

# **GCSSM**

## **Course Outline**

### **Course Title:**

## **Discovering Your True Identity**

### **Course Description:**

In this course we will examine in class the foundational truths of our created identity that is unlocked through Christ. We will discover the principles of walking free from sin with a proper understanding of your new nature in Christ. We will be awakened to righteousness and put off guilt, shame, fear and condemnation for good while developing intimacy with God in a tangible and constant way.

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### **Course Study Resources:**

- \* The book "Awake To Righteousness" by: Mark Greenwood
- \* The Bible

# **Discovering Your True Identity**

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## Section 1:

### 1. Man's Created Identity.

(Instructor's Handout)

- In order to know what we are purposed for we have to look to the Creator. He designed and created us for something significant in His kingdom, in order to impact the world around us.
- In the beginning God created man in His image and after His likeness.

#### Genesis 1:26

***Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."***

- Man was created in the image and likeness of God to have authority and rule and reign with him over all the works of his hands. We also see this in Psalms.

#### Psalms 8:4-6

***4 "What is man that You are mindful of him,  
And the son of man that You visit him?"***

***5 "For You have made him a little lower than the angels,  
And You have crowned him with glory and honor."***

***6 "You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;  
You have put all things under his feet,"***

- God created man in rightness, holiness and to be one with Him. God breathed into man His spirit, God was in him and upon him.

#### Genesis 2:7

***"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."***

- Man was created with the nature of God in him. Man didn't have a sinful nature before the fall. He was in right standing and right relationship with God.
- God told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden but he could not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

#### Genesis 2:16-17

***"16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'"***

- God said that if he were to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that on that day he would surely die. Adam didn't die physically that day because the scripture says he lived to be 930yrs. old (Gen.5:5). Man was created to live forever but, the day Adam ate he began to die physically but, the death he died on the day he ate from the tree was spiritual death.
- The word death according to the Noah Webster 1828 American dictionary of the English language defines death as the state of being separated. When you are physically dead then you are in the state of being separated from your physical body. When you are spiritually dead then you are in the state of being separated from God.
- When Adam disobeyed the command of God and allowed sin in, man became spiritually separated from God with no access to the Father.
- This began when the enemy, Satan came to Eve and began to tempt her with a lie. The Enemy came after their identity. For he knew that if he could steal their identity then they would no longer be able to identify with the Father.

### **Genesis 3:4-5**

***4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."***

- Notice the lie the Enemy used, "that if you will eat of the fruit, you will not surely die" For God knows that in that day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
- The 1st part of the lie was the enemy said they wouldn't die but God said they would die! Then the other part of the lie was that if they ate they would be like God. The truth of the matter was they were already like God, in that - they were created in His image after His likeness.
- The enemy wanted their identity so that they could no longer identify with God.
- God had a plan to get his creation back from the fall. Gen.3:15 The seed of a woman would come ***"...He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."***

### **1 Peter 1:18-21**

***18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.***

- Notice, God redeemed those that would receive the His sacrifice.

- The definition of the word redeem according to the Noah Webster 1828 American dictionary of the English language is, *to rescue ; to recover; to purchase what has been sold; to regain possession of something alienated, by repaying the value of it to the possessor.*
- When Jesus was sent to redeem us, He didn't just redeem us from death and sin but he also redeemed us to something.
- He redeemed us from sin and death but he also redeemed us back to the relationship as a son and daughter of God. He redeemed us back to the position and value of what we were before the fall, to rule and reign over the works of His hands with Him forever.
- He redeemed and reconciled us to Himself as His righteousness. As we were identified with Adam's sin and made a sinner through what he did. In like manner, through the redemptive power of what Jesus did as we identify with him makes us the righteousness of God.

### **Romans 5:17-19**

***17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.***

Wow! Those that receive their redemption by receiving the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness will reign in life through Christ.

I would like to read these same passages backing up to verse 12 out of The Passion Translation -

***12 When Adam sinned, the entire world was affected. Sin entered human experience, and death was the result. And so death followed this sin, casting its shadow over all humanity, because all have sinned. 13 Sin was in the world before Moses gave the written law, but it was not charged against them where no law existed. 14 Yet death reigned as king from Adam to Moses even though they hadn't broken a command the way Adam had. The first man, Adam, was a picture of the Messiah, who was to come.***

***15 Now, there is no comparison between Adam's transgression and the gracious gift that we experience. For the magnitude of the gift far outweighs the crime. It's true that many died because of one man's transgression, but how much greater will God's grace and his gracious gift of acceptance overflow to many because of what one Man, Jesus, the Messiah, did for us!***

***16 And this free-flowing gift imparts to us much more than what was given to us through the one who sinned. For because of one transgression, we are all facing***

***a death sentence with a verdict of “Guilty!” But this gracious gift leaves us free from our many failures and brings us into the perfect righteousness of God—acquitted with the words “Not guilty!”***

***17 Death once held us in its grip, and by the blunder of one man, death reigned as king over humanity. But now, how much more are we held in the grip of grace and continue reigning as kings in life, enjoying our regal freedom through the gift of perfect righteousness in the one and only Jesus, the Messiah!***

***18 In other words, just as condemnation came upon all people through one transgression, so through one righteous act of Jesus’ sacrifice, the perfect righteousness that makes us right with God and leads us to a victorious life is now available to all. 19 One man’s disobedience opened the door for all humanity to become sinners. So also one man’s obedience opened the door for many to be made perfectly right with God and acceptable to him. 20 So then, the law was introduced into God’s plan to bring the reality of human sinfulness out of hiding. And yet, wherever sin increased, there was more than enough of God’s grace to triumph all the more! 21 And just as sin reigned through death, so also this sin-conquering grace will reign as king through righteousness, imparting eternal life through Jesus, our Lord and Messiah!***

- I have a definition for righteousness - “He, Jesus became everything you were so that you could become everything He is.”
- He became the sin and what you identified with from the fall, to redeem you so you could become the righteousness of God, an heir; a son or daughter.

## **2 Corinthians 5:21**

***For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

## **2 Corinthians 5:21 TPT**

***For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

- The Bible definition of righteousness ***is right standing.***
- Righteousness is right standing not right doing.
- By receiving our righteousness as a free gift and by the revelation of the righteousness we’ve received, not only will we be in right standing with God but, the fruit will be right living.
- I believe it was Bill Johnson that said, “we are human beings not human doings”
- Applied here, simply means you have to “be” before you “do.” What you do comes from your being, who you are.
- This is why understanding your true identity means everything.

Tell the testimony of the guy that died and went to heaven and what happened when he came before the throne of God.

- Jesus gave us His righteousness which means - “WE HAVE THE SAME STANDING WITH THE FATHER THAT JESUS HAS!” He didn’t give us a sub standard righteousness, we received His, as a free gift!
- Our true Identity, has everything to do with awakening to righteousness.
- Our true identity along with our purpose, why we are here, was planned before the foundation.
- Jesus is perfect theology; Jesus is the truth about God and the truth about us.
- When we understand the nature of God through Christ and rightly define ourselves by His righteousness we will live the fruitful , healthy and productive lives He has purposed for us to live before the foundation of the world, as we walk with Him.

### **Ephesians 1:3-12**

***3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.***

***7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.***

- God had a plan to redeem you, your life, your created purpose even before the foundations of the world.
- What you would do for the Father, would have to come through redemption, that includes everyone after Adam.
- Which means, the same time He was writing His will for Jesus and what He would do before the foundation of the world - He was also writing in His book what you would do In Christ, His will and His purpose for your life before the foundation of the world.

