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RECONCILED AND SAVED

“For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.” (Rom.5:10) First and foremost, in Christ, we are “reconciled” to God. The word “reconcile” comes from the Latin ‘reconciliare’ which means to “bring together again,” or to “repair something that was broken.” So man has not always been the enemy of God, man became an enemy when he began loving the ways of the serpent, more than the ways of God. We were once spirit-beings in Christ, happily singing together. God asked, “Where were you Job, *When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*” (Job 38:7) This was indeed a wonderful time, but according to God’s purpose, this happy situation was meant to be severely interrupted. It was while in Christ, that we were chosen to reveal God’s invisible glory, throughout the visible realm of earth. We know the story of how the man Adam was formed from the dust of the earth, and by God’s breath, he became a “living soul.” His wife Eve, came out of his own body to be a help meet for him (on his level). In Adam, we all became earthly, living souls. The man is the spirit part, the life giving part, the seed bearer. The soul part is the woman, or the womb, the receiver of the seed life. Eve represents the soul part of man. When the soul made allegiance with the serpent, she brought down the entire creation into the realm of death. From that time on, man became an enemy of God. The soul took this man farther and farther down into darkness, and away from the knowledge of God.

Paul explains that *“...God hath chosen you to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”* (II Thes.2:13b) By the death of Jesus Christ, our spirits are reconciled to God, and we can again hear His voice and be saved by believing the truth. But this is not where the process stops, for Jesus is the Savior of our souls. When our spirits are made alive and we hear the voice of God again, our souls must turn to the voice and be obedient to the Spirit. God is not only bringing us back to where our spirits were before in Christ, He is creating a new man after the likeness and image of His Son. He is uniting heaven and earth in one new man. He is marrying our souls to His Spirit.

By His death, our spirit is able to again hear the voice of God, and now by His life in us, (Holy Spirit), our soul is able to see the Light and to follow Him unto full salvation. Our soul was created to be the bride of the Spirit, but she turned her affections toward her “self” and the pleasures of this world. She has been fed on the reasonings and wisdom of a world created to meet the cravings and passions of the sly serpent. The soul has to be turned away from these, and trained to love the things of the Spirit more than the things of earth. Daily, the faithful Holy Spirit is wooing her back unto Himself. I remember when my time came, and the Spirit began to stir my nest, I felt like I was suddenly lost in this endless universe, not knowing who I was and what I was there for. I was almost in panic, and literally fell on my knees calling unto the same God I had called upon when I was a child. This was over sixty years ago, when I was thirty. Since then, the Spirit has worked with my soul, to woo her unto Himself. He has never made “laws” for me, such as “Don’t read this, or don’t touch that,” but little by little, He has separated me from the love or desire I had for the things of this world. I know He is still working on me, but I also know that I no longer need or desire many of the things I used to love. Paul writes, *“Set*

your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Col. 3:2) This is accomplished by His life within us. This turning around is the true repentance that our soul goes through daily. Being reconciled, we are again on God’s side, and we take authority over the things that would bring our souls down into the pit again. This does not mean that we no longer do the menial works that we need to do in this life, on the contrary; we do everything with a new attitude and a renewed Spirit. We are learning to love the brethren, and the least of all creatures of God too. Our meditations are no longer upon ourselves only, but upon His Word and His plan. We listen to His voice, we search for Him, and we desire to know Him. When we find a part of Him, it gives pure joy to our hearts. Seeking Him takes precedence over filling ourselves with the politics, religions, economies and cultures of this world. This is what it means to be reconciled to God and saved by His life within us. As we behold Him through the testing of our every day life, through the sufferings that we are subjected to, through the many anxieties and perplexities, Christ is revealing His love, forming us and growing us into new creatures. This is the miracle of birth, the miracle of our new birth in spirit. The Word tells us that *“We all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”* (II Cor.3:18).

As we behold Him who is the truth and the life, we are changed. If we behold, believe and follow the ways of men, we think and act like they do. Paul makes our calling clear, *“...God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (II Thes.2:13-14) We have indeed been called to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. This we do as we behold and follow Him and not ourselves or any of man’s inflated, self-righteous and hypocritical ways.

To better understand this, we need to remember that Christ is not an “outer” spirit, Christ is the mystery of the glory within. *“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”* (II Cor.5:18-19) Almighty God, the creator, omnipresent, omniscient God of the universe, is everywhere; yet, He has chosen to dwell in us, through an anointing called “Christ” which He hid as a mystery within man. God had chosen Israel to be His bride, but she quickly fell in love with the gods of this world; the gods of the nations around her. She was called to be married to God, but became an adulteress. Speaking of backsliding Israel, God said, *“...I had to put her away, and given her a bill of divorce...”* (Jer.3:8). Israel was the bride of God, but she went astray. So was the church called to be the bride of Christ, but she became Mystery Babylon, the great harlot who is described in chapter 17 of the book of Revelation. She committed whoredom with the kings of this world and is perfectly described as *“...arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornications.”* (Rev.17:4). Christ has been looking for His true bride; she has been among the fornicators, but He is calling her out and He is cleansing her and preparing her for Himself.

