

Copyright © 2009
Sylvia D. Pearce
All rights reserved

Published by:
Christ, Our Life Ministries, Inc.
Po Box 43268
Louisville, Ky. 40253

_____Program 13_____

God's Provision in Christ, Unfolds in Two Stages of Restoration

The blood of Christ is for the cleansing of all our sins. The words to these two songs that I learned as a child still ring true in me today.



"What can wash away our sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make us whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus"...

"There is power, power wonder working power in the blood of the lamb..."

- **Col.1:14** through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins
- **Col.1:20** The blood of His cross to reconcile all things
- **Rom.3:24-25** Justified freely by His grace, through faith in His blood
- **Rom.5:1** Peace with God by His blood
- **1Peter1:18-20** Redeemed by the precious blood of Christ
- **Heb.10:12** One sacrifice for sins forever

Through the BLOOD of Christ we have Deliverance from the fruit of sin which are *sins*

- **IICor.5:19** Reconciliation (makes us accepted by canceling the debt we owe)
- **Rom.5:1** Peace with God & Justification (just as if I had never sinned)
- **Col.1:14** Redemption and Forgiveness of sins
- **Eph.2:4-10;Heb. 10:14** Assurance of salvation
- **Rom.8:23-25** The hope of the glory of God (glorious bodily resurrection)

The Provision

The Cross is God's provision for mankind's deliverance and freedom from the Satanic Fall. Fallen man is hopelessly lost and dead in trespasses and sins. We are deceived beyond what most would think. Most of us think that our five senses tell us what reality is. However, what we don't know is through the Fall of Adam, man has lost his divine mind. Now man is left with his natural senses and His own separated thinking. Satan's "spirit of error," has deceived us by invading our humanity, blinding us beyond 'natural' repair. The cure cannot be obtained by human improvement. There is no other cure but death of the old, and the birth of a new creation. Thus, the necessity of the Cross, which is God's glorious instrument of reconciliation. He sacrificed His only begotten Son as a

substitutionary sacrifice on our behalf, for our sins. This cut the satanic problem to the root, thereby, destroying the works of the devil. The work of the Cross, redeems and restore us back to our original union with our Father God.

The Cross is the remedy for our fallen condition. It changes us from the "old man" or, "old nature" into a glorious "New Man". William Law says that to be "born again of the Spirit of God," one is delivered from the vanity of time and raised through Christ's resurrection into the riches of eternity. It is a total transformation. One that not only forgives and remits our sins, but transforms our humanity, spirit, soul, and body. Romans 8:21 says, we "shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God".

We, who are, "born again" are new Spirit persons in union with the Savior through the Holy Spirit. We are anointed with a new Spirit mind of "truth", so that the authority that Satan had over us has no more power. So, we not only are forgiven from our past sins, but are also set free from the present **power** of sin as well; and the body, expressing sins, will be done away with (Rom. 6:6). So we are forgiven as well as set free from "the power sin". Our freedom brings us an anointing as the Holy Spirit of God births us into the Kingdom of His dear Son (Col. 1:13-14. "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

The Apostle Paul says, "I'm determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (I Cor.2:2). Paul knows nothing save the Cross. Why is that the only thing that he wants to know? I believe it is because the death, burial and resurrection of Christ is the very **POWER** of the universe, and the "dynamo" of God bringing forth transformation (I Cor. 1:18). The knowledge of the Cross certainly transmuted Paul's own personal life from being a killer of Christ, to being a lamb killed for Christ's sake all the day long.

Paul's Greatest Heart Ache Was His Greatest Glory

"When, on the road to Damascus, Saul of Tarsus, "breathing out threatening and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord," beheld the risen Lord, falling blinded to the earth, he did not go to Jerusalem, as we read in Gal.1:16-17, to confer with the apostles. At first sight this would seem to have been a colossal error, for he knew nothing of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and they had so much which they might have taught him. But no; it was solitude which Paul most needed in that hour, when the voice which came from the glory said, "I am Jesus."

How that revelation must have seared and blasted Saul's soul. This Jesus of Nazareth, whom the Jews had hated, persecuted and reviled, nailing Him at last to an ignominious cross to die the most shameful of deaths between two criminals, was, after all, none other than the promised Messiah, the Christ of God, God manifest in the flesh! Little wonder he did not wish to confer with flesh and blood, but plunged rather into the Arabian desert where for three years he held holy converse in deepest solitude with God and with his own soul. "This Jesus whom we crucified as a fraud, a blasphemer, and an imposter—the one who by the word of his power upholds all things (Heb. 1:3), the one in whom "dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col. 2:9), the one by whom "all things both in heaven and on earth were made" (Col. 1:16)! I can hear Paul say to himself, as he broods in the solitudes of the Arabian desert—"How terrible! How deep the mystery! How hideous and how black the sin!