### **Psalms139;16-18**

***16 “Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;...”***

- Your true identity, the Father's plan and purpose for your life were planned in Christ before the foundations of the world.
- It can only be unlocked and released into our life by receiving redemption and awakening to the free gift of righteousness.
- We can not represent the heart of the Father who we do not know and we can not truly be ourselves until we embrace the reality of who we are in Christ.
- Only when Identity and In Intimacy are intact, can we expect to effectively increase His Kingdom family on earth.

## **2. Sinner Saved By Grace**

(Chapter 1 p.17-28)

- A Common Christian description for the condition of the believer is "sinner saved by grace." This is an oxymoron.
- **Oxymoron** - *"A figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction."*
- Examples of Oxymorons: Genuine Imitation; Jumbo Shrimp; Original Copies; Alone Together; Living Dead; Seriously Funny.
- The term "sinner" is never used in Scripture to describe the nature of Christians. A Christian "sinner saved by grace" is not even alluded to in the Bible.
- We must not fall into the dangerous trap of defining the conditions of our nature by our thoughts, feelings, actions, or experiences.
- These are a significant source of our mistaken terminology, along with some misinterpretations from Scripture.
- We must only look at what Scripture says we are and either agree or disagree with the truth.
- It remains the truth either way, but it will only change our experience when we understand and set our faith on it.
- We can not be *sinner*s and simultaneously be *saved*.
- This is because sin was precisely what we were saved from when we believed the Gospel.
- We are sinners or we are saved. Anything else is a contradiction, an oxymoron.
- If you learn and believe the truth found in Scripture, it will set you free (John 8:32). If you disagree or remain ignorant, then the wrong conclusions you make will keep you in bondage (2 Peter 1:9).
- What you think you are will determine how you behave. Belief determines behavior, but only Scripture will reveal your true nature and identity.

***We were sinners. Grace saved us from our sin.***

***We are now the righteousness of God in Christ.***

**John 1:29**

**"...Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"**



- John's Baptism was one of repentance. If his baptism was the only answer for sin, he would not have excitedly stated that "the Lamb of God would **take away** the sins of the world".
- We required a repentance that led to regeneration—to have the old, sinful nature taken away and a whole new nature received.
- "Jesus come to save us from our sin, not in our sin."
- Jesus's death on the cross did not offer a more permanent covering for our sinful condition; it removed the sin nature we were in bondage to.
- When we misdiagnose ourselves as sinners, we mistreat ourselves as those who are distant from and disapproved by God.
- Faith empowers the things we believe about ourselves.
- When our understanding is that we are natural sinners, we will produce the appropriate lifestyle to this belief, reinforcing our wrong understandings as our experience continues to compliment it.
- Scripture enables us to challenge our experience by changing our perspective of ourselves to the perspective God has of us.
- True freedom is produced by thinking differently about who we are.
- When you think you remain a sinner after conversion, you will never believe that you can live free from sin. You will also read Scripture through the lens of your perceived identity.
- You will limit yourself from looking to Jesus as your example, making Him an unattainable standard you will never reach, instead excusing your sinful behaviors with a misguided understanding of His grace.
- If you believe you are destined to a life of struggle with sin, then your faith is limited to that experience.
- What if you find out that you are no longer a sinner but a saint and of the household of God? **Ephesians 2:19** "***Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.***"
- What if you find out you are holy and recreated in righteousness? **Ephesians 4:24** "***...put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.***"
- What if you find out is not an unreachable example to compare yourself to but, in fact, He is the mirror in which you discover your new self? **1 John 4:17** "***...because as He (Jesus) is, so are we in this world.***"
- The problem is we have largely failed to identify ourselves by the life and nature of Jesus after we believed.
- We do not view ourselves as those He has conformed to his image, nor do we see ourselves as having had our sinful nature removed (**Romans 8:29; 1 John 4:17; 2 Peter 1:4**).
- When we truly understand this, it naturally transforms our behavior.
- Instead of defining ourselves by Scripture alone, we have let the very thing we experience, think, and feel dictate who we are.
- Jesus paid precious blood to set us free from the very thing we continue to claim is our essence.

- We have forgotten the simple reason God became a man in the first place: to remove our sinful nature and unite us to the God head.
- The danger of believing we are still sinners, apart from it not being scriptural, is it robs us from feeling adequate enough to have deep intimacy with God, the thing He created us for. It keeps us stuck in guilt, shame and condemnation.
- Things we would never have to deal with again if we would only see what He did on the cross and learn to live in His resurrection life.
- We must awake to righteousness and “not go on” (**1 Corinthians 15:34 “Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame”**).
- It is time to ditch the oxymoron “*sinner saved by grace*” and draw a line in the sand for true purity and the finished work of Jesus in our lives.

### **3. The Old Is Gone And So Is The Middle.**

(Chapter 2 p.29-39)

- News flash! The second appearance of Jesus will not remove our sinful nature from us, nor will it regenerate us to our intended design. Why? Because His first appearance did!
- We cannot consider our redemption from sin as something that remains a future event.
- In Jesus’ second coming we will put off these earthly tents and receive glorified bodies.
- It was during Jesus’ first appearance when our old sinful nature was put to death and we were created in His glorious nature.

#### **Hebrews 9:28 ESV**

***“So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”***

- Why won’t Jesus deal with sin at His second appearance? Because His first appearance dealt with it - He bore our sins for us and destroyed its power over us in His death, putting the old sinful nature away.
- The second appearance occurs when Jesus comes back for His already blood bought church, His bride.
- His return are for those who are already regenerated into His likeness.
- Because of these mistaken appearances, we have lived with an ambiguous, middle or halfway mindset. We define ourselves as both saved and being saved or simultaneously sinners and saints. This is not true, it robs Jesus of the thing He came to purchase us for—real freedom from sin; powerful kingdom lives; and true intimacy with God.

- Jesus took sin out of the believer once and for all. **Hebrews 10:12** ***“But this Man (Jesus), after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.”***
- Jesus accomplished the will of the Father to set us free from the sin nature through co-crucifixion and co-resurrection.
- He paid for our transition from the old, sinful nature to the new creation.
- We must realize His death was our death too.
- You are not slowly dying to the old man, but you died to him completely when you were crucified with Christ.

**Romans 6:6**

***“Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”***

**Colossians 3:3**

***“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”***

**Galatians 2:20**

***“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”***

The Old Is Gone!

**1 Corinthians 5:17**

***“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”***

- There is no ambiguous or middle ground in our identity in Christ.

**\*Reference the Chart on p. 33-34 In Adam you were:/In Christ you are:**

- The old man is not chasing you down, breathing down your neck, and resurrecting himself frequently to cause sin in your life. He is dead and gone. He was removed as far as the east is from the west.

**Psalms 103:12**

***“As far as the east is from the west,  
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”***

**Isaiah 44:22**

***I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions,  
And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.”***

- If born again, you are in the kingdom of His beloved Son, if not then you are still in the domain of darkness. Again, no middle ground.

**Colossians 1:13**

***“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”***

**Ephesians 5:8**

***"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."***

- There is not a “dim” option here, only darkness or light.
- We must not define ourselves by our lives experiences, as though our experience is a better source of truth than the Scriptures.
- You are finally compatible with God, adopted as a son or daughter in Christ, for the sake of knowing Him.
- Our problem is not that we still have a sinful nature. Our problem is we haven’t realized we no longer have one!

