

THE MYSTERY OF LIFE

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Preface

The writing of this book is motivated by my conviction and unshakeable confidence in the Bible as the inerrant Word of God, and because of my faith in Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God.

The Bible is God's textbook, wherein is revealed the mind of God to the mind of man. In it is found the secrets of God which are often referred to as mysteries. The Holy Spirit is the only authorized teacher and He is the custodian of all truth (I Corinthians 2:9-16).

While Martha was rattling pots and pans in the kitchen, Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet learning the secrets of life. Jesus said, "She hath chosen the good part." Will you come and sit with me at Jesus' feet and know something of the burning heart as He opens up the Scriptures and reveals to us the mystery of life?

CHAPTER 1

Your Inheritance, If You Will Accept It

To whet your spiritual appetite let me first call Paul who was caught up to the third heaven and saw things not lawful for man to utter, and let him give you some truths that ought to thrill every believer's heart. Romans 1:19-20 says, "Because that which may be known of God is manifested in them (the Scriptures); for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him (spiritual things) from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and godhead so that they are without excuse." In other words, God has taken the material things which we can see to reveal and make us to understand the spiritual things which we cannot see with the natural eye. He even sent Jesus into the world to make us understand His eternal power and godhead. Jesus told Philip (John 14:7-9), "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

Again in I Corinthians 2:5, Paul shows us the most important thing in all the world. It is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This faith must not be anchored in the wisdom of man but in the power of God. This power of God is found in the wisdom of God. Now, will you listen to this (continuing in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, the second chapter)?

(Verse 6) "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world that come to naught:"

(Verse 7) "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:"

(Verse 8) "Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

(Verse 9) "But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

(Verse 10) "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

(Verse 11) "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."

(Verse 12) "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God: that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

(Verse 13) "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

(Verse 14) "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

(Verse 15) "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man."

(Verse 16) "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ."

Now, hear what Jesus has to say in John's Gospel, Chapter 15, verse 15: "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I

have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." Truly, then, we are ". . . heirs of God, and joint-heirs with (Jesus) Christ . . ." as is taught us in Romans 8:17. How wonderful it is to know that we have free access to the great storehouse of divine wisdom which Jesus has, and we have His Spirit to teach us all things that pertain to life and godliness (II Peter 1:3). How marvelous it is to know that Jesus is the door that opens to us God's treasure house of wisdom! Why should we, therefore, remain a spiritual illiterate when God has so graciously provided, not only His wisdom, but His court instructor, the Holy Spirit, to teach us all things that will lift us out of the realm of ordinary to the place of honor to be members of royalty - God's children? There is no degree issued by a college or university that can compare with the degree of honor issued by the university of the Holy Spirit.

To receive the degree you must first recognize its value. Proverbs 3:13-15 tells us that "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared with her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is everyone that retaineth her." Oh! If only we could get our priorities straight, how rich we would be, both materially and spiritually.

This little book is intended to help you.

In school one does not graduate summa cum laude or become an honor graduate by having athletics or pleasure as his or her first priority. Also in the school of life, one does not graduate with honor if the things of this world hold priority over spiritual wisdom. Spiritual wisdom must be our major field of concern and devotion.

Worldly wisdom gained in our schools may get you through life, but it will not get you into heaven and the kingdom of God. Dr. John R. Church has truthfully said, "Though one may earn all the degrees the world can give, if he does not know God he is but an educated fool." The conditions for becoming one of God's cum laude students are set forth in Proverbs 2:1-6: "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; yea, if thou criest after knowledge and liftest up thy voice (in prayer) for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her (by study) as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."

CHAPTER 2

The Mysteries of Creation

Teachers of science, that some would characterize as educated fools, have chosen to teach the theory of evolution, ruling out the fact of Creation, in many of our public school systems* The reason for the term "educated fool" is because any person, no matter how highly educated he or she may be, who becomes God's adversary is a fool in the worst sense of the word. The mind of such a person has become so poisoned with error that he or she has become an effective instrument in the hands of Satan to destroy the minds and souls of our children, and, thus, to destroy the Christian home.

The word mystery, as used in God's Word, is the Greek word, *musterion*, which means to shut the mouth; a secret revealed only to members of a religious order. In the New Testament it means a secret from the mind of God made known only to His Church, the Body of Christ (note John 15:15 and I Corinthians 2:7-16).

Our Bible begins with the words: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Science talks about millions and billions of years ago. Go back a trillion years if you choose, but God was there. In God's Word He gives us history that human history books and the world with its "educated fools" know nothing about.

The first revelation is "In the beginning God. . . ." The second revelation is that God is the Creator of all things. The third revelation is that something happened to cause the earth to become ". . . without form and void." The Hebrew words translated without form and void are *tohuw* and *bohuw*. *Tohuw* means to be waste; a desolation of surface; desert; worthless; confusion; without form. The *bohuw* means an indistinguishable ruin. God has never created anything *tohuw* and *bohuw*. Whatever He creates is perfect. Therefore, we need to search God's Word to find out what happened to cause His creation to become a wasteland, desolation of surface and an indistinguishable ruin. I know of nothing but war and divine judgment that could cause such a condition. Therefore, let us search God's History Book and see what we can find that would cause this condition.

First, if it was war, there would have to be someone like Hitler who would be responsible. As we searched the Divine Record we found that there had been a civilization on the earth before God created Adam. This civilization was destroyed by divine judgment. God's command to Adam was to "Be fruitful and multiply and REPLENISH the earth." The word replenish reveals some former inhabitants. God followed His divine plan and regenerated the earth. Regenerate means to put life back into. The earth literally had a new birth.

The Bible also reveals that there were three archangels which God created and placed in authority over the angelic hosts: Lucifer, second in command under God; Michael, the guardian of the throne; and Gabriel, head of the guardian angels who have the charge to guard and protect God's people.

The Bible reveals that Lucifer rebelled against God and sought to set up his kingdom independent of God. Isaiah 14:13-14 reveals Lucifer's five "I wills" that dethroned God out of his life, and he then declared himself to be God. The name Lucifer means son of

the morning; day star; light bearer. After his fall, God named him Satan which means adversary, arch enemy of God. Every name which God gives him is a revelation of who he is. Lucifer's history is recorded in part in Ezekiel 28:12-19.

It is evident that Lucifer's throne was on planet earth, for he said, "I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." This he attempted to do, as recorded in Revelation 12:7-9. Satan and his angels were cast out and became disembodied spirits. These are the demons that are causing all the trouble in the world today.

When Lucifer was dethroned, God replaced him with His own Son, who is now the Son of the morning, the light bearer, and the day star known as the bright and morning star.

After the heavenly invasion by Lucifer and his one-third of the angels who followed him, they were cast into the earth. The earth became bohuw and tohuw and Lucifer and his army lost their bodies and became disembodied spirits. These are the demon spirits who now seek to embody themselves in some available body, even the herd of swine recorded in Mark 5:11. A demon is harmless until he finds a body through which he can work. Jesus recognized them and cast them out of those who were possessed by such spirits.

