

# The Nature and Consequence of Sin and God's Solution : Part 1

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We are told that "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." -- Genesis 1:1. The Bible informs us that our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ -- yes, they worked together according to the Scriptures -- invested Six Days in creating everything: From the Earth itself, to the Sun and the Moon, to the divisions of land and seas, to all land-based and water-based creatures. As we all know, last of all, as their crowning achievement, Father and Son made the first human pair. That is to say, Adam and Eve, as we can see by these two verses:

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

Genesis 1:26-27, KJV

We are told that Father and Son looked upon everything which they had created during those Six Days and "saw that it was good". Well, it was good for a while at least. Everything was just fine and dandy. I mean it was just totally hunky-dory. Now we do not know precisely when everything began to fall apart, because the Holy Bible doesn't exactly make it clear, insofar as the actual timeline is concerned. What we do know is that in the second chapter of the Book of Genesis, God gave Adam and Eve one simple commandment, or law, as we see by the following two verses:

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."  
Genesis 2:16-17, KJV

At this point in our story, we could easily diverge into a lot of different tangents, and ask a lot of very interesting questions. For example, was this commandment meant to serve as an intentional test of Adam and Eve's love, loyalty and obedience? Why did God do this if, being the all-knowing God that we believe Him to be, He already knew in advance that they were bound to fail such a simple test? Why create such a temptation and then say "But don't you dare touch it!"? If you have already read some of my other BBB articles, or have conducted your own Biblical research, then you probably know the answer to these questions already.

At any rate, some time after God had warned Adam and Eve to stay away from "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil", that vile serpent -- Satan -- presented himself to Eve, and tempted her with the forbidden tree and fruit. Eve knew full well the commandment which God had given to them. She knew the house rules, or Garden Rules. In fact, she even recited it to the Devil, as we see by the following verses:

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."  
Genesis 3:1-3, KJV

Nevertheless, despite knowing full well that it was wrong to even be near that particular tree, dear Eve was simply unable to resist taking a bite out of that delicious fruit, whatever it was, after that crafty Father of Lies had spun his web of deception. Thus we continue to read the following sad lines in the Book of Genesis:

"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."

Genesis 3:4-6, KJV

Thousands of years later, the Apostle Paul would write the following lines in his various Epistles regarding this very same tragic incident:

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

2 Corinthians 11:3, KJV

"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."

1 Timothy 2:11-14, KJV

I am likewise reminded of something which Jesus said to the unbelieving Jews -- the Pharisees in this particular case -- while He was in the treasury in the temple in Jerusalem. You will find this incident mentioned in the eighth chapter of the Gospel of John. Many of my readers are no doubt already familiar with this well-known verse:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

John 8:44, KJV

What I find rather interesting about this verse is that not only does the Lord outright say that the Devil is a liar, but He also says that Satan has been "a murderer from the beginning". Upon reading that verse, many of us immediately think of how Cain rose up against his brother Abel and slew him in a fit of rage and jealousy in Genesis chapter four. However, it just occurred to me that, in reality, this was not the Devil's first murderous act. You see, in a sense, he motivated Adam and Eve to commit an act of spiritual suicide when they partook of the forbidden fruit. Indirectly, Satan in fact murdered them! So let's continue.

Of course, from the very moment that Adam and Eve bit into the forbidden fruit, they both realized that they had really blown it in a major way. While they probably were not fully aware of the negative repercussions which their rebellious and foolish actions would have on future generations, at the very least, they knew that they were in trouble. In fact, we are told that they were so fearful of retribution, once the Lord had discovered what they had done, that they tried to run from the Lord and hide themselves, as we can determine by the following group of verses:

"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

Genesis 3:7-13, KJV

And there we have the very first Biblical example of what we today call passing the buck. "It was not my fault, Lord! It was the woman that YOU gave to me, Lord! She is really the one to blame! She made me eat it, Lord!" Of course, Eve did not want to accept the blame for their disobedience either, so she tried to blame their rebellion on the serpent. "It was that sneaky serpent, Lord! He beguiled me! He deceived

me!"

Human nature just never changes, does it? Thousands of years later, and we're still doing the very same thing. If there's one thing which the Scriptures makes rather clear, it is the fact that despite our best efforts, and regardless of our ridiculously feeble attempts to do so, there is absolutely nothing which we can really hide from the face of the Lord. This Biblical truth becomes quite evident in the following group of verses. There are quite a few of them, but they all really focus in on this truth. God's Word is just so to the point, and sharp, as in Hebrews 4:12:

". . . behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."

Numbers 32:23, KJV

"For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings."

Job 34:21, KJV

"For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."

Psalms 51:3, KJV

"O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee."

Psalms 69:5, KJV

"Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance."

Psalms 90:8, KJV

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Proverbs 15:3, KJV

"Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD."

Jeremiah 23:24, KJV

"He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him."

Daniel 2:22, KJV

". . . Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or

under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad."

Mark 4:21-22, KJV

"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known."

Luke 12:2, KJV

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."