But Paul was not alone. He declared in after years that the Gospel which he preached was not received from man; he was not taught it, he says "but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" Gal. 1:12). The Savior Himself was His Own Interpreter to

Paul. This once proud Pharisee would surely have died of shame and remorse (no one had persecuted the church as he) had not the Lord stood by him and given him the light of His own interpretation of the Cross. It was as when Joseph spoke to his brethren, saying, "Ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive". "Take it not so to heart, Paul." God must have said to this chosen vessel of his, "Ye meant it for evil, but through this very Cross, so shameful and so hideous, I will save the world".

Paul came out from his desert retreat aflame with a Message—the heart of the New Testament Revelation. To him, it was given to develop, unfold and apply the unfathomable implication of the Cross and the empty tomb. Now gloried in the Cross as he. Three years in the lonely wastes of the Arabian desert with the awful shadow of Calvary upon him and the risen Son of God at his side had done their work. Henceforth he was to know nothing save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. It was to be all of grace not mixed with even the slightest trace of the Law. The Gentile was to be on an equal footing with the Jew in the Church (the body of Christ) without ministration of a single Jewish rite, for the all sufficient reason that Christ had died for all. Redemption was through His Blood! It was by faith, and faith alone, that men were to be justified and find peace with God. It was Paul who formulated the great principles which were to lie at the heart of the Church's life and growth all down the centuries. It was this man in whose Epistles there is hardly a reference to the Savior's earthly ministry and teaching, but who best understood the immeasurable meaning of Calvary: this one who counted all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus the Lord, and who was willing to count it all but dung if he might only win Christ and be found in Him. It was this man, who was God's chosen vessel to bear the Savior's name before "the Gentiles and Kings and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15)."¹

None of the other apostles in the New Testament taught the meaning of the Cross like the Apostle Paul. And no wonder, his pain and shame for killing the early Christians tormented him. The knowledge of the Cross and the grace of God transformed his shame into his personal liberation which became his greatest glory, and our greatest glory as well. His greatest liability became his greatest asset. There would not be the fullness of the gospel preached today without Paul's divine understanding of the Cross.

So, now let us look at just some of the benefits and glories of our great inheritance in the Cross. When we say, "the Cross," we do not merely mean the crucifixion of Christ, but the death, the burial, the resurrection, and the ascension to the throne, as well as the glories vested to us believers by way of the Cross. The Cross is not specifically a line of teaching, it is not a department of truth, it is not just another message delivered, **it is the center or hub of all gospel truth**. It is the basis, and the explanation of everything taught.

If Leviticus, with its myriad of sacrifices, its rivers of blood, means anything, it means that God meets man on but **one** basis, and that is the basis of the Cross. But why does God demand blood and death? Is God sadistic? Even the Son, Jesus, told His audience in John 10:17 that, "Therefore does my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it up again." So, God the Father loves the Son, Jesus, because He lays down His life and dies. However, this verse is not just speaking of death, this verse speaks of resurrection as well. Could it be that the only way to resurrection life is through death?

Could it be the reason that God, the Father, loves death is because God operates the Cross, Himself? I believe we are getting to the bottom of the answer as to why God loves the Cross. There

¹ THE ENTHRONED CHRISTIAN BY F. J. HUEGEL Chapter 2 page 7

is, and ever will be a Cross in the heart of God! The "Living" source of the whole universe came out of a death to God's own self potential **for** being just for Himself. Therefore, all that we call LIFE is birthed out of death to the potential of self-centered. Am I saying that God could have been self-centered? Yes, He could have been for Himself, but instead He eternally said "**NO**". He is the one and only Person in the universe who said, "**NO**" to being for Himself. He chose the way of the Cross which is self-giving love. Thereby decided to be a self-giving Lamb for others.

Remember, personhood means freedom of choice. God, the One Person in the universe, created us derivative persons in His own image. Out of His infinite freedom with the same God-given capacity of choice. We were not created like the animals and plants. Plants and animals do not have God's personhood with this royal capacity. They are created as fixed servants without any eternal choice yet fulfilling their God-given purposes.

So, God created man uniquely in His same image (Gen. 1:26; Psa.8:4-6). Choice can only be initiated when there is at least two different alternative to choose from. When you say "yes" to one thing, the other alternative, not chosen, dies or fades from ones consciousness. Therefore, God died to ever being for Himself and now lives eternally to be a blessing for His creation.

