

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship  
Sunday, June 2, 2013

## Life, Death, and Resurrection to Life Again Part Three of Three

**I Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your *spirit and soul and body* be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Let's begin with a brief review of what we have seen thus far. We'll remember that when God created man, He formed the man's body from the dust of the earth and breathed His Breath into the man, and at that moment he became a living being. God created Adam in His own image and likeness, creating him in three parts — spirit and soul and body, and covering him in glory with the prospect of his being clothed in royal garments, all of which would reflect God's stated purpose for man — to rule over the earth in Satan's stead. Then God placed the man in the Garden and told him to cultivate and keep the Garden, having pointed out two specific trees in the center of the Garden — the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God commanded the man not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that he would eat of that tree, he would surely die.

Then we read: **Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."** God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and as he slept God opened up the man's side, took out a part of his body and from that part (and only from that part) He built the helper. Then God presented this helper to the man, and the man named her "Woman" saying, **Genesis 2:23 ...**"**This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.**" Then God described the two of them with this statement: **Genesis 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.**

### Before and After the Fall

Life and death affected all three part of the man:

- **Spirit — His God-Conscious Part**  
Before the fall, Adam had spiritual union with God. After the fall, he became *separated* from God, and in that sense, he died spiritually.
- **Soul — His Man-Conscious Part**  
Before the fall, Adam only knew and experienced good. After the fall, his soul became *separated* from only knowing good (as God intended); he had come to know evil through experience. His feelings, desires and emotions had become corrupted, and in that sense, his soul died.
- **Body — His Physical Entity which Housed His Spirit and Soul**

Before the fall, Adam's body had been covered in glory. After the fall, he became *separated* from the covering of God's glory (became utterly naked), and unable to don the clothing of splendor and majesty, and in that sense, his body died.

In understanding all of this, we have to remember death never means annihilation. Though Adam's *spirit* died it still existed, but had become separated from God. Though Adam's *soul* died it still existed, but had become corrupt. Though Adam's *body* died it still existed, but it had become separated from the glory with which it was once covered. This is the way we would have to view death as it is presented at the very beginning of God's Word.

If man was ever to be brought back to the position for which he had been created, man would have to be brought back to life in its full scope. Man's spirit and soul and body would have to be brought back to the original state as expressed in our opening passage today: **I Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your *spirit and soul and body* be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.** And the very reason we can know that this must be the case is because of a passage we have looked at so many times before: **Isaiah 46:9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'...**

In the past two lessons, we have seen how God brought the man and the woman back into spiritual union with Him. God slew an innocent animal and clothed them with the skins thereof. But even after bringing them back into spiritual union, God acted on their behalf once again, placing them outside the Garden, protecting their way to the tree of life (so that they would not live for a long period of time with a redeemed spirit housed alongside a still-corrupted soul in a body devoid of glory). Then He commanded the man to work the ground from which he had been taken and which had become cursed due to his sin. Certainly God's actions revealed that His plan for redemption was multi-faceted — a plan that was to extend beyond simply bringing man back into spiritual union with Him. More had to be done if the man and woman were to be brought back to their pre-fallen state — back to the place of being able to rule in Satan's stead.

Also in this series we realized that once man has spiritual life, then there is an expectation of work on the man's part — work that would have to be done in conjunction with God's Spirit; work with respect to the salvation of his soul and the redemption of his body. **Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.** And **Philippians 2:12 So then, my beloved... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...** This "working out our own salvation" is the work which has to be done in order to bring our corrupted soul and dead body back to life — life as it is presented at the

beginning of Scripture. And *the only means to have life restored to its original state is through resurrection power*, which will be the focus of this lesson.

### **The Whole Purpose of God**

Let's stop to consider how the Holy Spirit used Paul to bring *the whole purpose of God* to light for those to whom he ministered. Paul says this of the time he initially ministered to those in Corinth: **I Corinthians 2:1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.** Here Paul is reminding those in Corinth that he *initially* brought to them the message of *Jesus Christ and Him crucified*, and that message only! He even reiterates this fact a bit further along in this same letter when he wrote: **I Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...** This was the initial message each of us first received as well, isn't it? *Christ died for our sins!* Paul refers to it again in **I Corinthians 5:7 Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.** Christ's death, and nothing more, is the message to be given to those who are "dead in trespasses and sin" — all who have been born after the likeness of Adam, wherein death affects the spirit, and soul, and body.