All this is history which history books do not and cannot record, for they are revealed to us by God himself in His His* tory Book, the Bible.

God cannot be defeated, else He would not be almighty. Genesis is a book of beginnings, and in it we see God move onto a world in which all life had been destroyed. The surface of the earth was utter desolation and in utter darkness. Earth was a dead planet.

Let us look now and see the change that takes place when God comes on the scene. In this work of re-creation we find the Trinity involved. The Trinity consists of God the Father, God the Son (the Word), and God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit moved upon the face or surface of the earth and God said, "Let there be light" and light came. When God comes to a soul that is dead in trespasses and sins, the Holy Spirit first moves upon that soul convicting the person of his or her lost condition. God then sends the light of the gospel and, now, that soul can see where he or she is going. Now I see something marvelous in the pattern and plan of God. He divided the light from darkness and the evening and the morning were the first day.

For 4000 years this world of mankind was in darkness until Jesus, who is the Light of the World, called by Malachi "the Sun of Righteousness, (Who) rose with healing in his rays." During His life on earth He was the Light of the World. When He died on the cross, the Sun of Righteousness set. Since then the darkness of night has settled upon this world.

God also made two lights, the sun to shine by day and the moon by night. The sun is a type of Jesus Christ and the moon is a type of His Church. As the moon reflects the light of the sun, so the Church reflects the light of truth from Jesus Christ. The healing rays that the Sun of Righteousness gives forth are the gospel rays of truth from Christ which is healing.

Jesus said to His Church, "Ye are the light of the world." During this night season the Church gives forth the rays of gospel truth. The only time the moon fails to shine is when the world comes between it and the sun. The only time the Church fails to give

forth its light is when the world comes between it and Christ.

There is coming soon an hour when Jesus will dispel all darkness with the brightness of His return and the eastern sky will be ablaze with His glory.

Too many of us have taken for granted the beauty of the heavens, the firmament, the oceans, rivers, lakes, springs and streams that water the earth; but please note that the whole creation is now coming alive. Get your Bible and look at Genesis 1:11. Before God made any living things He set the table for them and made every provision for them. God provided the food you ate today (verses 11 and 12). Everything that God made He put a seed in it as His provision for us. Therefore, I want you to take a prayerful look at the seed.

CHAPTER 3

The Mystery of The Seed

All life, both physical and spiritual, comes from a seed. Let us consider first the mystery of the physical seed. God first made the tree and in the fruit of that tree he put a seed. In that seed, God placed a germ. That germ determines what kind of tree would come from it. The nature of the parent tree is in the seed and when placed in the ground it dies. Then the germ of life bursts forth to produce another tree of the same kind and with the same nature as the parent tree. That seed is a trinity and it has a body. In it is a heart and in that little heart is a germ of life which God placed there. This germ of life cannot be seen but science knows it is there.

The peach tree God created in the Garden of Eden bore the seed that produced the peach you may have eaten today. The same life that was in the first peach picked from the first peach tree in Eden is in the peach today. God gave Adam the wisdom to know how to dress the garden and He has given man today the wisdom to know, by grafting and otherwise, how to produce different kinds of peaches; but, every seed produces peaches after its own kind. The same is true of everything else. The female fish on the spawning ground lays her eggs. Those little eggs seem to know how to attach themselves to the right male sperm cells to produce the same kind of fish as their mother. This is true with every herb, animal or bird. The seed produced by the parent always reproduces itself. This has been God's method of providing for the needs of each succeeding generation. Read prayerfully the first chapter of Genesis. Everything that God made was for man. When it had served its purpose it died. But God made man for himself and he never dies. His body dies and returns to the dust from which God made it, but God will, at the Resurrection, bring that body forth never to die again. Even the wicked dead will be resurrected at the close of the millennium and be brought before the white throne of the Judgment (Revelation 20:1-15). There was a day when you were not; but, there will never be a day when you will not be. The resurrected bodies of the wicked will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

Adam the Human Seed

On the sixth day of the week of creation, after God had made every provision for the human family, He created man (Genesis 1:27-31). Because God created man for himself, He used the greatest pattern possible — himself. Sin caused Adam to fall from the exalted position of sonship (note Luke 3:38) to the lowest position of suffering servitude. He lost his life, his relationship with God, and his inheritance. He deliberately put his neck in the yoke with Satan and became his servant.

Adam was created holy and perfect in the spirit, soul, and body. But something happened that caused death and suffering. As the Word of God is Divine Seed (Matthew 13:19) and brings forth life everlasting, so Satan has a seed also that produces death. God's seed is truth; Satan's seed is the lie. He is the "father of lies" (John 8:44). When Eve believed Satan's lie, his seed was planted in her mind and it brought

forth error and death. As the nature of everything is in the seed, so Satan's nature is also in his seed, and the lie which Adam and Eve believed made them partakers of his nature and is the carnal nature which Paul says is not subject to the law of God nor, indeed, can be. This is true because it is the devil nature which is in rebellion against God. This nature became a part of our first parents and is often referred to as the Adamic nature. This nature showed up in Adam's first offspring. Cain was a murderer. Every offspring of Adam bears the nature of the seed that produced them. If you do not believe it, look at that darling little baby that is born of your seed. Watch it yell and squall if it cannot have its own way. You do not have to teach a child to do wrong. It is the nature of the little darling. When it comes into the world, you have to teach it to do right. This is done by planting the seed of truth in its little mind. This is what every preacher of the gospel is commissioned to do each Sunday to the members of his church, the Body of Christ.

Adam, who was created and commissioned to repopulate the earth with holy people, joined with Satan to produce children with his own unholy nature to produce rebellion against God.

Adam's Fall and God's Redemption

When Adam was created, he was given a garment of light. When he sinned, his connection with God was broken, the light went out, he saw himself naked, and he hid from God. They sewed fig leaves together to hide the shame of their fallen nature. These fig leaves were as flimsy as the good works which mankind, today, puts together to hide the shame of his fallen nature. Man's fig-leaf covering of good works may seem to work until he comes into the presence of God or someone crosses us. Then the devil nature shows, up. Later we shall look at God's remedy. This devil nature is what causes men and women to stay away from churches and places where the Spirit of God reigns and the gospel of Christ is preached or taught. Jesus said, "Men love darkness, because their deeds are evil." Men and women hide from God today just like Adam and Eve did because they are aware of their fallen nature, which is the enemy of gospel light. Darkness and light cannot dwell together.

When Adam and Eve sinned, instead of destroying them, the loving hand of God reached down and began the work of redemption which, in the plan of God, would enable man to regain his lost estate. God's holy law passed the death sentence upon the soul that sins. This was an act of mercy by Almighty God. How terrible it would be to live forever under the dominion of sin! First, God came seeking Adam, calling, "Adam, where art thou?" God, next, required a confession. "What hast thou done?" Then God passed sentence on them both, but He opened a door of mercy for them. Satan could not win against God.

It was God himself who made the first blood sacrifice. He took one of His own precious lambs and slew it. Then he took its covering and made clothing that was adequate to cover the shame of their fallen condition.