Knowing all things from the beginning, God made His perfect plan so there could be no failure. He chose His bride and predestinated her from the foundation of the world. He knew who would hear His voice and follow, and who would yield to the discipline of His Spirit and become virgin, separated and cleansed from all earthly lovers. He knew the one whose heart would turn to Him; the one who would yield to His desire and become His true, forever bride. The marriage of the Spirit and the soul form the Christ-man within each who yield and follow Him. Paul declared, *“I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me.”* (Gal.2:20) At that point, we no

longer know the Son of God after the flesh. We no longer know Him only as Jesus who walked the earth, died in the flesh and rose again. Now we know Him as He is, the life within us; we see Him as He is. The Jesus that we once followed in the flesh has gone back to the Father, just as He said He would. *“And now O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”* (Jn.17:5) And through His Holy Spirit, Jesus has brought us to His Father’s house, to receive and marry our souls unto Himself. This is what Jesus explained to the disciples, when He said, *“I go to my Father’s house to prepare a place for you. I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”* (Jn.14:2b-3) Jesus came again in the person of His Holy Spirit, to prepare us and to escort us into this realm of eternal life with Him and the Father.

This is the new birth process that each of His creatures go through in Christ. This Christ creation is coming by harvests. Paul explained, *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order; Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.”* (I Cor.15: 22-23). Jesus Christ was the firstborn of this great harvest. Then Christ the firstfruits and so on. Speaking of this harvest, Jesus said, *“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”* (Matt.9:37-38). We have seen many labourers in the great harvests of reconciling souls unto God, but the labourers to harvest the firstfruits of His resurrection have been very few in comparison. Nevertheless, the time of this great harvest is at hand; the union has taken place and the true bride has brought forth her sons. *“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children (sons).”* (Isa,66:7-8) This nation of sons is being born even now. The time of this man child nation is here and about to be revealed to the world. The prophets of long ago, spoke of this. Even Abraham, was looking for the “city” whose builder and maker is God. We are privileged and greatly blessed to be the ones who see it while in the flesh. So we take heart and we contemplate with great admiration, this magnificent work of God’s eternal creation. There will be many more harvests in ages to come, but the age of the gathering of His church is now coming to its fulness in you and me and in the earth today. May it be according to your Word, dear Father.

I AM THE RESURRECTION

The most important teaching about the resurrection, is given by Jesus Himself as He stands, weeping by the tomb of His friend Lazarus, saying, *“I am the resurrection and the life...”* (Jn.11:25a). Resurrection is not a date on the calendar; resurrection is Christ Himself, risen from the dead, never to die again, *“Knowing that Christ being risen from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.”* (Rom.6:9) And Jesus appeared to John on Patmos saying, *“I am He that liveth and was dead. And behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And have the keys of hell and death.”* (Rev.1:18) And again, *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”* (Rev.1:11)

As the Spirit enlightens us, He also quickens us, (gives us life), and we begin to grasp the workings of this magnificent process. At this point, we are no longer tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine. A brother wrote, *“Resurrection is Christ who never dies in us!”* Jesus is not speaking only of His resurrection from the tomb where they laid Him; He is speaking of His arising from the earthly bodies of His elect company of sons and in time, of His entire creation. We may not yet have a clear picture of what this means, but by the Spirit, we are given a taste of the world to come. *“And have tasted the*

good word of God, and the power of the world to come.” (Heb.6:5) Resurrection, is the living Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, who was planted in us as a Seed, and has been marrying our soul and developing into a brand new being in us. “Examine yourselves, whether ye be of the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” (II Cor. 13:5). Through the ministry of His Holy Spirit, the power of His resurrection continually works in us, to cleanse us, (our souls), and change us from glory to glory into His image and likeness. Resurrection power works in us until our bodies of dust can no longer hold our new beings. “But if the Spirit of him that raised Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” (Rom.8:11).

When Paul stood on Mars Hill and addressed the heathens from Athens, He made a declaration that is actually the opposite of most Christian doctrines. He spoke of the true God, the Lord of heaven and earth. He explained that God does not dwell in temples made with hands, but that He is indeed the life of every man. *“Neither is he worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth...” (Acts 17:25-26)* Paul is saying that Christ is the life in every individual that dwells or dwelt or will dwell on this earth, but Christ is a mystery that can only be revealed by the Spirit. Through resurrection power, and in God’s order, Christ within man is being raised into a new creature. Like fruit on a tree, this process takes place step by step, and the fruit closer to the sun, on top of the tree, ripens first; so are the firstfruits of His resurrection.

Paul writes to the immature church, *“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.” (Gal.4:19)* Christ is the life of God within His bride. The Holy Spirit is the One who prepares her to hear His voice, and to receive the incorruptible Seed that He plants in the womb of her soul. In this way, the soul is being born again and becomes a new creature in Christ. *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the word of God, which abideth and liveth forever.” (I Pet.1:23)* Indeed, the Holy Spirit cleanses our souls of all the lies that man’s carnal knowledge and dead religions have poured into our hearts and minds. And He leads our souls into all truths. In the ages to come, we will behold the wonders that the Lord has wrought in the world. From the foundation of the world, Christ in man has held the glory of the world to come in a mystery. The Lamb was truly slain from the foundation of the world. *“And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.” (Rev.6:13)* The Lamb is truly the gift of God to every man, but He has been held prisoner by the strong man of our carnal houses. From deep within, the soul yearns for this Christ to be raised and to take His place as her Beloved, but the strong man has held her down in the darkness of the fear of death and hell. And so now, the words of all the prophets are being fulfilled, and the last trump of God is blowing through the church, *“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.” (Isa.60:1)*

Oh beloved, resurrection is not a short, limited edition of God’s glorious work; it is the full deliverance of God’s beloved creation. It began with Jesus, then in His firstfruits, then unto His ever increasing kingdom. We are indeed, coming out of the gross darkness of this world, into the glorious liberty of the children of God. *“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.” (Rom.8:19)* Father, may it be according to your Word.

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*