But once that message was given and received, Paul did not stop there, as there was more which needed to be accomplished in bringing man back to the life seen initially in Scripture. And for that reason Paul followed the message of Christ's death with the message of His burial and resurrection: **I Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, [then he went on to teach] 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...**

Not only did Paul do it this way in Corinth, but also in Ephesus. In speaking to the elders there, Paul said: **Acts 20:18 ... "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time ... ..20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ... ..But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. 25 And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will see my face no more. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God..."**

Succinctly stated, the Gospel of Grace has to do with Jesus' death and nothing more. But the *whole purpose of God* also encompasses burial and resurrection to life again. The burial and resurrection has to do with the salvation of soul and the redemption of the body with a view to life in the Coming Age, the Kingdom Age when fully redeemed man (that is man brought back to life in spirit, soul and body) will rule over the earth, fulfilling his created purpose which was God's declaration in the beginning.

We see these facets of Paul's message again in what he wrote to the Church in Rome. **Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us [the Gospel of Grace]. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.** There is a future salvation to be realized, brought about through the power of Christ's resurrection. This is encapsulated in the message of *the kingdom*. We can see here that we have been *saved by his death* — referring to our spiritual birth! And then, as Paul states it, “much more... we shall be saved by His life.” (Notice this salvation is to be realized at a future time — *we shall be saved by His life*.) This future salvation is also mentioned in: **Hebrews 9:27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.**

In His first coming Christ came to die for the sin of the world, offering His own death as payment for the sin of anyone who would believe, bringing that individual into spiritual union with God. And even though that individual would then be alive spiritually, God still sees them as being dead — they still have a corrupted soul, and a body devoid of glory, and therefore they are still separated from their created purpose, which is a facet of death in itself.

This is pictured for us in the Children of Israel on the Night of Passover. When individual Israelite households throughout Egypt slew the paschal lambs that night, they applied its blood on the door posts and lintel of their houses. When the Angel of the Lord saw the blood, He *passed over* those houses because a death had taken place within, *signified* by the blood. God counted the Nation of Israel, His firstborn son as having died that night, even when they walked out of Egypt freed from slavery. Yet an inheritance was still on offer to them, an inheritance in the Promised Land. But in order to receive the inheritance, they would have to be alive!

God's plan of redemption not only encompasses death, but also encompasses burial and resurrection to life again. We can see this play out in Israel's burial into the Red Sea (a picture of baptism), and in their resurrection — their being brought up out of the Sea onto the Eastern banks. In this way, they could walk in newness of life, having opportunity to

receive their inheritance in the Promised Land, therein fulfilling the very reason for their having been created in Jacob.

Paul tells us in I Corinthians 10:6, 11 that the things that happened to Israel the Night of Passover and beyond serve as examples to us, and have been written down for our instruction. So that pictured for us the Night of Passover and beyond reveals that God's plan for us not only encompasses death, but also encompasses burial and resurrection to life again. Putting faith in Christ's death on the cross puts us in a place where God sees us as dead. Yet there is an inheritance on offer to us, and dead people cannot receive an inheritance. So we also have to be buried (through baptism) and raised to walk in newness of life. Paul lays it out like this: **Romans 6:5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him...**

Paul also taught Timothy about this dying and living with Christ, shedding more light on the complete picture. **II Timothy 2:11 It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; 12 If we deny Him, He also will deny us; 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.**

This "trustworthy statement" as Paul calls it, really encapsulates the complete picture of *the whole purpose of God*. A person who has died with Christ has the choice to

- *Live with Him* through choosing to walk in the power of His resurrection, as well as to
- *Endure* in order to reign with Him.

But also, the person who has died with Christ has to choice to:

- *Deny Christ*, which would bring about Christ's denial of that person when it comes time for the JSOC, because that person denied the two things in v. 11 — living with Him and enduring. And if that person continues to
- *Be faithless*, he will see that God will remain faithful because He cannot deny Himself, He cannot deny His Word. (Remember, Jesus *is* the Word.)

We have seen in the previous lesson that a person who puts faith in the death of Jesus comes into possession of a new nature — a spiritual nature in union with God's Spirit. This person still possesses his old nature, inherited from Adam in that his soul is still corrupted and his body is still devoid of glory. And in that condition — possessing two natures — the person has a very defined choice to make: to either walk according

- To the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh, or
- To the spirit, fulfilling the desires of the spirit.