John 15:22, KJV

"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

Hebrews 4:13, KJV

"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Romans 14:10-12, KJV

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

2 Corinthians 5:10, KJV

"Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead."

1 Peter 4:4-5, KJV

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."

## Revelation 20:11-13, KJV

So as you can plainly see, trying to hide something from God is pretty much a pointless endeavor, and really an exercise in futility. It is much better to just humble ourselves and be honest with the Lord. At any rate, as some of the previous Scriptures point out, through their foolish act of disobeying God's very first commandment -- or law -- to stay away from "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil", and not partake of its fruit, Adam and Eve committed the very first sin. But exactly what is a sin? The Apostle John explains to us in a very straightforward manner in the following verse that sin is the transgression of God's Laws:

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

1 John 3:4, KJV

But what do those words "transgresseth" and "transgression" actually mean? According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, they are translated from the Koine Greek word "ἀνομία" -- which is pronounced "anomia" or "an-om-ee'-ah" -- which it defines in the following manner:

----- Begin Quote -----

- 1) the condition of without law
  - 1a) because ignorant of it
  - 1b) because of violating it
- 2) contempt and violation of law, iniquity, wickedness

----- End Quote -----

So sin basically means to live or behave outside of God's Laws. It means to violate God's Laws. In short, sinners are lawbreakers, because they break God's holy Laws. For that very reason, Adam and Eve became the very first sinners on the Earth the moment that they chose to eat of the forbidden fruit. Why? Because they violated God's commandment when He told them to not touch that particular tree, or eat of its fruit.

While this act of rebellion was apparently the first sin which was committed on the Earth by us humans, let me point out that it was obviously not the very first sin which had ever been committed. After all, by this point in time, we know that the Devil was already working in rebellion against

God's order. In fact, while tempting Eve, that vile serpent basically accused God of being a liar. In so many words, the Devil was saying "Eve, there is something that God is hiding from you. There is something which He does not want you to know. Eve, ye shall be as gods!" And thus the trap was set!

However, if there is one thing we know from the Scriptures, it is that God is NOT a liar. He is a man of His word. What He says, He most certainly does. He keeps His promises every time. Again, this particular point is substantiated by Bible verses such as the following:

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"  
Numbers 23:19, KJV

"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."  
Romans 3:4, KJV

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"  
Titus 1:2, KJV

"He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he."  
Deuteronomy 32:4, KJV

"Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me,  
O LORD God of truth."  
Psalm 31:5, KJV

"That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes."  
Isaiah 65:16, KJV

"And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not."  
John 8:45, KJV

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6, KJV

In contrast to the previous group of verses, in addition to John 8:44 which we already discussed, the following group of Scriptures also declare that it is we humans who often lie; particularly when it comes to the issues of Jesus Christ and sin. Rather than admit our guilt, rather than embrace Jesus Christ, we prefer to accuse God instead, and to even deceive ourselves, sad to say:

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."

1 John 2:22, KJV

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."

1 John 5:10, KJV

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us . . . If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

1 John 1:8, 10, KJV

You will recall that earlier in our discussion, we learned that God had warned Adam and Eve that "in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." While Adam and Eve did not die in a physical sense that day, they did die in a spiritual sense, in that their wonderful communion with God had been broken. Many years later -- centuries, in fact -- they would die physical deaths as well. But that spiritual separation from God was reflected in the physical realm as well when Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden, as we see by the following set of verses:

"And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

Genesis 3:22-24, KJV

Clearly then, one of the by-products of our sins is that

they separate us from God, and they set up this invisible wall between ourselves and our Creator. This point becomes very evident in the following group of verses:

"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."  
Isaiah 59:1-2, KJV

"Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you."  
Jeremiah 5:25, KJV

As I pointed out earlier in this series, at first, Adam and Eve could not possibly have known the full gravity of their mistake. When they took that forbidden bite, it probably did not occur to them how their actions would affect all future generations of human beings upon the Earth. After all, at that point in time, Eve had not even given birth yet to Cain and Abel, or to Seth, or to any of their other children. And, yes, in case you are not aware of it, Adam and Eve did in fact have other children besides Cain and Abel, and Seth. This point is made clear in the following two verses which are found in Genesis chapter five:

"And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth: And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:"  
Genesis 5:3-4, KJV

While Adam and Eve may have at first been oblivious to the severity of their mistake, as the years passed, and they and their offspring tilled the land, and produced food through hard work and by the sweat of their brow, the horrible truth no doubt became more apparent to them. Having lived in the Garden of Eden where all they had to do was take care of it, what a contrast it must have been once they were cast out of that wonderful place. In fact, the Lord clearly warned them of what the future held in the following verses. I believe that what the Lord is saying here, is that dear Eve would conceive in sorrow, knowing ahead of time what a hard life awaited their children, and how much they would suffer, in comparison to the easy life which she and Adam had lived in the Garden of Eden:

"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Genesis 3:16-19, KJV

Writing in retrospect, the Apostle Paul informs us that this is exactly how sin and death entered into the world, and how they were passed on to all human beings, as we can determine by the following set of verses. Please notice in particular how Paul states "even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression." It is as if the Apostle is comparing sin and death to a genetic, inherited disease. In other words, even if you are not outright guilty yourself, nevertheless, sin and death claim you as well. There is no escaping them:

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come."