## Section 2:

### 1. Born From Above.

(Chapter 3: p.41-49)

- Every Christian is familiar with the term “born again,” but do we really know what it means.
- The Greek term for born again, *gennao anothen*, actually means “born from above.” It also means being born anew or to be born from the beginning, from the very first.
- To be born again means to be born from the beginning, or born from above, which refers to heaven. That is why “our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20) and we are seated “in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 2:6). Heaven is not only in our future but it is now our origin.
- The purity of Adam’s nature before the fall is now our nature in the union with Christ.
- We are not born again in our sin; We are born again from sin.
- The Greek word for reconciled means to change from one condition to another, as to remove all enmity and leave no impediment to unity and peace.

#### Colossians 2:12

***“buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”***

- Baptism represents the reality that we have died with Christ and have been raised in His likeness with the newness of life.
- It is an outward expression of an inward reality.

#### Romans 6:4

***“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”***

- We were converted by the cross, not covered by it.
- The Greek word used to describe communion or the lord’s supers *koinonia*, which is the same word translated “fellowship.” This means “joint participation.” It is an intimate and personal word.
- We were intimately joined with Christ in His death and Resurrection. Communion is a constant celebration and reminder off this.

#### 1 Corinthians 10:16

***“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a (koinonia) joint participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a (koinonia) joint participation in the body of Christ?”***

- We must not take the bread and the wine if we don't believe we have been set free from sin through co-crucifixion and co-resurrection in Christ.

### **Never Ending Circumcision**

- Another powerful way our conversion is represented in Scripture is by circumcision.
- In the same way that people of the old covenant underwent a physical circumcision; we also must undergo a spiritual circumcision to be part of the new covenant in Christ.

### **Colossians 2:11**

***“In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ”***

- Paul describes our circumcision in Christ as putting off the flesh.
- The flesh here represents the sinful nature that we have been set free from and paints a picture of us having had it circumcised off of us.
- He refers to us in our old life as having been “dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of our flesh.” **Colossians 2:13** ***“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.”***
- Our nature in Adam was uncircumcision; Our nature in Christ is circumcision.
- We must not believe a philosophy of the Christian life that represents lifelong circumcision or a half done baptism. These faulty ways of thinking lead to faulty ways of living.

## **2. Awake, O' Sleeper.**

(Chapter 4: p. 51-58)

### **Ephesians 5:14 ESV**

***“For anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'”***

- One exciting thing about the righteousness message is the language defining it: It is to “Awake” ( 1 Cor. 15:34; Eph. 5:14).
- We don't have to spend years figuring out the nuts and bolts of the message before we can experience the liberation of it.
- There is a simple heart stirring and liberation experience that happens in the moment as we finally understand that our salvation means more than we thought.
- The quality of this liberty increases as we grow in intimacy with God and understanding, learning to meditate on the truth, fighting for it, even as opposing thoughts and feelings say come.
- Where the enemy has kept us in experiential bondage by causing us to believe we are what we are not, the truth can liberate dramatically and swiftly from these lies.

- To have a tangible experience when someone believes the truth for you in a situation is powerful, liberating and life changing. But maintaining a transformed and liberated life happens when you pursue that understanding of the truth for yourself.
- “Instead of letting what you feel change your mind about the truth, turn to the truth to challenge what you are feeling.”

### 3. What is Righteousness?

(Chapter 5: p. 61-75)

*“May we not deceive ourselves, imagining that sinning is inevitable for a Christian, I think no thought hurts our Lord more than this kind of attitude.” — Watchman Nee*

- A biblical definition for Christians is that we are righteous, as righteous as God, in fact.
- This is because in Christ we become God’s righteousness, for the sake of compatible relationship with Him and for the freedom He desires for us.

#### 2 Corinthians 5:21

***“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”***

- In Scripture, a standard of righteousness is determined by the object it is being compared to.
- Righteousness, when God Himself is in the object it is defined by, is to be just like Him. He is the standard.
- He defines what righteousness is, righteousness does not define what He is.

#### Romans 5:19

***“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”***

*“He became everything we were so that we could become everything He is.”  
— Tony Thompson*

- Because of this righteousness the Father has shared with us, we can accurately be called saints, holy, pure, blameless, and light filled in Christ.
- God sees us righteous because He made us righteous.
- Righteousness is the substance of our salvation.
- God’s righteousness has been shared with us. This is why He can rightly call us sons and daughters.
- The Greek word for righteousness is dikaios which means: “used of him whose way of thinking, feeling and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God, and who

therefore needs no rectification in the heart of life;” also faultless; guiltless; holy and innocent; acceptable to God.

- This is both a statement of our new nature and the life we are invited to live by faith as new creations. This is an internal reality being described, not just how God sees us.
- We have an actual righteous nature now in Christ, meaning we can live actual righteous lives by faith.
- God’s righteousness is far more than a positional intangibility to us. It is the reality of our regenerated state as Christians.

The following Scriptures show that once you die and are raised with Christ in the new covenant, you share God’s righteousness in your new nature as a new creation:

### **2 Corinthians 5:21**

***“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”***

### **Philippians 3:9**

***“And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;”***

### **Romans 1:16-17**

***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel [c]of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”***

### **1 Corinthians 1:30**

***“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—“***

### **Romans 3:21-24**

***21 “But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”***

### **Romans 10:3-4**

***3 “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”***



- As you can see, righteousness is the powerful definition of your new identity. It is also the practical calling of your new life in Christ.

### **1 John 3:7**

***“Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.”***

- We must not fall into the dangerous idea that we can define ourselves by something without expecting and pursuing the manifest reality of that identity.
- Righteousness is what God does because righteousness is what God is.
- The reason God works perfect justice and righteousness in His actions is because He is righteous in His nature and character.
- His actions are an expression of His nature.
- This is the same nature we were translated into the moment we were born again.
- Therefore, when we clearly see who we are and walk in this truth obediently and faithfully, righteousness becomes what we do, because righteousness is what we are.
- We can not practice righteousness until we believe we have become righteous.
- Righteousness is a being word before it is a doing word, but it is explicitly both. In other words your actions come from who you are. Be, first then do.
- Remember, belief determines behavior.

## **4. A Divine Inventory**

(Chapter 6: p. 77-91)

- The Greek word for “new creation” in 2 Corinthians 5:17 is the word ***kainos*** which means of a new kind; unprecedented; uncommon; unheard of.
- You are a ***kainos*** creation. This doesn’t mean a second chance at your old life in Adam. You are a creation that has never existed before.
- You were made of an entirely different substance when you were filled with God and recreated.
- How do you take an inventory? It is an assessment of your new nature as a ***kainos*** creation, checking your stock.
- The simplest starting point for taking a divine inventory is to recognize that as Jesus is, so are you in this world (1 John 4:17), since you are conformed to His image (Romans 8:29).
- Jesus is not just our Lord and Savior and the eternal Son of God. He is also our reference for the new life we have been given as we share His divine nature.

### **Matthew 5:8**

***“Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.”***

- If having a pure heart means that we get to see God, then what better aspect of our new nature is there for the enemy to confuse?
- If he can get us to believe that the heart is evil and untrustworthy as Christians, then we will live in shame and condemnation, shying away from knowing the Father.
- God promised to give us a new heart — a heart to know Him. (**Ezekiel 36:26; Ezekiel 11:19; Jeremiah 24:7**)
- That is the point of the new Covenant: to remove the sin issue, restore us to God's righteousness, and give us the relationship with Him every human heart desires.
- He cleanses our hearts.

