filled with the Holy Spirit's gift.** The birth of the Body follows Christ's ascension. It is only Christ's death, burial and resurrection that provide the **basis for His body's life**. Christ **purchased** His future bride **with His blood**. He **guaranteed** her eternal, resurrected life when He was raised to life. The body's life, baptism, sealing and gifting require the indwelling by God's Spirit, which **first** occurred at Pentecost **after** Christ's ascension. (See Ron Bigalke, Eternal Ministries, Inc. for this teaching on the church.)

## Recognizing God's Word®

“So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go. This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a child- like “What's next Papa?” God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!”  
***The Message***, Rom 8:12-17 (1993)

The author of ***The Message***, writes that “The goal is not to render a word-for-word conversion of Greek into English, but rather to convert the tone, the rhythm, the ideas, into the way we actually think and speak” (page 7).

Here are the same verses from the **KJV**:

“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit

of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.”

***The Jewish New Testament*** (1989) :

“So then, brothers, we don’t owe a thing to our old nature that would require us to live according to our old nature. For if you live according to your old nature, you will surely die; but if, by the Spirit, you keep putting to death the practices of the body, you will live. All who are led by God’s Spirit are God’s sons. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to bring you back again into fear; on the contrary, you received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out, “*Abba!*” (that is, “Dear Father!”). The Spirit himself bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of God; and if we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah—provided we are suffering with him in order also to be glorified with him.”

Dr. David Stern, translator of ***The Jewish New Testament*** writes that his work “expresses [the New Testament’s] original and essential Jewishness” (page ix).

Comparing the thoughts in these 3 examples, it is obvious **God’s Word is not recognizable** in the first example. Why? Because the Bible is not written in the “way we think and speak.” It is written to reveal how **God** thinks.

### **A Distinctive Life Compared to A Deceived Life<sup>©</sup>**

What does the life and walk reflect in a Spirit filled, sanctified follower of Christ Jesus? Conversely, what carnal beliefs, opinions and interests align more with the corrupted world than the incorruptible Word of God? Ultimately, what beliefs, opinions and interests serve either to disguise or illuminate true identity in and obedience to Christ?

Enclosed is a short list in “13 Distinctive Teachings of This Ministry”. The list should challenge readers to examine, in light of Scripture, some of the components claimed to demonstrate their identity, purpose, and life in Christ Jesus. Examination should give evidence of one’s separation from the false work and ways of the world.

Also significant is what's *missing* from the Distinctives. Holy Scripture directs the spiritual believer to *set aside the world's carnalities* (1 Cor 3), ever maturing in their walk and work for Christ, as outlined in Paul's epistles. Maturing in Christ separates us from prior interest in childish things. Obedience, according to 2 Cor 6:14-18, positively complements the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work in the life of a true believer.

Following are some of the current distractions, diversions and deceptions (childish things) which pre-occupy some who profess Christ:

- Advocating (as "God given") personal, political, civil, Constitutional "rights"
- Advocating patriotic, nationalistic, economic systems and agendas as a Christian's duty to support
- Honoring mortal men as leaders, models and securers of biblical freedom and liberty
- Claiming cultural reformation provides and benefits opportunity for spiritual transformation
- Assigning spiritual significance to dates of secular events, e.g., 1776, 2001, 2012, etc.
- Believing "lost" symbols, "lost" books, "secret" codes and "secret" societies teach divine truth
- Fighting against or else waiting for antichrist, Twelfth Imam, Mayan or extra-terrestrial ALF events to occur
- Embracing technology, the Internet and pursuit of artificial intelligence as divinely appointed agendas
- Fearing global warming, global government, global currency as realities attributed to conspiratorial agents
- Consulting dreams, apparitions, latter day "prophets" and emerging spiritual movements for divine revelation
- Claiming "liberal", "conservative" or "independent" positions evidence one's character and integrity, or lack of