Romans 5:12-14, KJV

It is for that same reason that we find a number of similar verses throughout the Bible which likewise plainly declare that we are sinners who are born in sin, and that we have no righteousness of our own. Consider the following examples:

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

Psalms 51:5, KJV

"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."

Ecclesiastes 7:20, KJV

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one . . . For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Romans 3:10, 23, KJV

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

Isaiah 64:6, KJV

"They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

Psalms 14:3, KJV

Despite the Biblical truths which are so clearly expressed in the previous group of verses, there are so many people in the world today who still like to pat themselves on the back and say "Oh, I think that I am a good person. I have never committed any serious crimes. I think I am in pretty good standing with God." That is, if they even believe in God. My friends, even if you have never been caught committing what we might refer to as a major crime, the truth of the matter is that we all have our secret, dirty, little sins. Perhaps we can conceal them well from our friends and neighbors, but let us not forget this verse which I shared with you earlier:

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Proverbs 15:3, KJV

Likewise, again, let us not forget the soul-searching words which the Apostle John wrote in his first Epistle:

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us . . . If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

1 John 1:8, 10, KJV

Quite frankly, to suggest that we can compare our standard of righteousness with God's high standard of righteousness, is quite ludicrous, to say the least. So, rather than pat ourselves on the back and proudly declare ourselves so good and righteous -- just like the Scribes and Pharisees of old who loved the praises of men -- what we all really need to do is adopt an attitude of sincere humility, as is clearly

reflected in the following two verses:

"If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"

Psalms 130:3, KJV

"But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:"

Malachi 3:2, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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The Nature and Consequence of Sin and God's Solution : Part 2

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We Are All Lawbreakers and Sinners, The Wicked Heart Of Man, We Have Received A Death Sentence Due To Sin, We Were In A Predicament And Without Hope In The World, God's Divine Plan, Jesus Was Sent To Close The Breach That Was Opened By Adam And Eve, The Offence And Free Gift, First Man Adam And Last Adam, We Are Made Righteous Through Christ's Obedience, He Was Obedient Unto Death, By The Counsel And Foreknowledge Of God, The Righteousness Of God Without The Law Through Faith In Jesus Christ, No Middle Ground: Saved By Works Or Saved By Grace, No Man Is Justified By The Works Of The Law, Jewish Attempts To Establish Their Own Righteousness Without Christ, Laws Of Moses Define Sin For Us And Inform Us We Are Sinners Who Stand Guilty Before God, The Law Was Our Schoolmaster To Bring Us Unto Christ, Sin Is Not Imputed When There Is No Law, We Are Not Under The Law But Under Grace Through Our Faith In Christ, We Are Dead To The Law, Jesus Christ Is The End Of The Law For Righteousness, Modern Legalism, Beware Of Hebrew Roots And Sacred Name Movements, Apostle Paul Haters, Paul Rebukes

## The Galatians, Jesus Was Made Sin And A Curse For Our Sakes, Jesus Came To Set Us Free From the Legalistic Yoke Of Bondage

Continuing our discussion from part one, as we've now seen, whether we like it, believe it or accept it or not, God's Word does not pull punches, and plainly declares that we are sinners. In some ways, whether we are willing to admit it to ourselves or not, and whether or not we have even realized it, we have all broken some of God's Laws. We have violated His Laws. Therefore, we are lawbreakers and sinners in His sight. As the Scriptures also inform us, in addition to the fact that we inherited our sinful nature from Adam and Eve, the reason why this is so, is because the unregenerate heart of man is actually quite evil. This Biblical truth likewise becomes evident by verses such as the following:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

Genesis 6:5, KJV

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Jeremiah 17:9, KJV

"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man."

Matthew 15:18-20, KJV

"And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

Mark 7:20-23, KJV

So much for falsely declaring that we are wonderful people who are good at heart by nature. It just is not true. That is NOT the way that God sees us at all. Unless we have been regenerated by His Spirit, we can be downright evil. Thus,

another popular secular saying goes down the tubes. As we have also learned, because of the fact that we are sinners, sentence has been pronounced upon us, and that sentence is death; both physical death, as well as eternal separation from God. Let me remind you again of that verse from Romans chapter five, along with a few more which confirm this important truth:

"Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come . . . I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

John 8:21, 24, KJV

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned . . . That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:12, 21, KJV

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? . . . For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:16, 23, KJV

"The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law."

1 Corinthians 15:56, KJV

"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"

Ephesians 2:5, KJV

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

James 1:14-15, KJV

Clearly then, because of the original sin of Adam and Eve, which we have all sadly inherited from that original pair, we find ourselves in quite a predicament. Or more correctly stated, we DID find ourselves in that hopeless predicament.