### **Acts 15:8-9 ESV**

***8 “And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, 9 and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.”***

- The Greek word for cleansed literally means to purify; to purge; to free from defilement sin and from faults; to purify from wickedness; to free from guilt of sin.

### **1 Timothy 1:5**

***“Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith.”***

### **1 Peter 1:22**

***“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.”***

- Godly love comes from a heart that has been made pure.
- You can see that part of our redemption package is to have a new heart, a heart to know the Lord.

### **The Conscience**

- Is apart of the human soul that produces feelings of grief when we violate it, or feelings of pleasure and security when our lives are in step with our value system.
- This value system can be a secular one, or based on any set of perceived ethics, but the conscience is only in true health when tied to scriptural truth alone and washed clean by the blood of Jesus.
- It can then keep us in step according to God's truth as we walk with the Holy Spirit.
- As Christians, we must learn to walk with a clear conscience, which grows in strength and sharpness by growing in scriptural truth.
- Even though you have been given an entirely new nature, it is yours to honor.
- Claiming righteousness as an excuse to ignore sin, rather than to walk away from it, is a sin.
- When you understand the lengths Jesus went to in setting you free, you will develop such a value for freedom that you will actually learn to hate sin.

- It is important to make something clear as we learn to steward our consciences. There is a difference between worldly grief and Godly grief.
- Worldly grief is rooted in condemnation and a misunderstanding of God's heart towards us.
- It is limited in bearing real fruit and damages our relationship with God.
- Godly grief comes from the realization we are living less than our true inheritance of holiness and union with Christ.
- Our conscience triggers this in our heart. Godly grief leads to repentance and freedom., with no regret and no condemnation.
- Godly grief can be a discomfort, but it is a liberating thing when our desire is to live transformed lives.
- As new creations, we can learn to be governed in practical life by a pure conscience, steered by healthy new covenant convictions as we grow in relationship with the Father.
- In the new covenant, we are called to function in relationship with God, pursuing a way of living in the royal law of love that Christ brought to light and keeping a clear conscience, according to the purposes we discover in Him for our new life.

## Section 3:

### 1. The Deceitfulness Of Sin

( Chapter 7: p. 93-113)

The million dollar question that everyone wants answered. ***If I am not a sinner anymore, why can I still sin?***

- As new creations, we still have the ability to sin, to the same degree that we had the ability to sin before we got born again.
- But by understanding the deceitfulness of sin Hebrews 3:13 and what sin is, we are further empowered to recognize and walk away from it.
- Knowing the truth about sin helps us to understand what is happening when we are being tempted or give in to sin's deception, and know how to avoid it.
- God lives inside of us now, intimately and actually, while sinks on the outside.
- This simple change of view can bring immense freedom.
- While we know sin is no longer ruling us from the core of our nature , how does sin find influence, how can we preempt it, and how can we live free from it?
- Some believers might say. "We must have part sin in our nature we would not sin."
- Did Adam and Eve have a sinful nature when they sinned and ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil? No.
- They were made in the image and likeness of God, with no sin in them. They were completely pure and innocent but could choose to sin when tempted by an external enticement.
- Because of Adam's sin you were born with a nature that you could not choose (sinner), then once born again with a nature you could not earn (saint).
- Jesus became an entire human being to redeem the entire human being.
- Vine's Expository Bible dictionary gives insight into numerous verses that present sin as a personality, an independent power, as not just actions we do, but an entity we engage with.

#### **Romans 6:6-7**

***6 "knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin."***

The governing power, e.g. Romans 6:6, "the body" of sin. Here sin is spoken of as organized power, acting through the members of the body, though the seat of sin is in the will (the body is the organic instrument); in the next clause, and in other passages, as follows, this governing principle is ***personified***.

- Wow! Sin is a personified force. A noun.
- In the book of Romans sin is used as a verb only twice but used forty-six times as a noun.

- When sinful desires come, accusations, or thoughts dictate your actions and thought life, they are reigning in your body. This does not mean you take on a sinful nature again. It means you have let the thing Jesus delivered you from have a say in your life again and produce sin.
- The Message bible illustrates this well:

### **Romans 6:1-3 MSG**

***1-3 So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!***

### **Romans 6:10-14**

***10-11 When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did.***

***12-14 That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you've been raised from the dead!—into God's way of doing things. Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.***

- We are new creations now free from the sinful nature; however, the entity of sin is still in the world.
- It comes from the outside and challenges us with thoughts and desires for sin that are not ours. When we believe they are our thoughts and desires, we often give into them and produce sin.
- Sin is defined as far more than just missing the mark or an action we perform. It is also an external personified force.
- Sin still exists outside of us, however, trying to influence us and keep us in bondage.
- Sin's aim is to use our mortal bodies as an instrument to express itself, tempting us to choose sin, robbing Jesus of the glory we are called to display for him in purity.

### **Genesis 4:7**

***"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."***

- Sin is crouching at the door? Its desire is for you? Again, you can see sin is more than just the actions we perform.

- What a sinister thing sin is, with such evil desires to rule over that which belongs to God.

### **How does sin work?**

- Sin tries to deceive us into believing we do not measure up to God's righteousness.
- Sin wants us to perceive ourselves as less than sharers of God's righteousness and then to divide ourselves in our mindset as both light and darkness.
- Sin's aim is to get you striving for what God already fulfilled in you by grace.
- Another way sin tries to gain access is by tempting us with sinful desires or emotions that are not ours, hoping we will believe the desire is ours, especially because in the past we produced these innately.
- Sin tries to cause us to second guess the reality that we have received the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16, inclining us toward holiness in our thoughts and desires) and take on flawed and sinful actions.
- As Christians, we often distinguish thoughts that go through our minds and acknowledge every thought we have is ours, but many of us still identify with every single feeling they feel.
- Desires for sin are deceitful, not defining.
- Sin's desires do not define you; they are trying to deceive you. They are an external enticement, challenging your identity and fighting for you to conceive with them and produce sin.

### **James 1:14-15**

**"14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."**

- James explains here how our basic desires can be enticed by the enemy and they can conceive evil, producing sin.
- Satan attempts to draw away our desires enticing them into sin, through deceitful temptations.
- God held Adam and Eve personally responsible for their sin, not the devil.
- The devil was responsible for the deception and the temptation, but Adam and Eve were to blame for their sin.
- We can not blame the devil for our sin when we stumble.
- In Jesus' case in **Luke 4:1-12**, His desires were also enticed by an external temptation in the wilderness, but He did not give in and therefore remained pure.
- This account teaches us it is not a sin to experience temptation, nor does temptation define us. Jesus in every respect has been tempted as we are yet without sin **Hebrews 4:15**.
- It is obeying temptation that leads to sin.
- Adam and Eve failed in the garden, giving in to the external temptation of sin and conceiving sin, Jesus was victorious.

- Jesus stood firm in the truth, these enticements from the enemy couldn't conceive with His desires for Him to produce sin. This was not an inner battle Jesus had to fight, but one He won by standing in the truth the Scriptures in the face of external temptations.
- When desire has conceived it gives birth to sin. How many parties is required to conceive? At least two, this was James point.
- Your desires are being enticed by external and deceitful temptations from the power of sin and the devil. If you give in to the enticement, sin conceives with your desire, causing you to produce sin instead of holiness.
- The sin you may have been battling for years that you can't seem to overcome was overcome by Jesus on the cross.
- There is a familiar feeling, a deceitful desire, or a wrong thought pattern trying to rule you.
- When you move from a place of expectation that you will always struggle with these desires to a place of determination to change your mind to accept the truth, you can then change your behavior and expose these temptations.
- When you recognize the ways of the enemy and do not define yourself by these desires anymore, they lose their ability to reign in your mortal body.
- Any striving that we Christians do against sin should only be against the external deceptions of sin, girding up the loins of your mind and lean into the faithfulness of our High Priest, Jesus. He can keep us from caving in or losing clarity when we are being tempted.

