

THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

1 Corinthians 3:11

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ”

Reading: *1 Corinthians 3:9 - 16*

TOPICS

- Gospel** — The Word of God
- Forgiveness** — The Goodness of God
- Repentance** — The Gift of God
- Salvation** — The Life of God
- Sanctification / Service** — The Will of God
- Resurrection** — The Home of God

THE WORD OF GOD — The Call through Christ Crucified

THE GOODNESS OF GOD — Revealed in Christ Crucified

THE GIFT OF GOD — Given through Christ Crucified

THE LIFE OF GOD — Lived by Christ Crucified

THE WILL OF GOD — Operating in Christ Crucified

THE HOME OF GOD — Prepared by Christ Crucified

GOSPEL

— THE WORD OF GOD

Gospel literally means “God’s Spel” – ‘God’s Word’ : **The Word of God**

1 Corinthians 15:1 - 4

1 Peter 1:25

2 Corinthians 4:3 - 7

Romans 1:16 - 17

Ephesians 1:13

GOD’S WORD CAME FIRST

The GOSPEL came because Man had sinned; broken away from the relationship, and formed an alliance with Satan...

Without God speaking **FIRST** no man could hope for, or desire, a change...

Romans 10:15 / Isaiah 52:7

Isaiah 1:18

Isaiah 55:1 - 4

55:6 - 11

Psalms 100:3

Job 42:5a / Psalm 94:9

THE WORD OF GOD

— The Call of God through Christ Crucified

Proverbs 8: 22 - 36

- God’s Eternal Pattern for all Mankind

Psalms 138:1 - 2

- The Word of God planned as the Solution to Man’s sinfulness

Ephesians 1:4 - 6

- The New Testament revelation of God’s Ancient Plan

1:11

Romans 8:29 - 30

- Called to God **only** through Christ Crucified
SON; Firstborn : Christ risen from the Dead

*Romans 1:4; Hebrews 1:1 - 2; Colossians 1:18 (v15 / Revelation 3:14);
Revelation 1:5*

1 Corinthians 1:26 - 31 - Called OUT of the world

Ephesians 4:4

- A Position

Hebrews 5:4

- It is GOD’S Calling

Revelation 17:14b

- They were “called” because they answered the Call

Drawn To Answer The Call through the Sufferings of Christ

John 3: 14 - 17

- He was given to the Cross – the Sacrificial Lamb the world needed as a Perfect Offering for sin; He was then given to the world as a Risen Son and High Priest, with His Wounds as the Evidence of our Salvation

6:47 - 58

- His Body given; His Blood poured out

Psalms 22

Psalms 31

Psalms 38

- His Sufferings foretold by the Holy Spirit on God’s anointed kings and prophets

Psalms 39

Psalms 40

Reading: *1 Corinthians 3:9 - 16*

v9 “For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.”

As well as being God’s building – the House of God, the House of Christ – the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ [*1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 3:6* etc] we are God’s husbandry – God’s tillage; ‘cultivated field’. We are to present ourselves as a well planted and fully producing field. *Jeremiah 2:21* shows how short Israel became from that. *Song of Songs 4:12 - 16* declares Christ’s own pleasure in His Bride, the Church, as a garden full of good fruits and spices ready to be dispersed to all around.

vs10 - 16 The quality of the building built upon the only true Foundation, Jesus Christ – the Lord who came from Heaven to be crucified. To ensure our building will abide the fire of Christ’s Holiness is the Reason why we are here at this Bible School!

Creation was formed by the Word of God, through Christ [*Hebrews 11:3*]. All was for the benefit of Man who was to be formed by Christ. When sin had entered into Man, the First Word was from Christ personally to Adam : “Where art thou?” [*Genesis 3:9*]

Isaiah 55:6 - 11

“My thoughts ... your thoughts”. Christ in *Luke 6:45b* reveals the heart as the source of all thought. God’s Heart can only produce good thoughts and words.

Psalms 100:3

“we are His people” – He speaks to us. Christ in *John 10:27* calls us “His sheep” and that they “hear His voice”. He speaks His Word.