All life springs out of death. Even nature testifies to this truth. There is hardly a page in the book of nature which fails to emphasize the fact that all life springs out of death. Not a tree, not a blossom, not a shrub, not a fruit exist without the cost of the death to a seed. Just think of what we eat and what we wear, every plant, every animal which gives up its life, does it to give life to others. Do they do it voluntarily? No! Only Jesus can do that. But, I must say that there is something deep inside every living creature that knows it is being sacrificed for others, thereby fulfilling a higher purpose for living.

What Does the Cross Mean to Us?

The remedy, which is the promises of the New Covenant, is based on the death of the "testator." "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is only in effect after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth" (Hebrews 9:16-17). Therefore, "without the shedding of the blood" (the death of Jesus Christ), there is no remission for sins" (Hebrews 9:22).

The Cross is the power of our forgiveness, the power that causes us to become a "New Creation". It is the power of our salvation, spirit, soul, and the power of our final bodily resurrection. Personally, it is the power of Christ's life within that causes us to have peace with God; it is the power to release us from condemnation and guilt. It is the power that can cause us to become children of the most High God. No other authority or power on earth can do that, only the blood of Jesus.

The Cross is the source of all LIVING transforming power in the universe. Paul says in I Corinthians 1:18 that, "For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God." The Cross is both the instrument of death as well as the source of all life. There has to be Calvary before there is Pentecost. There has to be a Cross before there is a crown. For, the power of Jesus' resurrection is birthed out of the slow and agonizing death of the Cross.

The Cross has put to death all that Satan has stolen and ravished in us through the Fall as well as restored back to us all that was lost in Adam and even more. For by the power of the Cross we are delivered, cleansed, healed, restored, regenerated, redeemed, reconciled, justified, sanctified, and glorified. The metamorphic power of the Cross has transformed us both spiritually and genetically from the old creation in Adam, to the new creation in Christ. The Cross delivers us from the

powers of darkness in Satan, and translates us into the Light Kingdom of the Son, "that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14).

"The reign of "the father of lies" has been judicially terminated by the blood of the Cross. All people everywhere are now potentially free from Satan's yoke. This truth only needs faith to make it actual into experience. "If the Son shall set you free, you shall be free indeed"(John8:36). All authority, both in heaven and in earth, has been given to the risen Christ. And that same power is now given to all who will believe. This authority springs from the believer's oneness with His Savior who is his very life, "bone of His bone, flesh of his flesh," soul of his soul.

The Cross is the great separator or divider. It is the sword of the Spirit that: Separates the old man (Satan in us) from the new man (Christ in us) (Rom. 6:6); it separates indwelling Sin (Romans 7:17) from Christ who indwells us and is the New Creation, us (Galatians 2:20); it discerns the lie from the truth; it discerns the soul thoughts and feelings, from spirit realities (Heb.4:12); it divides fleshly self-effort from the Spirit walk of faith (Hebrews 4:10). And finally it is the sword of the Spirit (the Cross) that separates independent-self (who we are not) from the unified self (who we really are in Christ) (Rom. 7:17).

The Cross' purpose is to separate, then cleanse and restore. What we want to underline is the revelation that the Cross separates us from this world (Gal 6:14); from the misuse of the flesh (Gal. 5:24); from Satan's authority, and his jurisdiction (Col. 2:15). The Cross then reunites mankind to Christ, who is the power of New Life, thereby, regaining man's lost paradise.

As Col. 2:11 says, "We *are* circumcised with the circumcision not made with hands". Since Spiritual circumcision happened at The Cross, then the circumcision factor is working in our lives today. The Cross wields death to what is not (false fleshly realities), and life to what is (all that we are in Christ).

At the Cross, all the cause and nature of separation from God was destroyed. And in Christ's resurrection our restoration and union with God is perfected. The Cross brings us into living union and oneness with God.

So, there is great power in the BLOOD of Christ. It is the seal of the New Covenant. The Bible proclaims: "we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Eph. 1:7); we have peace with God, "through the blood of his Cross" (Col. 1:20); "we are elect through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 1:2); we are redeemed by "the precious blood of Christ" (I Peter 1:19); we are cleansed daily by "the blood of Jesus Christ" (I John 1:7); and we are "washed from our sins in His own blood"(Rev. 1:5). We are washed (Rev. 1:5), cleansed (I John 1:7); declared blameless (Eph. 1:3-4); declared justified (Rom. 5:9); and made over-comers (Rev. 12:11) by the blood of the Lamb.

Now we sing a new song unto our God "for thou was slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God, kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth" (Rev.5: 9-10).

The precious cleansing blood of Jesus provides remission of our sins--the shedding of that blood in public two thousand years ago was conclusive evidence that He paid the full price for the remission of sins. We are saved from sins' eternal consequences by inheriting eternal life through faith in the **precious blood** of Jesus.