#### **Hebrews 4:14-16**

***14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

- Notice, when you are being tempted Jesus understands because he has been tempted in all like matters just as all mankind.
- He wants you to come boldly before the throne and obtain His mercy and find grace (the empowerment to be like Christ) and receive help from Him in the time of your temptation.
- The corruption in the world is from sinful desires.
- We are free from that corruption now, and the sinful desire that causes it.
- Remember, sin did not just enter Adam, it entered the world through Adam.
- The passions and desires of the entity of sin, however, are still in the world.
- Now we only walk in and desire sin because we adopt wrong ways of thinking or feeling.
- You are not the sum of your thoughts and feelings you encounter. You are the sum of what Christ achieved on the cross and what God's word declares about you.
- Temptations for sin originate from the enemy's fiery darts and the entity of sin, not from indwelling impurities.

- This is why in Ephesians 6, Paul strongly advises us to put on the whole armor of God against these fiery darts of the enemy.
- Why wear armor to protect ourselves from these darts if the battle starts on the inside? It is an external battle against sin we are engaged in.
- Do not mistake the age of mercy we currently live in for an age of leniency toward sin on God's part. You can and must pursue freedom from sin.
- He has set you free from sin for a reason. You can live a holy life. He is worth it!

## **2. The Missing Link**

(Chapter 8: p.115-126)

- The experience of our new life is not instant. There is a missing link.
- What can help us pursue the missing link; what can assist us make the truth about us become our experience.

### **Hosea 4:6**

***“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.  
Because you have rejected knowledge..”***

- The missing link is a lack of knowledge, it is that simple.
- This verse doesn't say that God's people are destroyed because the devil is too powerful, or because God has hidden His will from them, or because they are sinners.
- A lack of knowledge or the rejection of the knowledge destroys us.
- How do you abound in love more and more? Is it by receiving something from God you do not already have? No. Grow in accurate knowledge of God and you will grow in love as a response to his beauty.
- God does not just want you to be saved, he wants you to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.
- A knowledge of the truth is how you can see evidence and enjoy the fruit of our salvation.
- We best address sin by becoming diligent and understanding the truth.
- True understanding transforms your life not just your vocabulary.
- The gospel should be powerfully displayed and intellectually explained, it was never meant to be intellectually defended void of a tangible expression.
- We must pursue understanding about who God is and who we are. If we ever remove the gift of theology from its intended environment of intimacy we will be puffed up and wrongfully find our identity in it.
- True knowledge and wisdom are in Christ and it is Holy Spirit that desires to lead us into all truth.
- Your knowledge of something does not determine its reality. Just because you have not known or experienced it right now does not make it any less real.



### **3. Live Like Him**

(Chapter 9: p. 127-138)

- Our new nature is in total dependence of our union with him. Jesus made us one spirit with himself through his death and resurrection.

#### **1 Corinthians 6:17**

***“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”***

- Jesus does not represent an unattainable standard you will always fail to meet, rather he is the example of your new life in him.
- WHEN YOU know the King the kingdom will continually manifest.

*“Jesus is the example not the exception.” - Joel Shaw*

- We live in him so we can live like him.
- We must not define ourselves by the actions of the disciples in the gospels. Instead, we must discover ourselves by the person of Jesus.

#### **1 John 2:6**

***“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”***

- The way to live like him is to live in him. The spontaneous result of the value that you place on this union will be a strong resemblance to this life, so focus on union and not uniformity.
- Authentic Christian activity is the spontaneous result of intimacy with God.
- Become familiar with the Father or you may make an idol of outreach in our increasing priesthood culture to find your identity.

#### **Song of Solomon 2:7**

***“...Do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases.”***

- Last but not least, he is a mirror for who we are not a measure for who we are not.

### **4. All Will Know Him**

(Chapter 10: p. 139-147)

- The revelation of righteousness does not cause you to live in denial or ignorance of sin if it happens. Instead, it helps you to confront lies with truth.
- It allows you to walk a stronger walk with the Father as you lean back in your identity with Christ.

#### **Do you know how Jesus lived a life completely free from sin?**

- It was his value for relationship with his Father. The same goes for us.

- Jesus was fully man and fully God. He was tempted in every way, but without sin.
- He had the same capacity to sin as we do.
- Was it because he had the perfect revelation that he never sinned? No. The scripture tells us that Jesus had to grow in wisdom and stature.
- It was not his wisdom and revelation that kept him from sin, it was his intimate trust relationship with the Father that he never compromised.
- Your revelation is only as good as the intimacy with God it produces.
- If you want to live free from sin, use your revelation to know why it exists. Intimately know God. He is the one who preserves you; he is the one who is faithful to keep you from sin.
- Your revelation of righteousness is like a door. When you open the door and go through it, you enter the room, the place of intimacy with God.
- If you're not careful, you will stand at the door, study about the door, teach about the door, even argue about the door, but never walk through it.

*"It is not how well you understand the truth or discuss doctrine, but how well you know Him is the key for walking in true freedom." — Tony Thompson*

- Righteousness is not the end goal; it is the entrance to intimacy.

### **John 17:3**

***"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."***

- All will know Him.
- Intimacy, relationship, and love: These are at the heart of the new covenant.
- Righteousness is the reason we can know the Father. Righteousness is the door to the place of intimacy with God.
- Intimacy with God is the reason for righteousness, the reason you and I breathe and the purpose we were created for.
- The declaration of God to you is: I have created you to know me, to be loved by me and to be like me.
- Both the purpose of revelation and the origin of revelation is intimacy with God.
- Let's move far beyond the center of saved by grace paradigm and boldly walk in the secure fellowship with God himself, seeing entire nations awaken to his love and purpose.

## Section 4:

### 1. Jesus, The Will And Nature Of God Revealed

(Chapter 11: p. 151-171)

“Jesus Christ alone can reveal the Father.” - Charles H. Spurgeon

- The devil hates the goodness of God. This is because the goodness of God leads us to repentance:
  - leads us into a relationship
  - makes us whole
  - helps us grow into our salvation and Christian character
  - fills us with hope
  - helps us trust him
  - helps us feel safe to engage with him.
- If we do not redeem the goodness of God in our generation, we will develop the language of righteousness but remain afraid of having intimacy with God.
- Jesus is the substance of what was foreshadowed in the Old Testament.
- Look how these verses speak of the Old Testament and how they served as a foreshadow of what was to come.

#### Colossians 2:17

***“which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”***

#### Hebrews 8:5

***“who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, ‘See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.’”***

#### Matthew 12:40

***“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”***

#### John 5:39-40

***“39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”***

- Often we make the mistake of determining his will or nature by his actions recorded in the Old Testament under the old covenant.
- God’s will and nature cannot be determined apart from seeing Him in Christ and through the new covenant, which was his ultimate plan for us.

- Fantastic evidence of this is found in **Luke 9**. Jesus revealed the truth about God's intentions when his disciples tried to act like what they thought God wanted them to based on their old covenant understanding.