Job 42:5a / Psalm 94:9

He gave us ears to hear Him; His ear is to hear us.

THE WORD OF GOD

— The Call of God through Christ Crucified

It is a personal Call. God (Christ) called Adam. He called him to Himself. He didn’t want him estranged from Him. *Genesis 3:15* speaks of Satan’s seed [“thy seed”] – evil men. Christ in *John 8:44* fully describes men following their “father” the Devil.

1 John 3:8 & 12 describe those who are the seed of Satan. *Jeremiah 17:9* warns us that “the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” So we MUST be born again into the New Life of the Lord Jesus Christ!!

FORGIVENESS

— THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Romans 11:22 - The Two Aspects of the Nature of God :
His **Goodness** and His **Severity**

God's Severity condemns us all to a lost Eternity, because sinners CANNOT live with God
God's Severity pushes us away from God.

God's Goodness **reaches out** to us, because God is Love and is merciful to our failings
God's Goodness makes a way through which we can be **drawn towards** Him!

Genesis 3 - The Record of the Fall of Man (Adam and Eve)
3:11 - 21 - The LORD God (that is, Jesus Christ) **cursed** Satan and the ground.
But what He said to the man and the woman was **different...**
He told them frankly the consequences of their disobedience, **and**,
He foretold Redemption through the Cross, **and**,
He clothed their bodies; covered their shame, by taking the life of
an innocent animal. This demonstrated Redemption through the
shedding of Blood (Christ's).

[*v14* : The cursing of Satan. *Isaiah 65:25* - in Hell during Christ's Millennium Reign; *Isaiah 14:12 - 20* and *Revelation 20:1 - 3* and *v10* - Satan's eternal end.

v17 : The cursing of the ground. *Isaiah 65:16 - 17, v22* - the new earth; *2 Peter 3:13* and
Revelation 20:11, Revelation 21:1 - a totally new creation. (*Revelation 6:14; Joel 2:10, 30 - 31* is
when Christ returns to the earth to Rule. The earth is dramatically changed but not destroyed
at this time. That will come at the End of His Rule, when He Judges the dead from His own
Throne, *Revelation 20:11 - 15*]

THE GOODNESS OF GOD — Revealed in Christ Crucified

Psalms 130:3 - 4 - The Severity of God condemns; the Goodness of God **forgives**. In
fearing God with a proper godly fear (not guilty fear) we are drawn
to Him, to love, honour, revere, obey Him.
It restrains us from sinning.
It constrains us to the discipline of the Cross.

Psalms 27:13 and *31:19* - These are the Cries of Christ from the Cross, working out our
Redemption; the Forgiveness of God, for us.

Psalms 23:6 - Now complete, the Results of the Goodness, the Forgiveness, in
each believer continues ("follow") to satisfy Christ [*Isaiah 53:11a*]

Ephesians 5:9 - The Results of Forgiveness through God's Goodness towards us are
Psalms 32:1 **manifest** in each believer's life. The poured out Blood of Jesus
Galatians 5:22 Christ has enabled each believer to live out the Crucified Life.

FORGIVENESS

— THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Reading : *1 Corinthians 3:9 – 16*

v11 “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ”
No other Foundation. Only Jesus Christ is the Life approved of by God by which we can live.

v9 “For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.”
We are counted as God’s husbandry – God’s cultivated field, able to offer all the fruit and produce of the Gospel to all Mankind. The Church, the Body of Christ ALONE has the full revelation of the Word of God.

Genesis 3:21 An innocent animal’s blood was shed in order to clothe them. It was ALWAYS God’s intention for Christ to shed His Blood :

Revelation 13:8 “The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

The world’s foundation : unbelief, disobedience, lies, deceit, sorrow, cursing.

The New Foundation of Christ Crucified : obedience, healing, restoration, love, mercy.

Adam and Eve were not cursed. They were shown a way of escape – through the shed blood. God’s Plan was already developing.

Deuteronomy 11:1 – 32 The whole Chapter is an exhortation to obedience; to make a good choice.

v26 “Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse.”

v27 “A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God...”

v28 “And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God...”