And indeed, it was a hopeless situation; for as the Apostle Paul also writes:

"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, HAVING NO HOPE, and without God in the world:"  
Ephesians 2:12, KJV

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, EVEN AS OTHERS WHICH HAVE NO HOPE."  
1 Thessalonians 4:13, KJV

Thus far in this series, we have clearly defined both the origin of sin, and the nature of sin, as well as the sad consequences which have resulted from sin; that of course being death. However, thankfully, as some of the previous verses likewise begin to reveal, we are NOT without hope, because our Heavenly Father put into motion a Divine Plan which would free us from the curse of the Law, as well as from death itself, if we are willing to meet His conditions. As you may already know, that wonderful plan centers around Jesus Christ. It is for that reason that in the previous group of verses, the Apostle Paul wrote the following:

"even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord . . . but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord . . . hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"

Thus, in his Epistle to the Romans, after explaining to his readers how sin and death entered into this world through Adam and Eve, Paul continues to explain how God sent His Son into the world, in order to repair the breach, so that we can partake of His Grace and Mercy, and inherit the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Consider the following verses. I have added some words in brackets for the sake of clarification:

"But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one [meaning Adam] many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned [meaning Adam], so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation [meaning by Adam], but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence [meaning by Adam] death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the

gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one [meaning by Adam] judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [meaning by Jesus] the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners [meaning by Adam], so by the obedience of one [meaning by Jesus] shall many be made righteous."

Romans 5:15-19, KJV

The Apostle Paul uses the same kind of comparison between Adam and Jesus in his first Epistle to the Corinthian brethren when discussing the resurrection and transformation of the dead. In fact, in the verses below, Paul refers to Jesus as "the last Adam" and "the second man".

"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven."

1 Corinthians 15:45-47, KJV

In fact, if we go back to Romans 5:14 -- which I shared with you in part one -- Paul told us that Adam "is the figure of him that was to come." In that Scripture, Paul is of course referring to Jesus Christ. In essence, we can say then that Jesus was a kind of replacement for Adam, just as Seth was a replacement for Abel, following his murder by his jealous brother, Cain. In other words, while the first Adam failed God's test of love, loyalty and obedience, Jesus -- who is the last Adam -- passed that same test with flying colors, even though it led Him straight to the Cross. And it was a direct result of Jesus' obedience to His Father's will, that we can now be made righteous today, simply by accepting His Sacrifice as valid Atonement for our sins. As we read just a moment ago:

"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

Romans 5:19, KJV

Let me share two more related verses with you which are found in Paul's Epistle to the brethren at Philippi, which again clearly demonstrate exactly how obedient Jesus was. He humbled Himself, and He went all the way to the Cross:

"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."  
Philippians 2:7-8, KJV

I delve more into this topic regarding Jesus' submission in the series entitled "So You Really Think You Are So Humble?" Of course, as the Apostle Peter explained to his audience in Acts chapter two, all of these things happened by the counsel and foreknowledge of God, according to His Divine Plan, as we can easily determine by the following set of verses:

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it."  
Acts 2:22-24, KJV

If you take the time to slowly and carefully read Paul's entire Epistle to the Romans, you will quickly see that he dwells upon this same central theme throughout his letter. Over and over again, Paul informs his readers that trying to justify ourselves through our own works, and endeavoring to achieve our own righteousness through observance of the Mosaic Law, just won't work. It is an exercise in futility. The only righteousness to be had, is obtained through faith in the Atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Period. There is no other way. Consider the following additional verses that are found in this very same Epistle:

"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe . . . Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law?

of works? Nay: but by the law of faith."

Romans 3:21-22, 24-27, KJV

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:6-8, KJV

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:11, KJV

"And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

Romans 8:10, KJV

In short, there is no middle ground here. There is no sitting on the fence. We either believe that we are saved and made righteous by our own supposed good works, or else we believe that we are only saved and made righteous by the Grace of God through our faith in the Atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Paul tells us the very same thing in the following Scripture which is likewise found in his Epistle to the Roman brethren:

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

Romans 11:6, KJV

Can the truth be any clear than that? Turning to the Apostle Paul's Epistles to the Galatians and to the Philippians, we find him saying the exact same thing. That is, that we have no righteousness of our own, and that we simply cannot be justified by the works of the Law. We must depend solely on the righteousness of God which comes through faith in Christ. In fact, Paul states that if we really believe that we can achieve our own righteousness through the works of the Law, then Christ died in vain! In other words, everything that He suffered through was just a complete waste of time, as well as a needless waste of His life. However, as I have already made quite clear, our own self-righteous works just will not cut it, my friends. Consider what the Apostle Paul wrote:

"Knowing that a man is NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed

in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and NOT BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW: FOR BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW SHALL NO FLESH BE JUSTIFIED . . . I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then CHRIST IS DEAD IN VAIN."

Galatians 2:16, 21, KJV

"But that NO MAN IS JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."