#### **Luke 9:54**

***“Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?”***

- We can only interpret the shadows of the Old Testament through the explicit message of the New Testament.
- Jesus revealed perfectly who the Father is. Jesus revealed the nature of the entire Godhead and God's ultimate, transcendent desires for humanity.
- All Christian theology must be rooted in the life and message of Jesus. He is the truth about God. He is the express image of the Father, **Hebrews 1**.

"Jesus is perfect theology." - Bill Johnson

- If you can't see it in the Son, don't call it the Father.

#### **John 1:18**

***“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”***

#### **John 14:7-9**

***“7 ‘If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.’***

***8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”***

***9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”***

#### **Colossians 1:15**

***“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”***

- Jesus declared he alone revealed and fulfilled the will of God.
- He showed we had been wrong about God, but he declared and revealed Him to us, finally removing the veil the old covenant put over our eyes toward God.
- Once you grasp this, you can never call something you experience the will of God or the act of God, if it is inconsistent with the things that Jesus' life revealed about God. This makes things very narrow and as result very safe.
- Jesus is the perfect and the exact representation of God.

#### **John 10:30**

***“I and My Father are one.”***

- When you rightly define the Father by what the Son revealed about Him, you can finally trust and know who God is making it perfectly safe to go through the righteousness door into intimacy with your Father.
- Jesus Christ is the truth about God and the truth about us.
- You cannot be a representative for someones' heart you do not know.
- The belief in absolute sovereignty sometimes goes to such a devastating degree that God is ultimately to blame for the devil's work, which completely ignores the involvement of the enemy and the decisions of our human will.
- This belief can make Christians passive toward overcoming the enemy; they leave their God-given authority and power to lie dormant and act as if their hands are tied.
- Here are several truths that bring serious question to this flawed way of thinking about God's absolute sovereignty:
  - The kingdom of God is at hand and He has given us the keys. We must not blame everything on a wrong idea of God's sovereignty when we should use the authority given to us to establish His purpose (**Luke 10:19; Matthew 16:19**).
  - God wills that none should perish, but that all would come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved (**2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4**). This is a clear example of His desire and purpose. Are people dying and going to hell every day? Yes. Is it God's will they would be saved instead? Yes. If God's will is absolutely sovereign, then we have a serious problem here. It is not God's will that's sending people to hell.
  - If everything is God, then why do we have a sword/shield and power/ authority (**Ephesians 6:10-18; Luke 10:17; Matthew 28:18-20**)? What are we using these weapons to fight against? God's sovereign plan?
  - If everything is God, then why did He tell us to bind and loose according to heaven's design on the earth (**Matthew 16:18-19**)?
  - If everything is God, then why has He given the earth to the sons of men (**Psalms 115:16**)?
  - If everything is God, who do we have the power of life and death in our tongues (**Proverbs 18:21**)?
  - If everything is God, why do you reap what you sow (**Galatians 6:8**)?
  - If everything is God, then why are people destroyed for lack of knowledge (**Hosea 4:6**)? Some conclude destruction is the will of God, but the Bible calls it lack of knowledge.
  - If everything is God, then why speak to the mountain? If God wants it moved, then He will move it! (**Matthew 17:20; Mark 11:23**).
  - If everything is God, then why even go to the hospital and be healed? You are fighting God's sovereign order.
  - Why make any requests of God for safety, provision, weather, healing, wholeness, or people to be saved?

- If everything is God, then why did Jesus say if we abide in His Word we would know the truth, and the truth would set us free (**John 8:31-32**)? Perhaps we need the truth to set us free. Our brokenness is not His sovereign plan.
- If God the Father was sovereignly responsible for all the sick people in the Gospels, then why was God the Son healing them all? This would make God completely at odds with Himself (**Acts 10:38; 1 John 3:8**).

### **Matthew 23:37**

***“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”***

- It's time to stop blaming him and start believing Him.
- God has a plan for everyone's life, but it doesn't make us walk the path, and the specifics of his plans are usually far more diverse and spacious than we realize.
- He has presented life and death before us, and as a loving Father, he is compelling us to choose life.
- We have the ability to choose. God cannot force us to choose him; he can only present life to us in His Son for all men to see, inviting us into his loving arms of redemption and eternal life.

## **2. Grace**

(Chapter 12: p. 173-183)

- Grace is the key that holds righteousness together.
- It is the ingredient that replaces any works-based to manifest our new nature and produces far more powerful and authentic holiness.
- Without grace, and abled by Holy Spirit, we would be stuck with nothing but our effort to make our new righteous nature function.

### **Romans 5:17**

***“For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”***

- Grace and righteousness working together are what empowers us to reign in life.
- We understand a measure of what grace is, but apart from rightly defining ourselves as righteousness, we cannot properly know what grace does.
- We must discover the righteousness that grace is supposed to reign through. Grace reigns through righteousness not apart from it.
- Grace is not a covering for a sinful condition we retain from the Adamic fall once we enter into Christ.
- Once we understand our new righteous nature, we must reinterpret grace.

- To label grace as unmerited favor is absolutely accurate. However, this description falls short from what grace truly is and all that it can do.

### **Titus 2:11-12**

**“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,”**

- Grace is God’s continuing work in our inner man and our salvation.
- Grace is the reality to put off sin and live holy lives. It causes the fruit of our righteousness to manifest as we believe the truth.

“Grace is unmerited favor, forgiveness of sin, a free gift that cannot be earned. Grace is the empowerment to be like Christ.” — Tony Thompson

- Grace is not designed to enable anything apart from simple intentional faith.
- Grace is something we become strong in, by understanding what Jesus accomplished on our behalf.
- Grace is the entire foundational means of fruitfulness in our Christian lives once we understand our new nature.
- Grace is not a covering for you to be hidden from God and stay in your sin, it is the power to honor him with your new life in Christ.
- Grace cannot empower you to sin because your nature is not to sin anymore. It can only empower who you really are.
- Righteousness is enabled by grace and oiled by intimacy.
- Righteousness will become a burden to you if you do not understand it is enabled by grace and oiled by intimacy.

## Section 5:

### 1. Rightly Dividing The Word

(Chapter 13: p. 185-201)

- All the scriptures train and teach us about righteousness.
- Scriptures tell us to seek God's righteousness first.
- Paul says the reason why the gospel is so powerful is because the righteousness of God is revealed in it.
- Scripture calls itself the word of righteousness, commanding us to become skilled in it.
- One fundamental reason Jesus became a man was to make it possible for us to become the righteousness of God. The reason he died on the cross was so we could die to sin and live to righteousness.
- Jesus was the end of the law-based righteousness that could not save us in the old covenant, giving us his righteousness in the new covenant.
- The scriptures are a divine commentary on the covenant journey that man and God embarked on after man's fall in the garden.
- The scriptures tell the story of man's personal and failed pursuit of righteousness and God's ultimate provision of righteousness, all for the sake of intimacy and relationship.
- We need a revival of value for the scriptures in our generation.
- It is the divinely inspired message of God to humanity. It contains the absolute truth.
- When we rightly define ourselves by Christ alone, we can finally have discussions about theology that don't end in disunity and new denominations.
- Here is truth to expose a common lie: *The Bible is not hard to understand.*
- A key that makes it easy to read in intimacy with God and give it direct application to our lives.
  - The word is a mirror, not a measure. You see your renewed self in the reflection of Jesus' life. The bible is not something you measure yourself by; it is something you discover yourself in and hold fast to.