The law of animal sacrifices was given to Moses that Israel might understand (1) their fallen condition, (2) the death penalty which God's holy law had imposed upon them because of their sin, and (3) God's mercy and the door of hope which God's love had set before them.

When they saw that innocent lamb die, they remembered it was dying in their stead and its blood atoning for their sin. Their door of hope was their coming Messiah who restores them- to the position of sonship from which Adam, by transgression, fell. Four thousand years later, after God offers His lamb in the Garden of Eden, John the Baptist introduced Jesus to Israel as "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world." To help Israel understand this, the law required two goats to be brought. One was to be offered for the sins of Israel. The High Priest was to lay his hands on the other, the scapegoat, and he was to confess all the sins of Israel upon its head and this scapegoat was to be sent away into the wilderness bearing away all the sins of Israel. Jesus is the fulfillment of both. The goat nature (carnal nature) must die and Jesus nailed it to His Cross. He also became our scapegoat. All the sins of the whole world were laid upon Him and He removed them from us as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12). He took for us our sins into the wilderness of hell, but delivered the sinner. This He did when He took our place in hell. When Abraham, at God's command, prepared to offer up his only begotten son, God stayed his hand and provided a substitute, a ram caught by his horns in the briars. When the law of God prepared to execute judgment upon the family of Adam, God provided a substitute. It was His own Son. He spared Abraham's son, but He did not spare His own Son. He let our judgment fall on Him.

As Adam was God's human seed planted in the earth to repopulate the earth, so Jesus, God's Son, the second Adam, was sent into the world. He was the holy seed that bore the nature of the Father. Jesus, speaking of himself, said, "Except a corn of wheat fall in the ground and die it abideth alone. But if it die it will bring forth much fruit" (John 12:24). Jesus, the spiritual seed of God, died and was buried and He came forth in the Resurrection as the second Adam, the head of a new spiritual family. He is the true vine (John 15:1) and those who join themselves to Him are grafted by the Holy Spirit into Him. These become the new spiritual family of God. The branches of a vine bear the same nature as the vine. Peter says, "We are partakers of the divine nature."

Jesus, the only begotten Son of God came to earth as the Heavenly Bridegroom seeking a bride to reign with Him in His coming kingdom. The Greek word ecclesia, which is translated church, means "the called-out ones". For the past 2000 years the Holy Spirit has been calling out a bride. Every preacher who has been called of God is commissioned to do this. God gave the ordinance of marriage to the human family that we might understand God's plan for the family of Adam. When Adam fell he lost his relationship to God, but because of God's love He sent His Son into the world to court and propose marriage to every member of Adam's race. Those who fall in love with Him and join themselves to Him in marriage become a part of His bride. These believers form His true church known as the Body of Christ. Christ, the bridegroom, is the head, and His Church is His body, the bride.

Since marriage is adoption, all who join themselves to God's Son are adopted back into God's family. When the bride- hood of Christ is completed, Jesus, the bridegroom, will come for her. This is the Rapture of the true Church which is the Body of Christ. Then I Thessalonians 4:13-18 will be fulfilled. At the Rapture Jesus takes His Bride to the Father's house where He presents her to the Father. Her wedding garment is the spotless white robe of His righteousness which He purchased and provided for her at Calvary (Revelation 19:7-8). There never has been a bride as dazzlingly beautiful as this bride. Eve when she came fresh from the hands of God could not have been more

beautiful than this bride of the second Adam. After this comes the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

CHAPTER 4

The Mystery of The Solar System

Modern science could learn a lot from the pages of God's textbook if it would spend a few hours at the feet of Jesus. All the inconsistencies which their theories have created would disappear. Could Paul be referring to modern-day science in Romans 1:21-22, where he writes, ". . . although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools . . ."? In Romans 1:20, Paul gives us the master key when he says, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. . . ." If you believe this, there is nothing beyond the understanding for the mind that is in tune with the mind of God. Stop where you are and read I Corinthians 2:5-16. Then consider II Peter 1:3 which says, "According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue." Peter is, therefore, saying that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the last will and testament of Jesus Christ that wills to us all knowledge, both material and spiritual. Paul says, in Romans 1:16, that the power (or authority) of God is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Again, in Romans 8:17, he tells us that since Jesus brought us into God's family, we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Since Christ is the wisdom of God and we are joint heirs with Him, it seems wise for us to sit at His feet and learn from His textbook while His Holy Spirit teaches us some of the deep things of God.

Until one accepts Jesus Christ and believes the Bible he will forever be a spiritual illiterate, no matter how many college degrees he may have. Proverbs 2:6 says, "For the Lord giveth wisdom, out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." Let us, therefore, sit for a few minutes at His feet and see what He can teach us.

We shall first go back to the first chapter of Genesis and catch a glimpse of the greatness of God. He created the heavens and the earth. Hebrews 11:3 says, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Seek out the world's greatest construction engineer, inspect and marvel at his greatest masterpiece and the amazing mind that would create such a building; then, behold the heavens and the earth and consider their perfection. For 6000 years none of the heavenly bodies has been one second late in its orbit. To realize God's greatness would explode the human mind.

Let us at least expand our minds "as we examine our own solar system. God's creation is always obedient to Him. When God said, "Let there be light," light appeared. The first thirteen verses of the first chapter of Genesis is a revelation of God bringing order out of chaos. On the fourth day (verse 14) we see something very marvelous. Our solar system is created, and the nine planets and other celestial bodies begin their orbits around the sun. All this was created distinctly for the good of mankind. The earth was set to spinning in order to set God's time clock. In its orbit around the sun He

provided the seasons, the days and years; all this just for man's benefit.

In His creation of the sun God put just enough hydrogen and other gasses on the sun to last until the New Jerusalem comes down and Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, takes its place (Revelation 21:22-27). Science tells us that there are about seven novas every year. A nova is caused when a sun suddenly flares to seven times its usual brightness for seven days and then burns out. The Book of Isaiah (30:26-27) says the same things will happen to our sun after the judgment of God falls upon the earth. The prophets and Jesus foretold the day when the sun would go out and the moon would turn blood red (Joel 3:15; Matthew 24:29). When God set the sun in the heavens it was to rule the day, and the moon was to rule the night. Science has revealed that a cosmic ray, which has its origin in the North, kindles the atomic fire on the sun and causes it to give forth light, heat, and energy. The light sustains life.

At the same time, science confesses it does not know the source of this cosmic ray, only that its origin is somewhere in the North and that it is the first cause. Since science acknowledges that it does not know, my findings cannot be disproved. The Bible reveals to me that the Throne of God is in the North. Could it be that the cosmic ray has its origin in the person of Almighty God? Scripture tells us that no man can look on the face of Almighty God and live. Hebrews 12:29 says that . . . our God is a consuming fire," as does Deuteronomy 4:24.

