

THE GOOD NEWS FOR PLANET EARTH

The most atrocious thing that sin could do is kill the human body of the incarnate, eternal, Son of God. God the Father and God the Son allowed sin to kill Jesus on the Cross in order to condemn sin to the utmost and sentence sin to removal from all creation (Romans 8:3). The first Adam sinned and brought brokenness to creation and all mankind. The Second Adam lived and died sinless to remove sin and bring restoration to creation. The courtroom of heaven declares Jesus, the Lamb slain, to have all power and authority to judge and remove sin from all creation (Revelation 5:9).

Every sin is a strike against "Life." Sin always leads to death for some relationship. Every sin is a strike against God who is the giver of Life. But nothing can cause God to feel pain or misery. God is unchanging. When Jesus died on the cross his human side felt the pain inflicted against him, including the pain of all sin of the ages striking out against God. God the Father withheld His protection and allowed Jesus to be struck and killed by sin. Jesus felt the withholding of the Father's protection but Jesus also knew Psalm 22:24. Jesus knew the Father did not hide His face from him and that the Father heard his cries. Jesus quoted Psalm 22:1 to declare His Messiahship and to declare the pain His body felt with all sin laid upon Him. Sinless Jesus, the Second Adam, gained authority to remove sin and death from all creation. Jesus paid the extreme cost to redeem creation from sin and death. Jesus died for every man, and all those who will cooperate with the Holy Spirit's conviction and allow Him to bring them to saving faith in Jesus will be saved from sin and eternal separation from God. The justice of God is satisfied in giving eternal life to the believer by making the believer a new creation in Christ. The new creation is made totally sinless and totally righteous when God completes the work He began in the believer at conversion. A judicial forgiveness of sin happens at conversion, at the new birth of the believer in Jesus. All sin of the past, the present, and the future is freely forgiven by God the Father to all those born in Christ at the moment of the new birth. God's forgiveness has always been freely given. A provisional forgiveness has always been given to humanity to provide all sinner's opportunity to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and be brought to saving faith (2 Corinthians 5:19,20). Parental forgiveness has always been given by God the Father to believers who confess their sin and seek God's righteousness in their life (1 John 1:9). Parental forgiveness is all about changing the behavior of the believer so that we may experience fellowship with God. Through the cleansing of the mind, believer's experience removal of sin and the activity of righteous actions empowered by the Spirit (Romans 12:1,2). Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and self-control are among the actions of

righteousness which the believer participates in. Walking in the fullness and the power of the Holy Spirit makes the believer reflect the glory of God and aids in bringing people to repentance and faith.

Jesus died for me so that I may die with Him and be raised to a new life in Him. I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me (Galatians 2:20) . Sinless Jesus paid the price of a sinless physical death so that I could die to sin (Romans 6), die to the Law (Romans 7), and die to condemnation being born of the Spirit (Romans 8).

Believers are declared “righteous” and there is no wrath and no penalty toward the righteous (Romans 4 and 5).

The believer participates in Christ’s cosmic victory over sin, death, and all the powers of darkness. The believer should be increasingly characterized by the ability and willingness to overcome evil in imitation of the life of Christ. Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Ephesians 5:1,2).

The justice of God is satisfied by changing the believer into a new creation. The believer is made righteous and is therefore moved out from under the wrath of God (John 3:36).

Free from the Law of sin and death, believers focus on Jesus and life in the Spirit (Romans 8:2).

Believers should live out of a loving heart with an attitude and motivation produced by the Spirit. Any righteous act empowered by the Holy Spirit is a fruit which glorifies God (Galatians 5:18-26).

Romans 8:18-25 Creation itself will be set from its bondage to decay.

18I consider that our present sufferings are not comparable to the glory that will be revealed in us. **19**The creation waits in eager expectation for the revelation of the sons of God. **20**For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but because of the One who subjected it, in hope **21**that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

22We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until the present time. **23**Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **24**For in this hope we were saved; but hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he can already see? **25**But if we hope for what we do not yet see, we wait for it patiently.

THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD IS OUR FAITH

It is our faith in Christ that overcomes sin in our lives. But our faith must grow. So how do we grow our faith?

Romans 10:17 Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ.

By reading the Bible, we take in truth about what God is like and what He is doing. As we learn about the character of God and the fruits of His Spirit, we must become conscious of living out those fruits in our lives. We will find our greatest joy and contentment in exercising love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and self-control. Practicing the fruits of the Spirit will give us opportunities for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. When they see our good works, they are most apt to listen and understand our testimony. When they see our godly response to pain, they are even more apt to listen and understand our testimony. God uses our pain to grow our faith, but also God uses our pain to help bring the unbeliever to faith in Christ.

Surrounding yourself with people who have greater faith than you have is a necessity. This is why church life is so important. As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17

To grow your faith, read the Bible, practice obeying what you read, and surround yourself with God's people.