If we follow the cursed way of Satan and his ‘children’ – his “seed” – we will inherit the same curse. There is only ONE of TWO Destinations for Eternity : The New Earth with the Holy City or The Lake of Fire. [See *Revelation 20:14, 21:1 – 2*]

Psalm 130:3 That is why we can take His Word on any instruction we receive from God – He was there, taking the full force of God’s Wrath on all Man’s iniquities.

v4 If we are cleansed and forgiven all our sins, we are not expected to take them up again. We are expected to understand that God hates sin and has punished sin by sending Christ to the Cross. *2 Peter 2:22* and *Proverbs 26:11* speak of the unclean. Instead of finding their past ways and deeds disgusting, they go back to them again and enjoy them. They have no fear of God.

Psalm 27:13 This is the Faith of Christ. He believed God would extend His Goodness to all Mankind through His Death, because of His Giving of His Life on the Cross.

Psalm 31:19 This is the key to receiving God’s endless Supply of His Goodness through Christ’s Offering – fear Him! Take it all; it is all there for you!

So many Christians behave as though they have to keep crying to God to give them His blessings, or His Holy Spirit or revival, like having an empty plate with a great feast of food around them waiting to be taken! Everything has already been given; it is all ready to be taken!

v19b “before the sons of men” – meaning in position. Christ was crucified first! As *Revelation 13:8* says, “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”. Calvary is the Revelation of God’s Promises to Man. *Isaiah 64:4* was quoted by Paul in *2 Corinthians 2:8 – 10*, saying, “But God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit.”

REPENTANCE

— THE GIFT OF GOD

Romans 2:4 “... the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.”

The response of a heart acknowledging guilt and realising God’s Goodness, is to REPENT.

Looking through the Scriptures, we see it is clearly, mainly a NEW TESTAMENT experience.

Old Testament

Many times God Himself said that He repented of what He had done or promised to do! – Making Man [*Genesis 6:6*]; planning to bring evil on His people [*Exodus 32:14; Judges 2:18* (so He gave them judges)] are some examples. This is obviously not the same kind of Repentance that is necessary in Mankind. (*Numbers 23:19* “God is not a man ... neither the son of man that He should repent.”)

The Meaning of Repentance

Ezekiel 14:6
18:30

Job 42:6

Jonah 3:10 / Luke 11:32 – The people of Nineveh repented; the Lord Himself said so.

Acts 20:21
26:20

The meaning of repentance therefore simply means to TURN; the act of turning away from (the old life) towards God (the New Life). It is a deliberate Act of Will. It means a changed mind.

Now, the heart is indeed drawn to God through Love – the Crucified Christ, then the mind decides it is time to reverse a previous way of life.

Repentance as a Gift from God

Acts 11:18
17:30
Revelation 3:19
2 Timothy 2:25
2 Peter 3:9

The Gift Removed (in the end time)

Revelation 9:20 - 21
16:9 - 11
2 Thessalonians 2:7

THE GIFT OF GOD

— Given through Christ Crucified

Luke 24:44 - 47
Acts 17:30 - 31
Isaiah 55:6 - 7
Hebrews 6:1
Revelation 14:1 - 5
2 Corinthians 7:10

ONLY possible because of the Crucified, Risen Christ.

And ... What God will NOT repent of : *Psalms 110:4 / Hebrews 7:21; Hebrews 6:16 - 20*

Reading : *1 Corinthians 3:11* – There is NO other Foundation we should build on.

Job 42:6 – Job turned away from himself. He lowered himself to the ground – he humbled himself before the God he had now seen.

In the Old Testament we see generally that repentance was a turning away from evil.

In the New Testament we see that repentance was a turning to God. A new relationship was begun with God (as a Father) and with Christ (as Saviour and Lord).

We see that both the heart is involved, and the mind is involved. This is why we can NOW love the LORD our God with all our hearts and souls! *Deuteronomy 6:5* “And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” The heart and the mind – where the decisions are made for the soul – and the body (“thy might”; strength) are all involved.