God cannot look upon sin. When His only begotten Son was made sin for us, God could not look upon Him. When He turned His face away the sun went out for three hours and Jesus cried, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"

Since the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world can be easily understood by the things that are made, let us look at some of the types found in God's creation. When God began the work of regeneration of the Earth, and regeneration means to put life back into, the Holy Spirit hovered over the chaotic earth and brought light. When God regenerates a lost soul whose life is in chaos, the Holy Spirit hovers over that soul and brings light and understanding and gives life. When Gabriel brought God's message to Mary, it was the Holy Spirit that hovered over her and brought conception.

When God set the sun in the heavens He gave it authority over the earth by day. It had a ministry to perform for man. It was to give light, heat, and energy to all of God's creation. The light was to preserve life. The sun became a type of Jesus, "The Sun of Righteousness with healing in His rays" (Malachi 4:2). What the sun does for the earth and mankind, Jesus Christ does for the soul of man. He brings the light of truth and from Him shines forth the gospel light rays that are both revealing and healing. These rays of truth also give spiritual energy and health. Jesus is also given authority over the whole earth (John 17:2).

By prayerfully reading the nineteenth Psalm, you will find that the heavens speak a language that all the earth can understand, and you will note in the fourth and fifth verses that the sun is referred to as a type of Jesus, the Heavenly Bridegroom. When Jesus came into the world a new day dawned and He said, "I am the Light of the world." When He returned to heaven after His resurrection, the "Sun" set and spiritual night covered the earth. For over 1900 years the earth has been in spiritual darkness.

Now God made a lesser light to rule by night. The moon has no light of its own. It must reflect the rays of the sun if it is to give light during the nighttime. It is, therefore, a

type of the Church. The Church has no light of its own. If it is to rule during this night season, it must reflect the Gospel Rays from Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness. Fishermen will tell you that fishing is best when the moon is full. When the church is at "full moon" God's fishermen have full nets.

Soon the "Sun of Righteousness will rise again with healing in His wings" and a new day will dawn that will never have another night.

God gave Israel three feast days and they were all prophetic. Each must be fulfilled. The first was the Feast of Passover which was fulfilled at Calvary. The second was the Feast of Weeks which was fulfilled by the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The third was the Feast of Tabernacles which was the feast of harvest. The first day of this feast was the Feast of the Blowing of Trumpets. This is the only feast unfulfilled and I am convinced that when Jesus comes it will be at the Feast of Trumpets. Consider I Thessalonians 4:16.

CHAPTER 5

The Mystery of God's Blueprint

No builder of any reputation would ever begin building without a blueprint. In the mind of a master builder is conceived a plan. This plan embraces the entire building project. He takes this plan which his mind has designed and puts it on paper, so that those who become his helpers may assist him in accomplishing his will and bringing to fulfillment his purpose and desires.

In the mind of the great Master Builder an amazing plan was formed. This plan was recorded on paper and formed the divine blueprints of Creation. Everything that God made was made by this blueprint. This is why Romans 1:20 says, "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made." The material creation in God's blueprint becomes a revelation of the spiritual things that cannot be seen with the human eye. The blueprint is the plan by which God builds the kingdom over which His Son is to rule for eternity. The first Psalm is a revelation for a successful Christian life. A tree is made by the same pattern. When it is planted by the rivers of water, its roots go down to a hidden source for its supply and it is not affected by surface conditions. When a drought comes it still bears fruit in its season. Where our spiritual roots go down into God's Word, they also find a hidden supply that keeps fresh and fruitful, regardless of surface conditions around us. A person who follows God's blueprint, "Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

The creation week is a revelation of God's divine blueprint. If He had so chosen, God could have created everything in one day, but His blueprint called for six days and one day of rest. Was God tired, or was this seventh day of rest on the blueprint for a reason? God's time clock was wound up when He began His first day's work. God's clock is a seven-day clock, and when it runs down "time will be no more". God's work will be done and we will go back into eternity which has no measure of time.

Every blueprint is drawn to scale. One inch represents ten feet on some scales. The scale on God's blueprint is one day representing one thousand years. Study the third chapter of II Peter carefully, and pay particular attention to the eighth verse. God chose to cut out of eternity a space which He calls time. He wound up His clock and it will run for seven thousand years. During this space of time He repairs the Earth which Lucifer destroyed during his rebellion, and He builds a kingdom for His Son Jesus which shall never be destroyed. When this is finished, time will then merge again with eternity.

Jesus said, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." God's work of creation was finished in six days. Jesus' work of Redemption was finished at Calvary. The work of the Holy Spirit will be finished at the Rapture of the Bride of Christ, the Church.

God set the seventh day aside as a day of rest for His people, Israel. At Calvary the first section of God's kingdom was finished. Jerusalem was destroyed; the Temple was destroyed; and Israel, as a nation, was destroyed and carried away captive and buried in the nations of the earth. At the end time God says He will dig them up out of their graves, where He has buried them in the nations, and will bring them back to Jerusalem

and reestablish them as a nation. We have seen this fulfilled in our day.

At Calvary Jesus fulfilled everything in the Old Testament and opened the door to the New Testament. Also, He sent forth the call for His Gentile bride to join Him at the throne by the new and living way. She is to be a joint heir to reign and rule with Him during the thousand year millennium which is the seventh thousand year on the divine blueprint.

The seventh day was a Sabbath rest for Israel. Millennium means thousand, and during this seventh thousand year period, the earth has its Sabbath rest. It follows the Battle of Armageddon where God's enemies are destroyed and Satan is cast into the bottomless pit. If you wonder about the bottomless pit, hell is in the heart of the earth, and because it is round it has no bottom. Every volcano is a warning of what is there.

The six thousand years of God's blueprint are now complete, and Israel is now back in the land which God gave to Abraham. Communism, the beast government, has martyred over 100 million Christians and is now poised to fulfill the prophecy found in the 37th chapter of Ezekiel. Every prophecy of Jesus, which should precede His return, has been fulfilled, and He is even now at the door. I believe the Bride of Christ should be preparing herself for her honeymoon to the Father's house with her Lord.

If you are interested in taking a little inspection trip to see the palace where the King and His Bride are going to live, turn to the New Testament and read the 21st chapter of Revelation. Here you see the King's palace and His estate completed.

If God should open the eyes of your understanding, you would be standing, in amazement, before a palace 1500 miles high and 1500 miles square, with a wall about it 216 feet high, made with the most beautiful jewels that ever came from the hands of Almighty God. If you have to put on eye shades to look at the streets of pure gold, as clear as crystal, what will you do when the Heavenly Bridegroom carries you across the threshold and tells you, "This is your home for eternity"?

By the way, I forgot to tell you that the stars of heaven are God's revelation of that great host of friends which He will give you as neighbors in His kingdom. Using modern parlance, someone might say, "This blows my mind!" It occurs to me, however, that God is going to give His saints minds that will not "blow".