Galatians 3:11, KJV

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Galatians 5:4, KJV

"And be found in him, NOT HAVING MINE OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"

Philippians 3:9, KJV

It is amazing how clear the previous verses are, and yet so many legalistic Christians -- and Jews as well -- still miss it. It goes right over their heads. They still want to mix God's Grace and Mercy with their own self-righteous works in a feeble attempt to somehow save themselves, as if God needs their help. It is as if to suggest that when Jesus said "It is finished" as He hung on that Cross, that He didn't really mean it. You know, kind of like "Well, boys, I have taken it this far; now you need to take it the rest of the way!" How ridiculous can you get?

In his Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul exposes this futile endeavor of the Jews to establish their own form of righteousness before God. In the first three verses of the tenth chapter, Paul specifically writes as follows:

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

Romans 10:1-3, KJV

As you probably understand by now, when Paul writes "unto the righteousness of God", he is of course referring directly to the righteousness which we obtain through our faith in Jesus

Christ. Sadly, two thousand years have passed since then, and the religious Jews are still at it with their vain, legalistic ways, trying to prove their righteousness without Christ. But the real tragedy, is that they are now dragging a lot of our Christian brethren along with them. More on this in a moment.

You may recall from part one of this series that the Apostle Paul likewise wrote "For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law." Exactly what does Paul mean by that? Well, in the first half of the verse, what Paul is basically saying is that it is by the Law -- in other words, by the Laws of Moses -- that we know what sin is. Stated another way, the Law defines sin for us. The Law says "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, then you are sinning against God." So the Law tells us that we are in fact sinners. It informs us that we all stand guilty before God. Now, if we turn to chapters three and seven of this same Epistle, Paul spells it out even more clearly for us when he writes the following words:

"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and ALL THE WORLD MAY BECOME GUILTY BEFORE GOD. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: FOR BY THE LAW IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF SIN."

Romans 3:19-20, KJV

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."

Romans 7:7, KJV

It is for this very same reason that in his Epistle to the brethren at Galatia, Paul informs his readers that the Laws of Moses served as a schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ. Whereas before they strived to be righteous by observing the mandates of the Mosaic Law -- which was really a humanly impossible task, as per Romans 3:20 above which states that "by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight -- now that very same justification, and that very same righteousness, could be obtained by placing one's faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Consider these verses:

"But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we

might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster."

Galatians 3:23-25, KJV

In the second half of that previous verse, Paul also wrote "but sin is not imputed when there is no law." Exactly what does Paul mean by this? Again, this is fully explained by taking a close look at a few other related verses in some of Paul's Epistles, beginning with the previous ones where he says that "we are no longer under a schoolmaster", meaning that we are no longer under the Law. In other words, if we are no longer under the Laws of Moses, then there is really nothing with which any of us can be accused of sin. There is nothing pointing the finger at us and pronouncing "You are guilty!"

In that verse -- Romans 5:13 -- the word "imputed" finds its origin in the Koine Greek word "ἐλλογέω", or "ellogeo" as we would write it in English. Pronounced el-log-eh'-o, this word means to reckon in, set to one's account, or to lay to one's charge. So again, when there is no law, we simply are not charged with sin. Following are some additional verses for your consideration:

"For sin shall not have dominion over you: FOR YE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW, BUT UNDER GRACE."

Romans 6:14, KJV

"Wherefore, my brethren, YE ALSO ARE BECOME DEAD TO THE LAW BY THE BODY OF CHRIST; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. BUT NOW WE ARE DELIVERED FROM THE LAW, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."

Romans 7:4-6, KJV

"For CHRIST IS THE END OF THE LAW for righteousness to every one that believeth."

Romans 10:4, KJV

To really reiterate this important point, consider all of the ways in which the Apostle Paul tells his readers that once we come to Christ, we are no longer dependent upon the Law for our righteousness. We are no longer under the Law. We're only

under Grace through our faith in Jesus Christ. He alone gives us our righteousness and favor with God the Father:

1. no longer under a schoolmaster
2. when there is no law
3. for ye are not under the law
4. ye also are become dead to the law
5. we are delivered from the law
6. Christ is the end of the law

As I mentioned earlier in this series, sadly, despite how very clear this point is made in the Apostle Paul's letters, there are certain Christians today who still just don't seem to get it. These brethren remain slaves to legalism to this very day. Why don't they get it? It is due in large part to the fact that they have been seriously blinded and deceived by pro-Israel propaganda, and by Jewish legalism, which has infiltrated certain modern denominations. So many Christians seem to have this misguided desire or need to feel and act more Jewish. It is as if they believe that by so doing, they are more pleasing in God's sight. In fact, I dare say that some of these Christians act more like Old Testament Jews than like New Testament Christians. In my view, it is such a works trip. I am reminded of the following verse:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:28, KJV

These misguided Christians adopt Jewish names, observe Jewish holy days and customs, use Jewish words and phrases instead of long-held, traditional Christian terms, and argue over the proper names for God the Father and Jesus. They are legalists just like the Scribes and Pharisees of old who condemned the Lord Himself, and they will condemn you too if you don't use the names which they deem appropriate, or fail to observe the mandates of the Mosaic Law, as they self-righteously claim to do.