(Unsaved people cannot make a choice between two natures, as they remain only with the nature inherited from Adam.)

Paul tells us that there are two distinctive outcomes in making the choice! **Romans 8:1** **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** **2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death... ...5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.** **6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.** ...  
**... 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.** **14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**

### Jesus' Own Words

The Lord Jesus offered His disciples (and by extension, He offers us) the same choice in these words: **Matthew 16:24** **Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.** **25 For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it.** **26 For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and WILL THEN RECOMPENSE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.**

Jesus says that if any one desires to become His disciple, there are certain qualifications to be met. You and I must:

- *Deny ourselves.* That would mean that we would stop thinking that we are entitled to be weak in our flesh. Honestly we need to stop making excuses for ourselves. If God says to stop complaining, we stop complaining. If God says to stop lying or cheating or slandering or gossiping, etc., etc., we stop lying and cheating and slandering and gossiping, etc., etc.. If God says to stop indulging the flesh in...whatever, we STOP! And in doing these things, actually we
- *Take up our own cross.* Taking up our own cross is a metaphor for dying to our fleshly desires. Christ died *in* the flesh leaving us an example as to how we are to die *to* the flesh. Peter succinctly explains the example we have in Jesus — *while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously!*

And then denying ourselves and taking up our own cross would put us in the position to

- *Follow Christ in discipleship.* Spiritual birth is a free gift, but our becoming His disciple is at a very great cost! But it is well worth the cost; well worth the exchange of our fleshly life here and now, for life that is truly life in the Coming Age.

The choices we make on a day to day basis will have direct bearing on our future life or death when the Son of Man comes in the glory of His Father with His angels, in order to recompense every man according to his deeds. The choice is really up to us!

### **Resurrection to Life Again**

So, how would walking in the spirit be done on a day-to-day basis? Paul tells us how he strove to achieve walking in the spirit. **Philippians 3:7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection [Lit., out-resurrection] from the dead.**

In verse 10, the Greek word for resurrection literally means to *stand up*. By the power of God, Jesus *stood up* from physical death. And because of His resurrection, so will all of mankind *stand up* from physical death. Whether saved or unsaved, everyone who has ever lived will be resurrected (will stand up from death) at one time or another, unless they would be caught up in the rapture of the Church.

But in v. 11 the same Greek word is used again, only here it has an additional prefix attached to it. And this prefix makes the word literally mean *to stand up out of* the dead. Paul is revealing his desire to attain to something that not all Christians will attain to. Implicitly, Paul refers to the resurrection/rapture of the Body of Christ in that future day, when the Church will be caught up to God in order to stand before the JSOC. There, judgments and determinations will be meted out to all individuals making up the Body of Christ, and as a result of these judgments and determinations, a part of Christ's Body will *stand up out of* the remainder of His Body. Those within the Body of Christ, who attain to this out-resurrection, will have done so because they chose to follow Paul's example of suffering the loss of all things in order to gain Christ. They will be those who have striven to KNOW CHRIST ☒ THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION ☒ THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERING ☒ BEING CONFORMED TO HIS DEATH.

We can only come to **know Christ** through the WORD, since Jesus is the Word made flesh. There is transforming power in this Word — the Word transforms us from the inside out, bringing about the metamorphosis of becoming like Christ. And based upon what we have seen today from His Word, then we are to *consider/reckon* our fleshly nature as having died with Christ and buried with Him, then through this, we have the ability to walk in **the power of His resurrection** (through our redeemed spirit working in conjunction with the Holy Spirit) so that we can join in the **fellowship of Christ's**

**suffering, thus be conformed to the death,** which Jesus endured on the cross. (Remember, He died *in* the flesh leaving us an example of how to die *to* the flesh). And the working out of this process (Lit., the salvation of the soul) would allow us to be part of those out-resurrected from the dead — those who will *stand up out of* those who will remain separated from the Christ and His glory during a long period of time, the 1,000 year reign of Christ over the earth.

### **The Redemption of the Body**

To see that the salvation of the soul is connected with the redemption of the body, we would only have to read: **Romans 8:10 And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, [devoid of glory] yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.** Our mortal bodies will put on immortality either through resurrection or rapture, but we must understand that the resurrection/rapture is **not** the redemption of (the “salvation” of) our physical bodies. All people, both saved and unsaved will receive immortal bodies in the end. We must remember that the death of the body *as it is initially presented in Scripture* is the loss of the covering of glory.