Notes :

Repentance as a Gift from God

Rev 3:19 These needed to repent again. They were in a church and had backslidden. *2 Timothy 2:19*.

2 Tim 2:25 “give them repentance”. Repentance is a Gift. They are to come to the Truth (Christ) and escape Satan’s clutches.

[vs24 - 26 Rules for the servant of God.]

v25 “those that oppose themselves” – they know what is right by their conscience, but they refuse to resist the lusts of their human nature. God will grant them repentance as soon as they desire the Truth. Then they can have victory over Satan (the father of lies) and no longer be his captive; no longer under his control, who is the “god of this world” [*2 Corinthians 4:4*].

The Gift Removed

Rev 9:20 - 21 & 16:9 - 11 “repented not”. Their works – “their deeds” – of not having the Life of Christ actively within them. Their sins also had been forgiven by God at the Cross, but they continued to NOT accept cleansing through Christ Crucified – the Blood of the Lamb – so they continued to do the deeds of the flesh, which their sinful human natures dictated.

2 Thess 2:7 The Holy Spirit gone from the earth. Paul also speaks of this Time when the world is judged for its rejecting of the Crucified Christ.

SALVATION

— THE LIFE OF GOD

Matthew 1:21 “Thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.”

JESUS (Y’ shua) means ‘He will save’; the Lord is salvation. Joshua – Jehovah saves; Jehovah is salvation; God is salvation; the Lord saves. A SAVIOUR is one who brings SALVATION. Jesus Christ brought Salvation in Himself.

The Salvation which God longs for all Mankind is resident **IN** the actual Person of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:10 – It suited God the Almighty to produce for all Mankind a Perfect Leader to bring sons into His Glory.

Isaiah 55:4 – “I have given Him...” Everything God says, instructs, gives ... is **IN** Jesus Christ – alone !

Hebrews 12:2 – Similar to **2:10**. Jesus Christ is “the Author” – the Beginner – and “Finisher” – Completer – of our faith.”

1 Peter 1:8 – 9 – “Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”

If Christ is the Finisher of our Faith, then, “the end of your faith” is HIM – the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ HIMSELF.

John 14:6 – “I am ... the life.” Salvation IS Jesus Christ.
It is not just an experience of the Joy of Forgiveness of our sins.
Q. Is there such a thing as Christianity ? **A.** NO ! It is a myth !

THE LIFE OF GOD

— Lived by Christ Crucified

Colossians 3:3 – 4 – “... When Christ, **who is our life**, shall appear...”

Galatians 2:20 – The Life of God living in me/you, as Christ lives in me/you.
His Risen Life **replaces** the natural life of the former sinner.

The Son of God is the Firstborn of God’s new Family. It is a spiritual relationship and is kept going only by the Holy Spirit having full control over the Blood-bought son or daughter.

The Life of God was operating in Christ as He went to Calvary and hung on the Cross. We see HIS Faith, His Love, His Peace, His Humility, His Grace, His spirit of Forgiveness, His Patience, His Endurance, His Purity, His unwavering Obedience, His Passion to fulfil God’s Desire for a Family, His Vision for God’s Future, His ability to Give and Give and Give of Himself ...

ONLY Christ Crucified revealed fully the Height and Depth of the Vibrancy of the Life of God.

Only THIS Life of God **IN** you and me can negate/overcome the natural human nature which is constantly at enmity with God. It crucifies it!

PSALM 119 reveals this Life of God operating in Jesus Christ on the Cross.

SALVATION

— THE LIFE OF GOD

Reading : *1 Corinthians 3:11* – There is NO other Foundation we should build on.
vs12 - 17 Remind ourselves why we are here meditating upon the Word of God!

Hebrews 2:9b says “by the grace of God” – towards us – Christ tasted death – the stench of Hell!
v10 The Captain of our Salvation was “made perfect” in His human flesh, in His human Body. It was sinless flesh; a sinless Body, but God produced in Him by His Obedience a Perfect Man. Now God has given us His Perfect Son – “the firstborn from the dead” [*Colossians 1:18*] through whom He can provide EVERY THING we need to reach God’s Eternal Home.