#### 2 Corinthians 3:18

***"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."***

**Here are some keys to have in mind as you approach Old Testament Scripture:**

- The Old Testament points to righteousness, the New Testament provides righteousness.
- The Old Testament intends to make you wise for salvation in faith in Jesus Christ.
- It also is useful; for teaching, reproof, training in righteousness.



- The entire Bible, including the Old Testament, includes Jesus. He is the object of all scripture.
- Once Jesus came onto the scene in the New Testament, we could see him everywhere in the Old Testament too.
- We could not accurately know God's ways in the Old Testament, until Jesus had come and given us insight into his nature and intentions.
- The Old Testament helps us learn that sharing God's righteousness in Christ is the only way to be free and have union with God, and that Christ is the full revelation of the God who created us.
- It is not a question of inspiration when we look at the various portions of scripture. It is a question of context and covenant.
- We must look at the Old Testament and the Gospels with the insight of the Epistles to have an accurate and whole understanding of all the scriptures.
- When did the Spirit of Truth come? He came when the Epistles were written. The Epistles were written with the Holy Spirit by people who were now born again, having unhindered insight into the new covenant Jesus had pointed to.
- God can also speak to us from scripture apart from its original context. But this will never be inconsistent with the explicit context and message of the whole counsel of scripture.
- His word is always the final authority.

## 2. Who Is This Romans 7 Man

(Chapter 14: p. 203-215)

The radical truth of our new righteous life in Christ is being preached in diverse circles. Often, the same few scripture passages come up when question time comes around. These are very important questions for which there are accurate answers. "What about Romans 7?" "What about Paul claiming he was chief of sinners?" "Didn't Paul say 'I die daily'? Does that mean we are dying to the old man slowly?" "Doesn't 1 John 1 say we are deceived if we say we have no sin?"

- Let's examine the wretched Romans 7 man.
- Without proper context in mind as we read, Romans 7 can be seen as describing the normal Christian experience; a battle with sin that can never truly end in this life, because sin remains part of our post-conversion nature.
- The problem is this drastically contradicts the explicit message of Paul's epistle: that we are no longer under sin's dominion.
- We were set free from the sinful nature when we were co-crucified with Christ (**Romans 6:6; Colossians 3:3; Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:21**).
- Another problem is that the Romans 7 man is not experiencing an occasional defeat by sin but an utter defeat by sin.
- If we conclude that Romans 7 is the Christian experience, then we must agree that we are carnal, sold under sin, and wretched to the core. We are destined to failure, slaves to a life of sinfulness not very distinguishable to that of unbelievers.

- If this is true, then we must make the conclusion that we are left in the same state as before we were born again, remaining subject to the Jewish law, and we cannot expect liberation from sin in this life.
- We are partakers of the divine nature (**2 Peter 1:3**), we are new creations where the old nature is gone and the new fully come (**2 Corinthians 5:17**); we are free from sin, and we are saints.
- I do not deny that Christians can struggle with sin, but I strongly deny that this Roman's 7 passage describes that struggle. The Romans 7 passage describes the battle of the person under the law, one who is not yet born again.
- God removes sin from our nature, but not from the earth.
- Sin has a way of trying to convince us that we have not changed and aims to rule in our lives by deceiving us.
- Sin will take an opportunity through our misunderstanding.
- Our experience will continue to reinforce our idea that Romans 7 is the Christian life, because that is where our faith has rested.
- If you are not the Romans 7 man, who is?

**Chapter 5:** Death in Adam, life in Christ. This Chapter strongly distinguishes our old life in Adam from our new life in Christ. We are justified now by Jesus' resurrection.

**Chapter 6:** In light of Romans 5, we are therefore free from sin! We died Jesus' death with him and are raised in the likeness of His resurrection! We are not under law but under grace as new creations; we are compelled to live holy and obedient lives now.

**Chapter 7:** Paul now anticipated questions from the Jewish believers in Rome about their relationship to the law as Christians. Paul said: ***“Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?”*** Romans 7:1

This tells us he had the Jewish believers in mind now. He then explained we died to the law when we were wedded to Christ—a powerful and confronting transition for Jewish believers. To remain faithful to the law was to be unfaithful to Jesus. Paul then used present tense language to define his experience under the law, or perhaps the experience of Israel as a nation under the law. He knew the Jewish believers could fully relate to this.

He reasoned the law exposed and increased our sinfulness so we would recognize our helplessness without a savior. He made the Christians death to the law clear so the Jewish readers could fully embrace the fullness of the finished work of Christ and enjoy the covenant.

**Romans 7:6**

***“But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.”***

**Chapter 8:** Paul could now conclude his thoughts on the law, summing up the subject of Romans 7 with: “***There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.***”  
**Romans 8:1**

He then proceeded to unpack our life in the Spirit as sons and daughters of God, liberated from the law, and alive through our adoption as sons in Christ.

There are multiple positions about who the Romans 7 man is, once it is settled that is not a Christian. Here are two popular thoughts about the Romans 7 man:

- Paul was referring strictly to his experience under the law. He used present-past tense language so that the Jewish believers could associate themselves with this past too.
- Paul was associating with the entire Israelite nation and its experience under the law, using present-past tense language still.

Either of these alternatives is possible. A critical thing to settle is that Romans 7:14-25 is not speaking of the Christian experience. When we read through the right lens, it is incredible to see how we misunderstood Romans 7. Misunderstandings like this have done far more damage than we realize. For the church to live in the fullness of what Jesus purchased, we must remove such hindrances in our traditions.

Do not miss out on your inheritance by believing lies on who you are. You are a blood-bought bride and must pursue to honor the price he has paid. Experience the liberty of truth and walk in freedom you were purchased for.

### **3. Are We Sanctified**

(Chapter 15: p. 217-235)

- We know now we are not on a life long journey from impure to pure—a slow purging of the old sinful nature, only to be suddenly concluded at death.
- Holy Spirit does not share his new temple (you) with the sinful nature.
- Just as Jesus is not unequally yoked, neither is Holy Spirit. A holy God only lives in a holy temple.
- The depth of our relationship with God can be hindered or empowered by what we believe about Christian sanctification.
- Your sanctification is not something you are developing, but something you are discovering and learning to display.
- The Three P’s of Sanctification that is broken into three main elements of sanctification:
  - **Positional**, which is past
  - **Progressive**, which is present
  - And **Perfect**, which is future

\*Discussion on page 218-219

**John 17:17**

***“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”***

**John 17:19**

***“And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.”***

“In the same way a man can never be called a husband until he is married, a Christian can never be called a Saint until he is sanctified.” - Mitchell Ramsey

- The message of righteousness does not remove this Christian responsibility to grow in maturity, discipline, character, understanding, intimacy, vigilance and truth.
- There is a process of maturity as Christians.
- The key difference is that we are not in the process of becoming new creations.
- We are learning to live life as the new creations we became when we first believed in Jesus.
- This is why we must develop a culture that expects the quality of Christian character like never before, but makes identity the mean by which these qualities are empowered.
- Your sanctification is final. Learn to live it to the fullest. Let your practical sanctification bring honor to God, who gave you your perfect sanctification for this reason.
- Let grace and love motivate you in every area of your life, learning to walk as a child of light, because you are a child of light.