Paul goes on to clearly state what the redemption of the body is: **Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.**

*The redemption of the body* is the answer to the death of the body — its lack of glory, as seen at the very beginning. The *redemption of the body* is the to be once again be *covered in glory* in order to receive the royal garments of splendor and majesty. And this glory will be granted only to those who shared in the suffering of Christ. We just read it in the previous passage — *if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him*. Through following Christ’s example in dying, we will have denied ourselves, have taken up our cross and followed Christ in the way of discipleship resulting in the salvation of the soul which will simultaneously bring about the redemption of the body, the adoption as a son. (Remember the Greek word for adoption is *son*-placement; it is

taking a son within the family and placing him as a firstborn.) And we know that within God's Economy it will only be firstborn sons who will rule.

## In Conclusion

As we bring this three-part series to its conclusion, let's be sure we understand *how* that which was declared at the beginning is brought to pass at the end, God having told the end through the telling of the beginning. Let's consider how *Life, Death and Resurrection to Life Again* fit together from the beginning to the end.

- In the beginning — towards the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> day, God formed Adam's body from the dust of the earth. In the end — towards the end of 6,000 years, God will form the Body of the Second Man, the Last Adam by gathering dust of the earth through resurrection/rapture of the Church, which is the Body of Christ. (The resurrection of the physical bodies of all Christians who have died and whose bodies have returned to dust will be raised up. The bodies of those who will be raptured are still made of dust...so in a respect we can see God forming the whole Body of Christ through the resurrection/rapture of the Church, through the gathering of the dust of the earth.)
- In the beginning — towards the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> day, God took a part of Adam's body out of his body in order to build a helper suitable for him. In the end — towards the end of 6,000 years, God will take a part of the Body of the Second Man, the Last Adam out of His Body in order to build a Helper suitable for Him through the *out*-resurrection.
- In the beginning — towards the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> day, God presented back to Adam the one taken out of his body in order for the two to become one and rule over the restored creation. In the end — towards the end of 6,000 years, God will present back to the Second Man the Last Adam the One taken out of His body in order for the Two of them to become One and rule over the restored creation.
- In the beginning — towards the end of the 6,000 years, God saw that the man and the woman were naked but not ashamed, covered in glory while they awaited the reception of the garments of splendor and majesty, which would portend their created purpose. In the end — towards the end of 6,000 years God will see the Second Man, the Last Adam along with His Bride naked but not ashamed while they await the reception of the garments of splendor and majesty, which will portend their readiness to step into their rightful place as Joint-Rulers of the earth.

At this present moment, Christ is glorified, but does not yet wear the royal robes. He is waiting for the time when a Bride will be chosen for Him and for the time shortly thereafter when the Father will send Him back to earth to redeem the inheritance of the earth for Himself and for His Bride. The redemption of this inheritance will take place through events yet to unfold in the 7-year Tribulation, culminating in the Battle of Armageddon. It is at this Battle that Jesus with His angels will wrest the rulership of the earth away from Satan and his angels, and bring the Gentile world rulers to nothing. It is *after* this Battle that many things prophesied will be put in place. It is *after* this Battle that Christ Jesus will take His Bride as His Wife; the Two will don the royal robes of splendor and majesty and will be seated on the Throne in the Heavenly City as One, ruling over the earth from the Heavenly City. We can see Christ coming as the King in **Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God.**

And then we can see His Wife being clothed in royal robes in **Revelation 19:6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.**

It will be a glorious day when those words are sounded: "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ...For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

That which is initially pictured as *life* for Adam and the Woman in the Garden at the beginning, but was brought into *death* because of Adam's sin will be redeemed through *the death, burial and resurrection* of the Second Man the Last Adam. And the goal of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is to bring man *back to life again* in order that he may fulfill his created purpose in the way that it was declared by God at the beginning. God's plans for mankind will be brought to pass and His good pleasure will be fully accomplished!

Because of what we have seen in the past three weeks, let us keep ever before us the words of God spoken to the Ancient Prophet, Habakkuk: **Habakkuk 2:2 ... "Record the vision And inscribe it on tablets, That the one who reads it may run. 3 For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay..."**