Isaiah 55 :4 The same thought as *Hebrews 2:9 - 10* – God has given Him to us. We have everything in Christ, through Christ, with Christ!

Christ is the Originator and the Completer of our Faith in God. Mankind is faithless without Jesus Christ. There is no such thing as ‘other faiths’ to God. The ‘Jewish faith’, the ‘Muslim faith’, the ‘Catholic faith’ etc – they do not exist in God’s understanding. None are based on the Crucified Christ, Risen from the dead, made perfect. *Hebrews 1:1 -2* “God ... hath ... spoken unto us by His Son”. Jesus Christ is God’s only point of conversation with Mankind!

1 Peter 1:8 “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:”
A living Person to love; nothing of any dead religion! The Lord Jesus Christ as the Crucified, Risen Son of God, is the only Life God approves of!

THE LIFE OF GOD

— Lived by Christ Crucified

All of Christ, His Words, His Actions, His very Being, fully reflected God : *John 14:9 - 10*. In living, He lived a Crucified Life! In dying, He lived a Crucified Life!

We see the Patience of God, the Discipline of God, the Love, the Mercy, the Passion of God to destroy all the effects of evil that had hurt Mankind. All this is seen in Him as He gave Himself to go the Way of the Cross. Right from the Last Passover Supper and with increasing intensity and Power, that Crucified Life is revealed, until He bowed His Head and died.

Colossians 3:3 “ye are dead” ! Dead to the sinful nature. When it rises up, reckon it dead, to the world’s ways, systems; to Satan’s whispers and tactics. Then Christ can work His Life in us.

Galatians 2:20 The wonderful contradictions of God’s Purpose for you in Christ! Crucified – horribly killed – but you live! BUT not your own life – Christ living in you. You consciously live out the Faith which Jesus Christ showed on the Cross in your own human body.

The Faith of the Son of God : His confidence that God would accept sinful men as now clean through His poured out Blood; that God would now deal with Mankind as able to be adopted into His Family, and be treated as though they were actual sons and daughters of God [*Ephesians 1:5*]. His confidence that God would open Heaven’s Gates to Him and, at the Rapture, to all who joined themselves to Him [*John 17:11 - 12; Psalm 22:22, 25; 1 Corinthians 15:50*]. His confidence that God would approve His sending out the Holy Spirit upon ordinary flesh to empower those who had come out of the world unto Him to serve Him and increase the Church, His Body [*John 14:16*].

Psalm 119 - v1 Always obedient to God’s Word; *v2* Always concentrated on fulfilling God’s Word for God’s Purposes; *v11* Always desiring to do exactly what God wanted of Him to fulfil God’s Word in Himself.

SANCTIFICATION/ SERVICE — THE WILL OF GOD

Time for a complete Re-cap : the disgusting, rebellious unworthy sinner has Heard the GOSPEL, the Word of God; he has Learned of FORGIVENESS already available; he Responds in REPENTANCE, his old life behind him, his New Life taken in by the Holy Spirit; he Receives SALVATION, the Person of the Risen Crucified Christ as his New Life. So now he is Sanctified, he is **ready for SERVICE** unto the True and Living God.

Sanctification

John 17:19 - If God in human flesh “sanctified” Himself, how much more we?

We take His Life by faith, and are sanctified by that same Word of Truth which worked in Christ by His Total Loving Obedience. [*1 Corinthians 6:11*]

For the saint, it means to consciously, deliberately, purify oneself; make/keep oneself holy; to consecrate, dedicate oneself to God. It is a deeper level to Repentance.

1 Peter 1:22 - The response. The forgiven, repentant saint offers himself to serve God, in accordance to God’s Will and God’s Way of living

Genesis 2:3 - God sanctified/hallowed the seventh day : He deliberately made /appointed it holy. A foreshadowing of this New Life in Christ, where every day is holy, as the saint lives a holy life!

Service

Romans 12:1 -2 - It is something we do ourselves. I/we give myself/ourselves freely, deliberately, to serve God; to be holy, dedicated, purified unto Him, and Him alone. Because Christ has separated us to God.