Misguided souls erroneously believe attention to these things demonstrate a dutiful Christian life. Whether a professing Christian embraces any of these deceptions may not indicate lack of salvation. However, disobeying the Holy Spirit's conviction to abandon these carnalities certainly impacts one's eternal reward. Admittedly, it can be difficult to recognize these works of the adversary, Lucifer, the Devil disguised as light. When we feel threatened, when our spiritual sense is over ruled by our fallen nature, we can believe the lie that victory is in fighting, that success follows human effort, that these things are God's will for us. But these are only momentary light afflictions. Called to higher operation, Christ's Body is created to invest in that which is eternal, not temporal. God is not "assisting" man to meet his carnal agendas. Divine Plan transcends world systems. The fallen world cannot operate, in this dispensation, in any manner other than to rebel against the sovereign God of the Bible. In the future earthly reign of Messiah with His saints, all matters will be conformed to His Righteousness. But now, in this Church age, we are called to discard childish things, walking instead in the light of a life dead in Christ Jesus (Gal2:20).

## **Crooked Paths that Lead to Perdition (Psa 125:5, Eccl 1:15)©**

These false teachings about the afterlife do not truthfully describe reality:

universalism (every soul is essentially and eventually received into blissful existence)

purgatory (any soul not immediately received into blissful existence continues in a 'probationary' state until purged of any demerit, eventually achieving the same universal existence)

reincarnation (all souls are repeatedly born in new lives, never experiencing final judgment)

soul sleep (material death ends any conscious perception of reality since God intends no judgment)

annihilation (souls cease to exist because this is the purposed end of judgment/suffering/punishment)

nirvana (salvation through Brahma, achieving total freedom and bliss through rigorous self discipline)

karmic justice (in concert with reincarnation, the soul experiences necessary and effective correction)

nihilism (embraced by achieving enlightened consciousness, all existence is denied as being real)

Why are any of these lies believed by otherwise normal, rational individuals? Because knowing God is good (Mk 10:18) they erroneously assume His loving nature cannot condemn any soul also considered to be 'good'. But this is a sobering truth: Hell is enlarged with 'good people'! "How can this be?!" Rather than goodness assessed by the absolute standard of God's perfection, fool's compare their lives to other mortals—and the worst examples possible are used to justify their own life. Hence, self delusion gives way to horror at Judgment when deficient 'goodness' is rejected. Whether lost souls are judged at Christ's Second Coming, (surviving the Tribulation) or later at the Great White Throne, the results are the same: "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment..." (See Mt 25:12, Lk 13:27, Mt 25:46, Rev 20:11-15.)

While God's love, grace and goodness endure forever, three times in one Psalm (107:15, 21, 31) He declares the same sobering truth using the exact same words each time: "Oh that *men* would praise the LORD **for his goodness**, and **for his wonderful works** to the children of men!" Of what wonderful works is the Psalmist speaking? The greatest work ever completed. Christ's work of Salvation. Christ's atoning death on the Cross. Christ Jesus' final perfect sacrifice that provides the only Way to peace with God, the only way to be justified and counted among the living righteous.

There is a universal experience for all souls. It is the reality of entering eternity: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once

offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Heb 9:27-28).

## **Did Christ Plead to Be Relieved of the Crucifixion?•**

It is the liar Lucifer who leads some to suggest Jesus contemplated whether to reject death on the cross. Some question if Scripture reveals Jesus asked His Father to let the anguish that lay ahead pass Him by. But a more careful reading of sequential gospel accounts, beginning at Mt 26:36, Mk 14:32, Lk 22:39, and continuing in the divided account in Jn 12: 23 and resumed in Jn 18 explains this is not at all the case, and never could be. Christ Jesus would not allow anything to deter Him from fulfilling prophecy. Yet as He suffered in preparatory prayer in the Garden He did express fear His earthly life might end there. The depth of anguish was so profound He questioned whether His shed sweat and tears might actually kill Him *before* He was able to complete His work on the Cross. Luke clarifies in verse 43 the remedy the Father provided the Son who cried out for confirmation of divine will. An angel sustained Christ there to avert premature death that would not have atoned for the sins of the world. In Jn 12:23 Christ refers to His yet future glorification in Jn 19:30. In Jn 12:32-33 Christ maintains His obedience unto death on the cross. We must reject any interpretation or application of Scriptures that doubts Christ’s perfect character and loyalty to His Father. When Scripture is not clear, further inquiry with valid teachers is needed.

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