CHAPTER 6

The Mystery of the Mind

Proverbs 23:7 tells us that "as a man thinketh in his heart so is he." This reveals that the mind is the sovereign ruler over the body. Dr. Carlton Fredrick, writing in Nutrition Handbook, tells us that "the outwardly turned mind is self-healing, stays young, and helps to keep the body young, the inwardly turned mind abscesses and brings down the temple in which it is housed." By "outwardly turned" Dr. Fredrick means a mind that is occupied with constructive positive thinking - a mind that is not self-centered. An inwardly turned mind is one that focuses its attention on self. This mind produces worry, confusion, tension and is negative. It tends to throw the whole body into a state of tension and confusion. This produces a spiritual abscess that causes a breakdown of the organs of the body, thus, producing disease. It accounts for the reason that eighty percent of all sickness is caused by wrong thinking. When Jesus came walking to His disciples on the water, Peter asked Jesus to let him do the same thing. Jesus' answer was, "Come," and so long as Peter's eyes were on Jesus, his body walked on the water, but when he got his eyes off Jesus and looked at the tempest, he saw his own inadequacy. Fear, then, entered his mind and he began to sink. It is like that with us - when we get our eyes off Jesus and begin to look at our own inadequacy - at the tempest, whether spiritual or physical - we begin to fear and the whole body reacts negatively and we are in trouble. A mind filled with fear throws the body into a panic. This is why a total commitment is necessary. A body is relaxed and at peace when the mind is at peace with its hand resting in the Savior's hand. When Peter got his hand in the hand of Jesus, he finished the route walking on the water.

Our problem, then, is to get the mind right. A mind filled with doubts and fears is sending the wrong signals to the body and these doubts and fears must be cleansed from our mind before the body can begin to function as God intended. When the body gets the right signals from the mind it begins to get well. It cannot do otherwise because the mind is sovereign over the body. God made us like that. Nobody can begin to get well until the healing signal is received bright and clear from the mind.

There are three lobes of the human brain. One is called the conscious mind. This mind governs our activities during our waking hours. The second is our subconscious mind. It is the filing cabinet of memory. It never sleeps. It is from the subconscious mind that all signals are sent out to the body. I am convinced that this subconscious mind is the seat of the soul. The third lobe of the brain is an automatic mechanism that controls the organic function of the body. It keeps the heart beating and takes care of the functioning of every organ of the body. In the Garden of Eden it was the fall of the mind that produced the subsequent fall of the body. The poison of error, which we call sin, broke the lifeline connecting Adam and Eve to God, and their garment of light went out leaving them naked. That broken lifeline was never repaired until Calvary. At Calvary, Jesus, our go-between, by His payment in full of sin's penalty, put the hand of mankind once more into the hand of God. The flow of divine life again began to flow into the human soul and body producing eternal life. Let us look and see how it was done.

The human blood of Jesus Christ atoned for the sins of the whole world. This blood is now on the altar in the heavenly tabernacle. It is the ransom and divine testament. But what is the blood that cleanses from all sin? Sin, which is unbelief, is the germ that produces spiritual death. Whatever the blood is that cleanses from all sin, it cleanses the mind and brings the mind once more in tune with the mind of God. The Old Testament book of Leviticus tells us that life is in the blood. Therefore, blood is a life-carrier. In His High Priestly Prayer recorded in the 17th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus prayed, "Father, sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy Word is truth." Sanctify means to cleanse, to purify, and to make holy. This is done by the truth which Jesus said is contained in the Word. He also said, "Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you." Therefore, the Word of God is the spiritual blood or the life-carrier which purges out death and brings life. When the truth of God's Word flows continually into the mind of man it picks up the germs and pollution of sin and purges it out by the divine pardon. The word cleans-eth means it is a moment-by-moment cleansing which we shall see shortly. Satan is continually busy trying by every known method to contact the mind, and it is only through the circulation of the Word and truth of God into our minds that they are kept clean. In order to better understand this, let us look at God's plan for the cleansing and health of the human body.

Human life is in the human blood (Leviticus 17:11). Human life is maintained by a threefold purging. The oxygen we breathe purges the lungs. The lungs purge the blood and the blood cleanses the body. Spiritual life is maintained the same way, I breathe into my spiritual lungs, my mind, the life-giving oxygen of God's Word and this purges my mind. A pure mind purifies the soul, and a purified soul purifies the activities of the body.

So long as the blood circulates through the human body, it cleanses the body from toxins and all impurities that cause sickness and death. This blood is made up of red and white corpuscles and oxyhemoglobin. The red corpuscles carry life in the form of nutrients which we have eaten. The oxyhemoglobin carries the oxygen we breathe, which cooks or welds the life-bearing nutrients into the dying cells, giving renewed life. The white corpuscles are the soldiers of the body. They attack toxins and antigens, foreign enemies, which invade the body, and they give their very life, sacrificially, to flush out that poison through the lungs, the kidneys, and the liver. They operate the garbage truck for the blood system. Thus, the human blood gives life continually by purging death from the body.

In like manner, the blood of Jesus (God's Word) brings life to the soul, and faith in the sacrificed body of Christ purges out death from the human soul. Jesus told Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life, and every person who believes in me though he were dead, yet shall he live, and everyone who liveth and believeth in me shall never die." The precious spiritual blood of Jesus Christ, circulating continually through the body of Christ, the Church, keeps the body alive and well.

Now when the Word of God flows into the mind of man and it is received, it brings eternal life into the soul and cleanses the human body. As the oxygen which we breathe cleanses the blood and the blood cleanses the body, so the life of Christ, His Word, breathed into the mind of man, his body, brings life and he becomes a living soul.

This body is the temple of the Holy Spirit of Christ. An infirm body cannot serve Him as well as a strong healthy body and, somehow, I cannot believe He can find great joy

in living in a tumbled-down house. I believe He would prefer to repair it and make it beautiful. Therefore, let us look and see how He can do it with our cooperation.

A mind cleansed by believing God's Word, the truth, will send forth right signals to the needy organs of the body. We must understand how to cooperate with God, for whatever signal or message the subconscious mind sends must be obeyed. It is picked up by the automatic mechanism and every organ is obliged to function accordingly, and the body begins to get well. If we will keep positive signals going to the needy part, there is but one thing the body can do and that is to obey.

We see, then, why it is by faith. The Word of God (the blood of Christ) cleanses the mind because the mind believes the promise and our thinking gets straight. "At Pentecost their hearts were purified by faith," Peter said. When faith in God's Word purifies the human mind, purging out of it all doubts and fears, a pure mind will then send positive pure signals to the body that will bring healing. Remember, God made us so that our bodies are the servant of the mind. They must obey, but if the mind wavers and doubts, the signal will be confused and the body cannot respond positively.

In the New Testament, we read, "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1).

Remember, right thinking will assist God's healing properties within the human body to bring about wholeness. A sacrificed body is one which is under the control of the Word of God, and it becomes the servant of God to serve others. When the mind trusts God completely, that is total commitment.

CHAPTER 7

The Mystery of the Godhead

I approach this chapter even as Moses approached God in the burning bush, for I am fully aware that I am treading on holy ground. Only by the grace of God have I been given these amazing truths as they are revealed in God's Word.

God first begins to reveal himself in the first chapter of Genesis: "In the beginning God. . . ." The Hebrew word for God is Elohim. It is in the plural, revealing the Trinity of Almighty God. In this revelation, I John 5:7 says, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one." God is not three persons, but a Trinity in one person. He is a threefold person. God meant for us to understand this, for He made man in His own image and after His own likeness. Man is also three in one, a threefold personality - body, soul, and spirit.