2 Corinthians 3:18 - We choose to give time to the Word of God
Romans 7:4 (vs1 - 3) - We remain in that relationship and the fruit is manifested
John 15:1 - 5, 16 - The relationship which He made possible, maintained by the saint
Romans 6:1 - 23 - A whole Chapter on the right kind of Service!
John 12:24 - The Key to producing spiritual Fruit

THE WILL OF GOD

— Operating in Christ Crucified

1 Peter 4:2 - In His wounded Body, He continues to do the Will of God (from the Right Hand of God on the Throne).

John 14:19b - A different view in the light of what we are learning now ! For **the same Life** is in you to live out That Eternal Life unto God in your sanctified, Spirit-filled, body - by Faith and the Holy Spirit.

John 17:18

John 20:21

Revelation 5:6 - 10

- **As ... even so ...**

- The Risen Crucified Christ doing the Will of God, to bring about a Complete Settlement of All Things - the Great Separation of the sanctified and the unsanctified.

SANCTIFICATION/ SERVICE — THE WILL OF GOD

Once we were unrighteous, even as described in vs1 – 10 of 1 Corinthians 6, but by faith in the shed Blood of Jesus Christ, we are now washed, sanctified and justified.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:3 – 4 “For **this is the will of God, even your sanctification**, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour.”

1 Peter 1:22 “Seeing ye have purified your souls ...” – they were conscious of being made clean, therefore they were able to continue in the Way of God.

1 Corinthians 1:20 “But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is **made unto us** wisdom, and righteousness, and **sanctification**, and redemption.”

This is our part in the New Relationship we have with God and Christ. It is only reasonable in the light of what Christ has done for us!

Only when we are **conformed to the image of His Son** (Romans 8:29) and NOT to the world can we prove how good the Will of God is – because Christ proved it first!

Only when we have the Mind of Christ working in us (Philippians 2:5) can we be transformed into someone who proves daily what the Will of God is – good, acceptable and perfect – operating in your life. [Philippians 2:12b – 13]

Hebrews 13:20 – 21 “... Make you perfect in every good work to do His will...” – perfect.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 & 23 “...this is the will of God”; “...the very God of peace sanctify you...”

Notes :

Romans 6:

v2 “dead to sin” – that is to be the end of it!

v4 “buried with Him by baptism into death” – your own confession of your death!

v6 “crucified with Him” – what you confess by faith from conversion.

v16 “to whom ye yield yourselves servants” – it is always your choice whom you serve.

v17 “ye have obeyed” – the right and good choice!

v18 “free from sin ... servants of righteousness” – the good results of a right choice.

John 12:24 From vs19 – 23 is where Gentile men sought out the Lord. But He was not flattered by it. The time had come for Him to die; to accomplish what He had actually come for, to save Mankind from sin and Satan’s grip. Men were beginning to take notice of His Power as a Healer and as someone who could be their Deliverer from Roman oppression. He has laid down the Principle : **one must die before one can bring forth fruit unto God**. If you do not die to yourself, you make disciples in your own image! [Matthew 23:15] – or even worse!

1 Peter 4:2 From there He is able to work through you, the sanctified one.

Galatians 6:9 “And let us not be weary in well doing...” Keep clinging to Christ!

RESURRECTION

— THE HOME OF GOD

- John 11:25* - "I am the resurrection, and the life:"
14:19b - "...because I live, ye shall live also."
Revelation 22:16 - "I am ... the bright and morning star."
2:27 - 28 - "And he that overcometh and keepeth My works unto the end ... I will give him the morning star."
John 6:39 - 40, 54 - "I will raise him up..."
5:25 - The 'Rapture' of the saints; the "first resurrection" [*Rev 20:5b - 6*]
:28 - 29 - Both resurrections; of life and of damnation [*Rev 20:6, 14*]
1 Corinthians 15:16 - 20,23 - First Christ is raised, then they that are Christ's will be raised.
:50 - 58 - The details of that "first resurrection" [*Rev 20:5b - 6*]
1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18 - More details of that "first resurrection" still to come! [*Rev 20:5b - 6*]
2 Thessalonians 2:7 - The departure of the Holy Spirit with the saints

THE HOME OF GOD

— Prepared by Christ Crucified

- John 14:2 - 3* - "... I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."
Hebrews 11:16 - God who spoke to Abraham is revealed in *Exodus 3:6* as Jesus Christ, who said He is the One who will prepare a place for the resurrected saints!
:13 - 15 - The attitude of those faithful saints before the Cross

What is this Home like?