## Section 6:

### 1. A Brief History

(Chapter 16: p. 237-245)

#### Protestant Paradigms:

- The famous conclusion of Martin Luther, on the nature of a Christian is as follows:

*"The Christian is righteous and a sinner at the same time, a holy and profane, an enemy of God and a Child of God."*

- This is an oxymoron. A theological paradox was concluded.
- Luther appears to have been grappling with an experiential contradiction, scripture calls us righteous, saints and holy again and again but we can still have a strong temptation for an experience with sin.
- Luther taught that Christians receive a saving righteousness instantly by faith. This was radical in his day.
- However, he maintained that this righteousness was entirely from outside of us. He taught that righteousness was merely imputed to us rather than imparted into us through faith, concluding that it did not change the innerman.
- Luther came to his greatest theological recovery that salvation was a gift of God's grace through Christ alone, received through faith alone.
- I can't imagine what state the church would be in today if not for Luther's fierce and costly recovery of this foundational Christian truth.
- John Calvin, a French theologian and pastor during the protestant reformation, reconsidered Luther's conclusion.
- Calvin differed from Luther about righteousness and proclaimed a union with Christ that was not just a forensic declaration of righteousness but a true transformation of the believer. This is helpful to note.
- Other influential reformers, even some influenced by Luther's life and theology saw righteousness as an imparted reality, not just a declaration of forensic righteousness.

#### Pre-Protestant Insight:

- Augustine, a theologian and a philosopher had quite an impact on shaping modern western theology thought.
- Augustine believed righteousness was far more than forensic or imputed alone, but a divine attribute in which Christians tangibly participated.
- He believed man was made righteous by an inner transformation that governed not only his actions, but also the motivation for those actions.

Athanasius of Alexandria (296-373 AD), a renowned Christian theologian and Church Father, stated:

*“For He was made man that we might be made God”*

Irenaeus (130-200 AD), who sat under the teaching of Polycarp, who was said to have been disciplined directly by John the apostle, stated:

*“The Word of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, who did, through His transcendent love, become what we are, that He might bring us to be even what He is Himself.”*

- These influential Church Fathers believed in a tangible righteousness.
- Many prominent medieval theologians such as Thomas Aquinas, Alexander of Hales, Albert the Great, and Bonaventure, to name a few, also saw righteousness as an impartation of divine grace, and as it having a real and tangible effect on the believer.

### **Post Protestant Insight:**

- John Wesley also differed from Luther on righteousness. Wesley was also no Calvinist. He strongly opposed the doctrine of predestination, and limited atonement, believing the gospel was for everyone.
- He also strongly emphasized personal holiness.
- To prove Christians were not only called righteous by God but to live righteously Wesley said:

*“I believe God implants righteousness to everyone whom he has imputed it. I believe Jesus Christ is made of God unto us sanctification as well as righteousness.”*

- He taught that Christians were so empowered to live holy lives that an entire sanctification could be attained practically perfecting the believer.
- He taught righteousness was not only imputed but imparted.
- Wesley believed Christians could live free from sin, when sin was defined as a voluntary transgression of a known law.
- Wesley disagreed with Luther that Christians were both sinners and saints simultaneously, believing it not to be scriptural and that it would produce a less holy expectation and therefore expression for our Christian lives.

There is a holiness available by recognition of a new an imparted nature of righteousness that is ours in Christ, which many are not experiencing and enjoying because of flawed conclusion.s

## 2. Four Things The Finished Work Is Not

(Chapter 17: p. 249-256)

- A false finished work mindset, rightly emphasizes our co-crucifixion on the cross, but wrongly ignores the personal commitment to the manifest intimacy and fruit of the Spirit that cross purchased us for.
- The finished work is the essence of Jesus' mission and message.
- If we miss the heart of the finished work, we will miss the heart of the gospel and how it applies to our lives today. To do this, we must distinguish the things not included in the finished work.
- Here are four claims sometimes wrongly taught or believed about the finished work:

### **False Claim #1: The finished work makes practices like discipline, vigilance and self-control irrelevant.**

- This is a damaging claim. The truth is Jesus invites us to experience the reality of our salvation in our daily lives by our acknowledgement and steadfastness in the truth.
- I now make a conscious choice to believe the truth and see it manifest or I can choose not to believe and continue to live the same way I used to, even though I am truly a new creation.
- I am called to the obedience of faith. This calls for a personal decision to believe, even in the face of opposing thoughts, feelings, or circumstances, to see the reality of the truth become my subjective experience.
- Paul frequently used words like discipline, vigilance and self-control in his letters. He told us to set our minds on things above (**Colossians 3:2**), walk as Children of the light (**Ephesians 5:8**), and be imitators of God as beloved children (**Ephesians 5:1**).
- Peter exhorted us to gird up the loins of our minds (**1 Peter 1:14**), and to add self-control to the knowledge of the truth (**2 Peter 1:6**). These disciplines are our privilege to function from in life.
- We must not throw out certain practices because they have been wrongly applied in the past.
- We must discover their redeemed beauty through a new lens of the finished work.

### **False Claim #2: A lifestyle of prayer and worship is unnecessary because we are in union with Jesus already.**

- We must find the redeemed form of certain Christian practices, but not throw them all out because of legalistic misapplication we have experienced in the past.
- Many of us worship thinking we are striving for God's attention, as though we do not already have it.
- Worship must be rediscovered now that we know the truth.
- Prayer, likewise, must be rediscovered. I can enjoy a deep and meditative prayer life from a place of perfect union with God.

- Prayer natures an awareness of his nearness.
- Prayer is not just words you speak, but a love you embrace and enjoy in various forms of experience.
- As those who embrace the finished work, to throw away worship would be devastating, we are finally positioned to worship in Spirit and in truth.

**False Claim #3: If you have a strong focus on pursuing the lost and making disciples you may be legalistic.**

- I acknowledge some people made an idol of outreach, wrongly finding their identity in winning the lost.
- This does not make a rightly motivated pursuit of the lost legalistic though.
- Again, we must discover what it means to be sons and daughters of God, free from dead works, who also relentlessly pursue the loss compelled by the love of God and the liberation of the new covenant.
- The heart of God never ceases to burn for the lost, but He does not live in an identity crisis, finding His worth in how many of His children have come home to Him on any given day.
- Embrace His heart for you, and then for the lost.
- Learn to be compelled than none other than the same love you experienced in that place of intimacy.

**False Claim #4: We are now free to enjoy all of life's natural pleasures, and to say this can be a distraction is legalistic.**

- Sometimes we embrace this claim to redeem ourselves from gnosticism: the belief that the natural realm is evil and that we cannot enjoy what it offers, or the belief that the natural realm plays no part in our true spiritual existence and salvation, therefore we can do anything and it is not technically a sin.
- This leads to great destruction in peoples lives.
- We can develop an idea that now we should have no limits or boundaries in the natural realm.
- Paul spoke of a balance in this area when he said:

**1 Corinthians 10:23-24**

***“23 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. 24 Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.”***

- God invites us to set our limitations as a love response to Him so we can pursue the things dear to his heart and enjoy life on earth as His children.
- The key is being motivated by the value of others and not ourselves, when we do this we find most questions in this area answer themselves.
- The standard of righteousness has never been higher or more accessible than through proper understanding and authentic intimacy with God.



- It is critical we live the message we preach. We should commit to living in the holiness and authenticity of Jesus' finished work.
- We should reject false finished work paradigms that lead to complacency and pride. They must be removed from our thoughts and platforms. They are more dangerous than we know.

In conclusion, remember righteousness is the door and never forget your revelation is only as good as the intimacy with God it produces.

### **3. Course Review - Q&A**

### **4. Course Exam - Open Book and notes.**