Man is a soul. He has a spirit which is the life of the soul, and he has a body which is the house or temple in which he lives. His body is also the instrument which he uses to do the work which he wants done. The Word of God is the soul of God, the divine expression revealing the authority, power, wisdom, and will of God. The Holy Spirit is the life of God. These two have a body which Jesus reveals as the Father. The word Father reveals Him as the first cause out of which all things have come.

Ever since the Fall, God has tried to reveal himself to His people. In the first chapter, the third verse, the writer of Hebrews, says that Jesus is the expressed image of His Father. In his letter to the Colossians, Paul wrote that Jesus is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn of every creature (chapter 1 verse 15). Everything else was created, but Jesus was "firstborn", the only begotten Son of God. Look at Jesus and you will know what the Father looks like. Jesus told Philip, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Paul, in Romans 1:20, says that the eternal power and Godhead may be clearly seen and understood. Jesus came and clearly revealed the Father to us.

Every child born into this world is the image or the likeness of his father. He is made in the same form as his father and not in the form of some animal. The soul of man is that part of man that loves and hates — the seat of his emotions. It is that part that thinks, makes decisions, and governs the activity of the body. The spirit is the life of the soul. The type of spirit is revealed by the soul's activity. Man's words are the outflow of the soul and are one with his soul. Every child is a part of the soul of his father.

Let us now look at Jesus. He is called the Word because He is the divine expression revealing the authority of God, the power of God, the wisdom of God, and the will of God. He came out from the soul of God called the bosom of the Father. God ran a power line from heaven to earth and Jesus is the divine receptacle. Everyone who connects his life to God's receptacle, which He has provided for every person, experiences the power and life of God flowing into his life. In John 1:4 we read, "In Him was life and the life is the light of men." Consider the electric wire that goes to the generator at the power plant. In that wire there is life and power to light up a whole city. In God's receptacle there is life and power to light up the whole world. That is the Word of God, and in that Word is enough power to create a universe. God, the Father, is the

power plant, the Holy Spirit in the line from heaven, and Jesus is the receptacle.

When Jesus cried from the cross, "It is finished," there was nothing left for man to do except plug his life into Jesus and he could have all the spiritual power he wanted at no charge. Jesus has paid the bill. You may say, "I don't understand." You don't have to understand. By an act of faith, just plug in and the current of God's grace and power will become operational in your life.

From the face of Almighty God goes forth a divine radiation which gives life to all of His creation. This, I feel, was proven at Calvary. God cannot look upon sin. When He allowed His beloved Son to be made sin for us, He turned His face away and the sun went out. Jesus, in agony, cried, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" Can you imagine the horror that will engulf a lost soul immersed in his sin when God turns His face forever from him? Jesus' cry is the cry of every lost soul who goes to hell.

The Word of God is the brain of God that motivates the work which He wants done. This brain contains all the wisdom of God and is the divine generator from which flows the power and divine energy of Almighty God; "In Him was life and the life was the light of man."

God uses similitudes to help us to understand. The word "joined" is used to help us understand the relationship He intends for us to have with His Son. The seed planted in the ground, the branch joined to the vine, and the bride joined to her bridegroom are all symbols to help us to understand His plan of salvation.

Can anyone who reads these pages explain to me what electricity is or where it originates? Can you explain to me why your body is wired like a house and where the electric current comes from that flows over your body's nervous system? Can you tell me where the magnetic fields of the universe have their origin? Can you tell me where the life waves come from that keep every organ of your body functioning perfectly, sending the life currents flowing over the nervous system to every cell of your body?

Do you suppose these mysteries, unknown to science, could be the radiations of life proceeding from the face of Almighty God? Is it possible that your brain is a giant receiving set that is tuned to the brain of God; that it is the receiver of the life waves from the face of God, as radio and television sets pick up invisible sound and light waves when they are tuned into broadcasting stations?

Consider for a moment the word death. The word death means separation. In physical death, the soul and spirit separate from the body and the body is dead. In spiritual death, the soul and spirit are separated from God. When the Bible speaks of man being dead in trespasses and sins, it means that his trespasses and sins have separated him from God. Every physician knows that when the cause of sickness and death is removed, the body will get well. God knows that when sin, the cause of death, is removed the soul of man will get well. The law of cause and effect is infallible. If you have a cause, you will also have an effect. Remove the cause and you will also get rid of the effect. Sin is the cause of death. It separated Adam from God and it has also separated his posterity from God. God knew that if man was to be saved from hell, something would have to be done about his sin. The infallible law of God demanded the death penalty: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Note, it is the soul that sins and not the body. The law closed and locked the gates of heaven against every sinner and sentenced him to spend eternity in the prison house of hell. The law said Adam and Eve and their posterity would have to pay the death penalty for their sins unless they could

find a substitute who would take their place and die in their stead. The law required that the substitute be sinless and without blemish. God looked for one but found none.

God's love was so great that He said, "I will provide me a sacrifice." The writer of Hebrews says, "Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, 'Sacrifice and offerings thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared Me' " (chapter 10 verse 5). This body was prepared in the womb of little Mary. If you would understand the mystery of the virgin birth, turn in your Bible to Luke 1:26-44. God sent not just an angel, but Gabriel, His archangel, to Mary, whom He had chosen to be the mother of His only begotten Son. When this event, foretold by God's prophets 800 years before, was announced in heaven, a mighty thrill ran through the angelic host, and they stood in amazement at God's love for a lost world. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the divine seed of God the Father. Gabriel, meaning mighty man of God, brought this holy seed and planted it in the mind of Mary. Mary received it. The Gospel of Luke, the first chapter, verse 38, says, "The Holy Spirit quickened it and placed it in the womb of the virgin. . . ." And the Gospel of John (1:14) says, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The first Adam was the head of the human race or family, but Jesus Christ, the second Adam, became the head of a new spiritual race which is the family of God. Your attention is invited to Hebrews 3:1-6. It is an amazing thing to realize that the unborn John the Baptist, while still in her womb, introduced his mother, Elizabeth, to Jesus, just as he was later to introduce Him to Israel. This is very clearly seen in Luke 1:39-43.

Now, Jesus, the newborn baby in the manger of Bethlehem, being the Son of the Father, became the legal heir to His authority, power, wisdom, and will. God put Him in the lineage of David, which made Him the legal heir to the throne of David. Also, being the only begotten Son of Almighty God, He became the undisputed heir to the throne from which Lucifer was deposed. He is, therefore, King of kings and Lord of lords.

But let us now go back to God's solution to Adam's sin problem. In preparing the "body substitute," it had to be sinless and without blemish. Man's seed could not produce such a body, so God had to bypass man completely. That is why it had to be virgin born. God's seed, the Word, quickened by God's Holy Spirit, produced the God-man who was free from the sin nature inherited from Adam.