I myself have personally encountered these wayward Christians many times on some of the social networks, particularly when I still had a Facebook account. As you may already know, much of this modern-day deception which has infiltrated so many of the churches, is directly influenced by, and promoted by, the "Hebrew Roots" movement -- one flavor of which is the Sacred Name Movement -- and other pro-Jewish, pro-Israel, and Torah

observant groups. Torah is the first five Books of the Bible as written by Moses, also known as the Books of the Law, or the Pentateuch.

In fact, some of these brethren are so deceived, that they even accuse Paul of being a liar, deceiver, usurper, imposter and a false apostle. One author even refers to Paul as the "Devil's Apostle". Such people totally reject Paul's letters. Likewise, some of these people are so deceived that they go so far as to erroneously promote the belief that Paul started his own brand of religion, meaning our Christian faith. It is really tragic. May God open their eyes and free them from the deception which has them so blinded and bound to the Law.

As I will be explaining more fully in a moment, the sad thing about all of this Hebrew Roots nonsense is that these are the very same things from which Jesus came to free us. It is also the main reason why the Apostle Paul wrote his rebuke to the Galatians after they fell again under the bondage of the Laws of Moses. In that Epistle, Paul said such things as these:

"And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:"  
Galatians 2:4, KJV

"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain."  
Galatians 3:1-4, KJV

"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?"  
Galatians 4:9, KJV

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."  
Galatians 5:1, KJV

At any rate, as the Scriptures further inform us, Jesus was

made sin for us, in order that we might be justified and made righteous before God the Father, through Him. In other words, Jesus took our guilt upon Himself when He died on that Cross. He in fact became a curse for us, as you'll see in a moment. The Law said that we all stood guilty before God. We were all sinners. As such, we were all condemned to both physical and eternal death, because the wages of sin is death. However, as we have already seen, God set in motion a Divine Plan which would satisfy the requirements of the Law, so that we could get out from under that burden. That is, out from under the heavy burden of the Law, exactly as we saw a moment ago. We could be justified without the Laws of Moses. Consider this group of verses:

For he hath made him [meaning Jesus] to BE SIN FOR US, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him [meaning in Jesus]."

2 Corinthians 5:21, KJV

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, BEING MADE A CURSE FOR US: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

Galatians 3:13-14, KJV

"And by him [meaning by Jesus] all that believe [in Christ's Sacrifice] are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

Acts 13:39, KJV

Perhaps you may recall how in some of the Gospels, the Lord spoke of this legalistic burden to which we were hopelessly chained, and from which He came to liberate us. It is the very same message that we see Paul preaching in his Epistles to the Romans, to the Galatians, and elsewhere. For example, consider the following verses which are found in the Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30, KJV

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal

the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,"

Luke 4:18, KJV

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free . . . If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

John 8:31-32, 36, KJV

Clearly then, Jesus told His followers and listeners exactly what His mission on Earth was. It was a mission of mercy. It was a mission of liberation. It was a mission for which only He was suited, because He was willing to meet the requirement of the Law, and pay the ultimate price for our Redemption and Salvation. He was willing to do what none of us could ever do.

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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The Nature and Consequence of Sin and God's Solution : Part 3

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It Is Impossible For Anyone To Keep The Enter Mosaic Law, God The Father Created A Better Easier Way For Us Through Christ, Jesus Became Sin And A Curse For Our Sakes, Requirements Of Mosaic Law, Without Shedding Of Blood There Is No Remission Of Sins, Jesus Became The Lamb Of God Without Blemish And Without Spot Who Died For The Sins Of The World, Mosaic Law Demanded A Life For A Life, Jesus' Final Passover Meal And New Testament, Jesus Paid The Ransom Price For Our Freedom And Our Salvation, Jesus Is Our Only Mediator, Jesus Is The Propitiation for Our Sins, Sprinkling Of Blood And Old Testament Foreshadows, We're

Not Capable Of Saving Ourselves, No Righteousness Of Our Own, We Are Saved By God's Grace And Not By Our Own Works, Though Your Sins Be As Scarlet, Come Unto Me, Promise Of Forgiveness, Adopted Children Of God, Closing Remarks, Suggested Reading

Continuing our discussion from part two, as I explained in previous paragraphs, it is totally impossible for anyone to faithfully observe and keep every single commandment -- or mitzvah -- of the Mosaic Law. It just cannot be done. This is why it is such a burden. You can try as hard as you like for your entire life, and you will still never be able to satisfy God's requirements for sin. So if anyone tries to tell you otherwise, don't believe them. In fact, because we are unable to keep every single commandment of the Mosaic Law, the Bible informs us that we are not only guilty, but we are cursed as well. This truth becomes evident in the following two verses:

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

James 2:10, KJV

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not IN ALL THINGS which are written in the book of the law to do them."

