

HOW EACH PERSON BECOMES SAVED

by JIM BURKS

Excitement comes to every salt-worthy pastor through discernment of Scripture - "**which the Holy Spirit teaches; "comparing Spiritual things with Spiritual"**" (I Co 2:13). When truth deepens; especially, from those passages most often visited, our joy meter zooms to the top. This was abundantly true,

while writing Newsletter, No. 151, entitled, **LOST**

"FOR THE SON OF MAN IS COME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST,"

Luke 19:10.

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How wonderfully true it is that God loves us - extending His mercy to us and saving us by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). But, before all these blessing can be bestowed upon man, it was imperative that the "Law Dispensation" be removed. The "certificate of debt" had to be canceled before any person could receive God's love and be saved.

Until the Law is removed, God's righteousness, like sunshine reflecting off a mirror, bounces back to God the moment the flesh is struck.

It is the barrier of the LAW that blocks flesh from approaching God; causing a separation since the Fall of Adam. While, man remains in this condition, God's righteousness can not be met.

If man is to meet God on His terms, the LAW must be absorbed within man's spirit. When this happens, man is innocent of breaking any of its demands.

The truth is, however, that it takes only one broken LAW, to condemn us; not to say anything of the LAW, as a whole. In Paul's case, it was the 10th one that revealed sin to him. The LAW said, "Thou shalt not covet," but Paul realized that he lusted.

The good news is, once the LAW becomes fulfilled, it is settled, forever. And, Jesus paid the price for sin, canceling the certificate of debt was by "**nauling it to His cross,**" Col 2:14.

With the Law taken out of the way, each person that calls on the name of Jesus becomes saved. I think we know that man isn't innocent. He is forgiven, **DECLARED RIGHTEOUS**, bringing **RECONCILIATION**. That's why we feel so free at salvation. Peace comes when enmity is no longer between man and God.

Each person that is saved, realizes that fulfillment of the Law was accomplished by only one man, Jesus. He, alone, fulfilled its necessary demands. And, for man to be forgiven, he must approach the Law through the Savior, Jesus.

Salvation is to be understood, therefore, as being **THROUGH ANOTHER**; not in natural man. It will never be. That's how we understand the death of Jesus. And, how we died to the LAW, through Him. Now, we live unto God, through Him.

Each saved person ought to memorize these words of Paul, "**And, you being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; blotting out the hand-writing of ordinances that was against us,**" Colossians 2:13.14.

Jesus crucified the flesh, in order for man to take God's righteousness into his spirit, and LIVE. Now, with New Testament laws working on man's behalf, we may "eat and drink of Jesus," receiving His life. Once the Bread of life is ingested, we are joined with His life; one which, never ends. Man is saved, finally.

An important thought of this writing is to point out that eternal life cannot be granted until the Law is "**taken out of the way**" (Col 2:14). Until Jesus dies in man's place - at Calvary and, subsequently, within the heart of every person, the Law stands between God and man blocking His love, mercy and grace.

Man's freedom from the flesh means God has saved him from death. When this occurs, within each believer, there is a glorious realization of victory over death; which, it is not unlike the tearing of the veil within the Jewish Temple during Jesus' time. In its removal, we see God's *heaven-to-earth* direction, as He comes to seek and save, accomplishing reconciliation. Thus, we take special notice how the Temple curtain was torn: from *top-to-bottom* at the time Jesus died. (Mt. 27:51).

In removing the "*Temple Veil*," we know that man's flesh no longer blocks salvation. When the LORD Looked down upon the scene of the cross, there was, no doubt, a heavenly anticipation mounting. Reconciliation time was drawing near. On the cross, we see the finished work of Jesus as the greatest expression of love displayed, ever.

Can we possibly grasp God's love for man; for fallen man? Isaiah records it this way: "**Yet, it pleased the Lord to bruise Him,**" 53:10. In offering His Son, God allowed Jesus to bear the sin of the world, alone. For the first time, the Father turned away from His own Son; a moment when Jesus was estranged from the Father's omnipotent Presence.

The "good news" is, "**by man came death, by man came also life,**" Romans 5:17. At the cross, in the removing the flesh barrier, man may now, come to God, even boldly before His throne (Heb. 4:16).

Man's salvation is glorious; but, we continue to seek more meaning of how God so loved us. And, so, we thank Him, personally and directly, "**in the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,**" 2 Cor. 4:6.

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