Before going further, let us look at this from the prophecy of Isaiah 63:4-5. We read, "For the Day of Judgment is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed has come. And I looked and there was none to help, and I wondered that there was none to uphold; therefore, mine own arm brought salvation unto me. . . ." When God sent Gabriel to Mary, He said, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." In the virgin birth God joined himself to the human family and became the man to take the place of the first Adam to die in his stead. This second Adam's human name was Jesus. He was the "body" which God, the Father, prepared to be His salvation for a lost world.

John the Baptist introduced Him to Israel as ". . . the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world." Jesus was now thirty years old, the age required by the Law before He could be ordained into His priestly ministry. John the Baptist and God the Father performed the ordination. John performed the earthly part and baptized Him with water. God the Father, did the heavenly part. When Jesus came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit, the third member of the Godhead descended in the form of a dove and rested upon His head and God spoke from heaven: "This is my beloved Son in whom I

am well pleased." Jesus, the man, was now God-anointed and became Jesus Christ the God-man who possessed all power in heaven and in earth. On the cross Jesus, the man, the second Adam, took our place even in hell. But Christ could not die, for He was God. He only gave His human body to be our sin sacrifice. Christ, the soul, went into hell for us and conquered death and hell. In Revelation 1:18 we see that He now has the keys to death and hell in His hands and you and I may be free. The Conqueror, Christ, then came back through the tomb, resurrected His human body and became the first begotten of the dead (Revelation 1:5).

God, in the person of His Son, became the sin sacrifice. The works of the devil have now been destroyed and God's creation is free (Romans 8:16-23). This work will be completed at the resurrection when Jesus returns. God became man that He might do for man what man could not do — destroy sin and abolish death (II Timothy 1:10). The death penalty was made null and void. The Law could no longer demand of ransomed man payment of a debt Jesus had already paid.

Now, therefore, our sins are all blotted out by the death of God's Son and the cause of death is removed. We read in Romans 5:1 that "We are now justified by faith in Christ Jesus." Justified means just as if I had never sinned. Our union with Christ now releases in the soul of the believer a new life. It is the life of Christ and is therefore eternal.

The Word of God is not only divine seed, the source of life, but it is also the life carrier. As the sap that flows through the vine is the life carrier, so the Word of God that flows through Jesus, the true vine or the vine of truth, is our only source of spirit life. We, the branches, must be joined to and abide in Him if we are to have His life. To have abundant life, we must study God's Word daily. Remember, God is the root, Jesus is the vine, and we who are joined to Him will share the same life that comes from the root.

The sacrifice of Christ paid in full the penalty for every sin that was ever committed. Man is therefore free from the law, but is he free from Jesus who bought him out of the devil's slave market and who also went to hell in his stead? Since Calvary, men do not go to hell because of sin, but because of their neglect or the rejection of Jesus. The writer of Hebrews (chapter 2, verse 3) says, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" Jesus is that salvation that cost God the life of His beloved Son. Jesus has now opened the gates to heaven and closed, the gates of hell to every believer who is born again.

If you are born again, you, too, are virgin born. John 1:11- 13 says, "He came unto His own and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power (privilege or authority) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born not of blood nor the will of the flesh, nor the will of man but of God." This reveals that man has nothing to do with the new birth. He is born again when he receives the seed of God, His Word. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, but that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Therefore, that which we receive in the new birth is a new spirit which is from God and makes us God-conscious. The soul, however, is not cleansed until it is joined to Jesus, the true vine. Note what John 1:12 says: "To as many as received Him . . . which were born of God, to them (the born-again ones) gave He power (right, privilege, or authority) to become sons of God." After we have been born again, God gives us the authority or privilege to join ourselves to Jesus in holy wedlock. The Bride of Christ is then chosen out of the kingdom, not out of the world. Abraham told his servant to go to the family of Isaac's

mother to get the bride for Isaac. He was not sent to look for her in the heathen world. When one is born into the Kingdom of God, he becomes eligible to become a part of the bridehood of Christ when his loyalty, consecration, and devotion become complete. Consider the marriage vows that form the human family. The true Church of Jesus Christ is His Bride and it is from this union that sons and daughters are born into the Kingdom.

Gabriel, who carried the divine seed of God's Word to Mary, means mighty man of God. When the mighty man of God, who stands in the pulpit, plants the divine seed of God's Word in the hearts of God's people, Christ is again formed in the womb of His body, the Church, and children will be born at the altars of our churches.

Pastor friend, lest you become exalted in your heart, let me remind you that your commission is from Jesus, not the Church. Jesus said, "As the Father hath sent me, so send I you. ... I am among you as one that serves." You are a servant. That hungry crowd that sits before you is expecting you to bring some fresh food from heaven's kitchen. You may not like it, but really you are a waiter. When the Holy Spirit gives you fresh food from His kitchen, you are given the holy privilege of taking it to those who are before you; to those whom He loves. Jesus broke the bread and fishes, but He gave them to His disciples to give to the people. Do not feed your people warmed-over sermons. Be sure they are fresh from the hands of the Holy Spirit. Remember, he that humbleth himself shall be exalted, and if any among you would be great, let him be the servant of all.

Do not forget that those you are preaching to are the Bride of Christ. Handle them gently and in love. But be faithful. Wait at the Savior's feet before you stand to your feet.

CHAPTER 8

The Mystery of Redemption

To understand the mystery of Redemption we must first understand the cause and the consequences of the Fall of man. First, there are two Adams, two families, two natures, two brides and two works of grace involved in God's amazing plan of salvation. The fall of the human race was caused by the unfaithfulness of one man, the first Adam. The salvation of the human family is brought about by the faithfulness of one man, the Man Christ Jesus, who is the Second Adam. The first Adam was the head, or the father, of the whole human race. The Second Adam, Jesus Christ, is the head of a new spiritual race which is born of God and not of man. In the new birth, the new spirit, which is born of God, is free from the carnal nature which the human family inherited from the first Adam.

There are now two natures in those who are born again. These two natures are in constant conflict. Galatians 5:17 says, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." Also read Romans 7:15-24.

To those of you who are truly born again, how often has Romans 7:14-25 been your experience? When this carnal sin nature causes you to do something you know is wrong you say, "Why did I do that?" Satan then comes and tries to convince you that you are not even saved. His purpose is to cause you to cast away your confidence in Christ and, thus, destroy your faith. Do not believe him. It was this carnal nature for which you are not responsible that still abides in your body that caused you to do it. The conflict between these two natures is typed by the conflict that continually existed between Ishmael, the son of the bondwoman, and Isaac, the son of the free woman. This conflict continues to this day between the children of Israel and the Arabs, the children of Ishmael.

The Cause

God faithfully warned Adam, "Do not partake of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil lest ye die." Knowledge is something that goes into the mind. Knowledge of good, Adam already had. Evil is the culprit that caused the fall of man. The mind of man is the seat of the soul. Science tells us the human mind consists of thirteen billion cells capable of retaining fifteen billion facts. God made our mind and He knew that the human mind retains everything we see, hear, or feel for our lifetime. Whatever goes into the filing cabinet of memory makes us what we are. Evil put into a mind that is pure, and Adam's mind was pure," would be like putting poison into a glass of pure water. Everything evil comes from Satan. Error is the fruit of evil.