Galatians 3:10, KJV

You see that? If you don't continue IN ALL THINGS which are written in the Laws of Moses, if you miss keeping even just one of them, you are both guilty and cursed. That means that you are worthy of death. It is for that very reason that God the Father had to make another way. In fact, a much better way; and as far as we sinners are concerned, a much easier way. As we will see later in the Epistle to the Hebrews, it was "a better covenant, which was established upon better promises." As all Christians know, the better way which God the Father provided for us is of course through faith in Jesus Christ, who tells us the following in the Gospel of John:

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6, KJV

The reason why Jesus had full authority to say that, even

though His mission had not yet been fully accomplished, is because He knew in advance that He would become sin and a curse for us, within a very short period of time. He knew that He would take our place when He was cruelly nailed to that Roman Cross. He knew that our guilt, according to the Law, would be placed upon His shoulders. Our burden would become His burden, and He would lovingly accept our harsh punishment for us. He would give His life for our lives, because the wages of sin is death.

Several times now, I have mentioned the requirement of the Law, and that the Law needed to be satisfied in order for our sins to be annulled, and the sin and the guilt lifted from us. But exactly what was that requirement? What did God the Father specifically require to be done in order for sin to be atoned for, or expiated, during the Old Testament era? As I explain in other articles, that requirement is clearly spelled out for us in the following verse:

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

Hebrews 9:22, KJV

As you can see, it required the shedding of blood in order for remission to occur, and for the guilt of sin to be fully expunged. If you delve into a number of my other articles -- such as part three of my series "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?" -- as well as into the Old Testament itself, you will see that it could not be just any blood. It had to be the blood of a goat or a lamb which was without spot or blemish. It had to be a perfect animal. Thus we see a clear connection between what occurred during the Old Testament period, and what Jesus did for us in the New Testament, when He became the Lamb of God "without blemish and without spot", as we see in the following group of verses:

"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he [meaning Jesus] entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself WITHOUT SPOT to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Hebrews 9:12-14, KJV

Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry . . . but now once in the end of the world hath he [meaning Jesus] appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Hebrews 9:18-21, 26, KJV

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, AS OF A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH AND WITHOUT SPOT:"

1 Peter 1:18-19, KJV

As we have now seen, Jesus Christ became the Lamb of God -- without blemish and without spot -- of the New Testament who willingly gave His life for the sins of the world. Why did Jesus do this? Again, so that we could be made righteous and justified before God the Father, and as a result, be found worthy of Forgiveness, Redemption and Salvation. We found Grace and Mercy in God's sight because of what Jesus did for us. Through His Sacrifice, the burden, the curse, the guilt, and the condemnation of the Mosaic Law was lifted from our shoulders, and placed upon His own shoulders instead, as we learned in part two.

Please note, however, that the shedding of Jesus' blood was not enough. There was another important condition which still had to be met. That condition was that Jesus had to also give His actual life. The Mosaic Law demanded a life for a life -- meaning Jesus' life for our lives -- before the New Covenant -- that is, the New Testament or New Agreement -- between the Father and the Son could take full affect. This fact becomes clearly evident by the following two verses:

"For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

Hebrews 9:16-17, KJV

As many of you will know, Jesus Himself spoke of His coming

betrayal and death a number of times throughout the Gospels. In particular, during His last Passover meal with the Twelve Apostles, He said the following to them:

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28, KJV

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."

Mark 14:22-24, KJV

"And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:14-20, KJV

So the New Covenant, or New Testament, between the Father and the Son was sealed by both Jesus' body, and also by His blood. As I mentioned in part two of this series, Christ was willing to pay the ultimate price for our Redemption. As Jesus and the Apostle Paul both tell us, the Lord paid the required ransom price for us, because we were being held captive by sin, death and even by the Devil himself, who at one time had the power of death. Consider the following set of verses which confirm these two points:

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that

through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;"

Hebrews 2:14, KJV

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28, KJV

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45, KJV

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Acts 20:28, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."

1 Corinthians 7:23, KJV

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

Ephesians 1:13-14, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

1 Timothy 2:5-6, KJV

You will notice that in those last two verses which are found in the Apostle Paul's first Epistle to Timothy, we are told that because of what Jesus did for us, He has become the sole Mediator between God and men. Make no mistake. There's no one else but Him, so please beware of those people who point you to Mary, or to anyone else. Only Jesus Christ paid the ransom price for our sins. Therefore, only He is found worthy to be our Mediator. This Scriptural truth is confirmed for us in

other verses as well. Consider the following:

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [meaning the name of Jesus] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Acts 4:12, KJV

"But now hath he [meaning Jesus] obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."