It is a City, called the New Jerusalem! It is the Place where God will be known to be there!
Revelation 21:2 - 3 - New and Holy, and inhabited by God!

It is NEW because there is no sin in it. It has never known any transgression within it; no disobedience, no rebellion, no unbelief.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17* - A new creation, new life cleansed by the Blood of Christ
Matthew 26:28 - The New Testament / New Covenant no longer dealing with sin
Hebrews 10:20 - The giving of the sinless Body of Jesus Christ, the Way to God.

And it will never know any transgression or disobedience or rebellion or unbelief.

- 2 Peter 3:13* - A Place where righteousness will be forever
Isaiah 65:17 - Nothing remembered of sin anywhere again
Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:11, 14 - 15, 18 - 19

It is a Place of Love - Sacrificial Love, for the Lamb will be The Central Figure through all Eternity. His wounds will be The Central Feature through all Eternity, and His Death will be The Central Fact throughout all Eternity.

- Revelation 5:9, 12* - The Lamb slain, and exalted for His Humility and Giving
22:1, 3 - The Lamb on His own Throne in God's New Order

We can say that it is BIG and BRIGHT and BEAUTIFUL !!

Revelation 21:10 - 26; 22:1 - 5

Looking first at some *Psalms* on Christ's Resurrection :

- 2:7 "I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee."
- 3:3 "the lifter up of Mine head."
- 3:5 "I laid Me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained Me."
- 5:3 "My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct My prayer unto Thee, and will look up."
- 9:13 "Thou that liftest Me up from the gates of death."
- 16:10 "For thou wilt not leave My soul in hell."
- 17:15 "I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness."
- 18:16 "He sent from above, He took Me, He drew Me out of many waters."
- 18:19 "He brought Me forth also into a large place."
- 18:48 "Thou liftest Me up above those that rise up against Me."
- 20:8 "But we are risen" [1 Corinthians 15:23]
- 21:4 "He asked life of Thee, and Thou gavest it Him, even length of days for ever and ever
- 23:3a "He restoreth My soul."
- 24:7 - 10 "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in." [John 20:17 - "Touch Me not, for I am not yet ascended unto My Father."]
- 119:62 "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee because of Thy righteous judgments." (the third day, counted from evening to evening [Genesis 1:5 etc])

Ephesians 1:20 & 2:6 - First Christ was raised, then us in position and in reality!

NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN !

As fallen human beings we have three great enemies : the world, the flesh and the Devil.

1 John 2:16 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life ... is of the world."

Ezekiel 14:14 & 20 reveals three overcomers :

Noah – who overcame the world;

Daniel – who overcame the flesh;

Job – who overcame the Devil.

In this New Testament Age **the Devil** has no power to the overcomer.

James 4:7b "**Resist the devil, and he will flee from you**" – because you have shown him that you overcome by the Blood of the Lamb [*Revelation 12:11*].

The world should be no problem either! Just come out of it! Turn away from its siren call; its persuasions, fashions, attractions. Just recognise the deceit and lies in it all.

The flesh is the hardest to overcome! Our sinful human nature cannot be changed! Our sins can be forgiven and forgotten through the shed Blood of Christ, our consciences purged [*Hebrews 9:14*] our hearts and minds renewed and our souls decide to go God's Way – but the flesh, the sinful nature, can only be crucified! **We must die with Christ!**

Romans 8:13 is clear, "**For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**"

v14, "**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God**" – no longer the seed of the serpent! – and

Galatians 5:16-17 words which all show the Way to victory! "**This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**"

Let us conclude with these words from **Romans 8:31 - 39** -

"What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen

again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are

more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."