The lie is the seed of Satan and it produces fruit of like kind. When Satan's seed was planted in the mind of Adam and Eve, it produced fruit after its kind and Adam and Eve received another nature which was Satan's nature. The nature of every fruit is found in the seed. God, therefore, knew that when Adam partook of the nature of evil he would

receive the nature of Satan. Satan also knew that if he could plant his evil nature in Adam, he could destroy the whole human family. He knew that God would never permit him or his evil spirit to enter heaven, for God had already passed the death sentence on him and those whom he controlled. In the Fall, man lost (1) his life, (2) his relationship to God, and (3) his inheritance.

When God created Adam he intended him to be as eternal as God, himself. The soul of man never dies in that it ceases to be. Death means separation, and when Adam fell his sin separated him from God. God created Adam a son (Luke 3:38), but, when he received the carnal spirit of Satan, he fell from sonship to suffering servitude to till the soil and live by the sweat of his brow. No longer did God come in the cool of the day and walk with him and Eve in the garden and the garden was closed to them. Adam also lost his inheritance which was the earth. He became Satan's servant. What the human family lost in the first Adam it regained in Christ the Second Adam.

God's Redemptive Plan

Redemption means to buy back, and because of His great love God devised His marvelous plan of redemption. He sent His kinsman as Redeemer, Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, to buy back and to "save that which was lost." Let us look at His plan.

In the Fall we inherited from the first Adam a carnal sin nature and death. This closed forever the gates of heaven to the human family of Adam. In Christ, the Second Adam, we inherit righteousness and life eternal. God, therefore, begins the creation of a new family which is the family of God. He sends His only begotten Son to be the Second Adam who is the head of the family. He follows the same blueprint that He used with the first Adam. Some may ask, "Why do you teach two works of grace?" The first work of God's grace is the new birth. When we are born again we receive a new spirit and we are "translated" out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son (Colossians 1:12-13).

The Inheritance of the Sanctified

Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit which joins the born-again believer to the heavenly Bridegroom in holy wedlock. Conversion may be likened to engagement to one that loves you. This one you have accepted to become a part of your life. You now become his by promise. In accepting Christ you no longer flirt with the world but you are true to Him that you might win Him (Philippians 3:8). You now have a new spirit. "Old things are passed away and, behold, all things are become new." You are now in love with Him. Sanctification is the wedding ceremony performed by the Holy Spirit and you are now His legal possession. When this takes place the old carnal nature dies and no longer has any dominion over you. You are now totally free. "He that the Son makes free is free indeed." You are now a part of His body. You now legally have some throne rights.

First, you, as a part of His body, known as the Bride of Christ, become a joint-heir with Christ. You are now a member of the royal family because of your union with God's only begotten Son. All of His promises are now yours. This is the new covenant

relationship known as the New Testament in His blood. The New Testament is a legal contract between God and His people. It brings fallen man back into the family of God. It blots out forever the sin record which is the works of the devil (I John 3:8).

Let us now consider these two brides. The first was Eve, the bride of the first Adam. The second is the Bride of Christ, the Second Adam. Because of the unfaithfulness of the first Adam, we inherited a devil nature called the carnal nature and death. Because of the faithfulness of Christ, the Second Adam, we inherit a new nature, righteousness and life eternal. The first Adam was created out of the dust of the earth because he was to be a part of the earth. Every living creature which God created He also created out of the dust of the earth except the bride for Adam. God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and He opened his side and took one of his ribs, out of which He made Eve. Eve became, therefore, not a part of the earth but a part of Adam, and God pronounced them one because she was a part of her husband's body.

Four thousand years later God caused a deep sleep of death to fall upon His Son, the Second Adam, and He took from His riven side water and blood and made the bride for the Second Adam, Jesus Christ. The Church is called the Body of Christ because she is an integral part of Christ, having come out of His sacrificed body. She is His partner to help Him save a lost human race. She, like Eve, is not made of earthly components but is taken from the sacrificed body of Christ. Jesus said, "Ye are not of this world even as I am not of this world."

The true Church of Jesus Christ is not an organization, for organizations are of man. The true Church is an organism, a living body that reproduces itself. It is an organism within an organization. It is literally a church within an organized church.

The organized body is likened to an army doing exploits for God. The Bride of Christ within the organized Church is likened unto a mother bearing children (Romans 7:4) and caring for and serving the family of God. She is one with Him because she is joined to Him in holy wedlock. Being married to the only begotten Son of God puts you in the highest place of honor in the royal family of God. The bride is the queen who sits on the throne with the king.

What, then, are the privileges of the sanctified children of the Heavenly Father?

1. They have no fear of death. They have passed from death unto life eternal. Jesus said, "He that liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26).

2. Jesus has abolished death (II Timothy 1:10).

3. They are no longer under law but under grace. Christ fulfilled all the demands and conditions required by the law. With every sin atoned for, and our sins and iniquities removed as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more forever against us, are we not clean? All the sins of the human family were placed upon the head of our scapegoat, Jesus Christ. He carried them away into the wilderness of hell and their pollution went with them. Now before God we are clean. We stand before God justified, which means just as if I had never sinned, and the heavenly record is clean. The sanctified stand before God "a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing: but that it should be holy and without blemish." This is the picture of the Bride of Christ. She will never be perfect in the eyes of the world who sees only human scars left by the Fall. Only the Resurrection can heal these scars; however, God sees the Bride as perfect as His Son. At Calvary all the works of Satan were

destroyed and Christ is victor and is now Lord of all creation. Human eyes cannot see this now. It can only be seen by the eyes of faith (Romans 1:20). God's Word declares it and I believe it. John's Gospel, chapter 14, was recorded for the sanctified, known as the Body of Christ. It is the body that Christ uses to build His eternal kingdom.

4. They are a reigning people that are not subject to the world system (John 17:8-20). They are a labor crew sent into the world which He uses to rebuild His kingdom and to help Him seek and save that which was lost in the Fall. They are kingdom builders. They are standard bearers. They are guardians over the King's property. They are a royal guard to protect those who are citizens of His kingdom. They are trained and know how to use the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. They are fearless soldiers of the cross. Millions of them have been martyred and their names are recorded in God's hall of fame. Among their number are those who are especially trained by the Spirit. They are recruiting officers who stand in the pulpits at home and abroad. These magnify the marvelous name of Jesus and seek to make disciples for Him.

5. Their bank account is a joint account with Jesus. They have the authority to attach His name to every request that is sent to the bank of heaven. The Father who is president of that bank never turns a check down that bears His Son's signature or one to whom He has given the power of attorney. Finally, they are career soldiers who have enlisted for life. As soldiers in the King's army, they are recognized and feared for their valor and courage. When they begin to wield the flaming sword of the Spirit, the enemy must flee. They are also faithful shepherds and guardians of God's flock to protect them from the devil's wolves.

Above all, as members of the King's family they are members of royalty and are the legal owners of this planet earth.

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