Hebrews 8:6, KJV

"And for this cause he [meaning Jesus] is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

Hebrews 9:15, KJV

"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

Hebrews 12:24, KJV

Another way to say it is that Jesus is the only propitiation for our sins. Derived from the Koine Greek word "ἱλασμός" -- which is transliterated into English characters as "hilasmos" -- this word means to propitiate or to appease. As I pointed out in part two, Jesus met the demands or requirements of the Mosaic Law, so that we could be forgiven. He appeased the Law and He paid the bill for our Salvation. That is, He paid the ransom price. Consider the following verses where this word "propitiation" is used:

"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"

Romans 3:25, KJV

"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 John 2:2, KJV

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

1 John 4:10, KJV

So because Christ was willing to suffer "without the gate" -- meaning outside the gated wall of Jerusalem at Golgotha -- we can now draw nigh to God with boldness and without fear, and be symbolically cleansed from our sins, by Christ's precious blood. We are washed in the blood of the Lamb of God. Again, this important point can be verified by Bible verses such as the following:

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate."

Hebrews 13:12, KJV

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

Ephesians 2:13, KJV

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;"

Hebrews 10:19-20, KJV

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

1 John 1:7, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

Revelation 1:5, KJV

"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Revelation 7:14, KJV

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

1 Peter 1:2, KJV

Please notice in that last verse how when Peter is addressing the brethren, he makes a clear reference to how Moses likewise

sprinkled the people with blood in the Old Testament, as we saw in part two of this series. That act, like many other acts which were done during the Old Testament period, was merely a foreshadow of what Jesus Christ would do for us in the New Testament, when He cleansed us with His own precious blood.

By way of this series, we have traveled an amazing journey through the Scriptures, and revealed God's plan from start to finish. That is, from the first entrance of sin and death into the world in the Book of Genesis, to God's solution to the problem in the New Testament, which culminates with the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you have wondered and questioned how you can be saved, it is my hope that this series has clearly answered any questions which you may have.

Equally important, I hope that you have come to understand that you simply are not capable of saving yourself. You can't be good enough or righteous enough, to ever merit God's Mercy and Grace. No matter how many Biblical laws you try to keep, you will never achieve justification or righteousness of your own accord; because as we have seen, if you break even just one of God's Laws, you are guilty of breaking all of them. As we discussed in part one of this series, the Prophet Isaiah wrote that our righteousness is as filthy rags. That is how God views it. Let me share that verse with you one more time:

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."  
Isaiah 64:6, KJV

So again, you will never be found worthy of Salvation and Eternal Life by your own merit. Your works and adherence to the Law alone will never cut it. You will fall short every single time. The only real solution to this problem of sin and death, is God's Solution, as I have outlined for you in this series. That means that you must be willing to humble yourself, recognize your sinful condition, and then embrace God's Grace and Mercy which is extended to you through the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. As the Apostle Paul also clearly wrote in two of his Epistles:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."  
Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Titus 3:5, KJV

In the Old Testament writings of the Prophet Isaiah, God pleaded with the Israelites to repent of their wickedness, rebellion and sins, and to return to Him. In the opening chapter of that Book, we find the following verse which reveals how our slate can be washed completely clean, if we will simply humble ourselves, call upon the Lord, confess our sins, and thus be saved:

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18, KJV

If you have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, the previous verse is my call to you today. Aren't you tired of carrying the weight of sin around by yourself? Do you want some relief? As we learned in part two, Jesus said "Come unto me", and He will give you the rest that you so desire. Let me share those three verses with you one more time:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30, KJV

If you do come to Christ, humbly confess your sins, and seek God's forgiveness, you have the promise that you will in fact be forgiven, and cleansed from all your unrighteousness. God will embrace you as one of His dear adopted children, and you will become a member of His household. And please remember that God does NOT lie. He keeps His word. Consider this group of Bible verses which validate these various points:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9, KJV

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of

God;"  
Ephesians 2:19, KJV

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"  
John 1:12, KJV

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."  
Galatians 3:26, KJV

"Having predestinated us UNTO THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BY JESUS CHRIST to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"  
Ephesians 1:5, KJV

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."  
2 Timothy 2:19, KJV

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but YE HAVE RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together . . . For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, WAITING FOR THE ADOPTION, to wit, the redemption of our body."  
Romans 8:15-17, 22-23, KJV

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE ADOPTION OF SONS. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."  
Galatians 4:4-6, KJV

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"  
Numbers 23:19, KJV

With these wonderful verses I will bring this series to its conclusion. It is my hope that you have found it to be both informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would appreciate if you would take the time to click or tap on the share links which are found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which contain topics that are related to this series, and which are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server.

A Discussion Regarding Philippians 2:12

All Are Given a Chance, But . . .

Are Christians Obligated to Keep the Sabbath?

Backsliding, Divine Chastisement and the Divine Agreement

Beholding the Evil and the Good

Dead to the Law: God's Laws Written on Our Hearts

Did the Apostle Paul Start the Christian Faith?

Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?

Free From the Fear of Death: Law and Works vs Grace

Free Will and Personal Choice

Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?

Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?

Jesus Christ or Yeshua Messiah?: More Christian Zionist Legalism

Message to the World

Not Everyone is a Child of God

So You Really Think You Are So Humble?

The Blood Atonement: In Jesus' Own Words

The Lamb of God Was a Goat!

The Royal Law: Thou Shalt Love

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