

A Repentant Christian's Deliverance

(As Given in God's Plan for Us-II)

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Part one of God's plan for our deliverance, explained why His Son, Jesus Christ, had to pay the price of His blood, for mankind's deliverance from the curse of Adam's sin (of rebellion against God). The shedding of Christ's blood was the perfect sacrifice necessary to take away sin, however, it also carried far greater benefits, (which are all part of the true believer's inheritance in Christ). It is God's 'plan of trust' on the power of His Son's shed blood, that He provided for our deliverance from sin, sickness, and poverty, but more importantly to deliver us from the nature of the self-life in our heart, (that was inherited because of Adam's sin of using his 'power of choice' in a wrong way).

Satan has always tried to conceal God's 'plan of trust', (or to confuse it with the many worldly plans that he has devised), to rob people of ever receiving the benefits of what God provided for us, and God's plan is very easy to follow, and His many promises are found in His Word, ..each of which is supported by the almighty power of the sacrificial blood that His Son shed for us on Calvary's Cross.

God's plan for us includes His protection, His peace, and His own divine nature of righteousness (to be instilled in us by His Spirit's transforming us through the renewing of our mind). His plan also includes His blessing of perfect health. Everything has been provided by the Atonement work of Christ, for man to be perfectly happy as he was in the Garden of Eden, before he used his God-given 'power-of-choice' in the wrong way. We all exercise our "power-of-choice" many times each day, and we must choose to believe in the Atonement work of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary.

We choose to believe that because of Christ's atoning blood shed for us on the Cross and His being raised to life to conquer death, so we are new creatures! We (as true believers) need to see ourselves as raised to life with Him, free from sin, with a newness of life through the gift of His Spirit within ourselves. (Romans 6:11) "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

That is what Jesus Christ accomplished for

us, and that is why He died on the Cross in our place. It is something we all need to understand (to accept), and to place our faith on. Our faith can not be depending on anything we have done to make us righteous (or to make us feel righteous of ourselves), rather, it is what someone else, Jesus Christ, has already done for us.

It is the lesson Job had to learn, and the message Peter gave for Cornelius and his household to learn, that is, their own good actions were simply their Christian duty (in their service to Christ) and were of no merit for their salvation. Jesus said (Luke 17:10), "So you also, when you have obeyed all the orders given you, must say, 'There is no merit in our service: what we have done is only what we were in duty bound to do'."

What someone else, (Jesus Christ), has already done for us, to pardon, cleanse, forgive, and pay the price for our Salvation, is a priceless gift that God gave to people on this earth. No human terms of value could ever be adequate to justify the true value of Christ's Atonement work on Calvary's Cross. As the story of the baby Jesus' birth at Bethlehem was the greatest story ever told on earth, so His Atonement work on Calvary's Cross was the greatest event that ever took place for people on this earth.

What Jesus accomplished for us on the Cross, carries eternal rewards for those who will believe it was done for them, and who will trust on the power of His blood (that covers everything in their life). It is why Jesus instructed us to partake of the 'bread' and 'juice of the vine', in remembrance of His broken body and His blood shed for us on the Cross of Calvary (as He told His followers in advance that He was going to do in His divine love for us).

We are to show and return our love for Christ, by obeying those instructions, and all other instructions or commands that He gave for His true 'followers' (who will love and obey Him). "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me," Jesus instructed, "and I will give you rest". His rest in this life and in Eternal Life hereafter (that He has provided and promised), is to be our reward (or inheritance) when we are in Christ Jesus (as Romans 8:1 says). (And Romans 8:28 assures) that, "All things work together for good, for those who love God, with those who have been called according to his purpose."

God's 'Message of Salvation' is for the saving of all who will believe it and receive it into their heart. That is the requirement (or responsibility) that God puts on the true believer, and His Message is the power of God to those

whom He is saving. That is being in Christ.

However, for those who do not believe it (and do not receive it into their heart to be a 'follower' of Christ's example, the Bible says, "the Message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are on the way to perdition" (1 Cor.1:18 explains).

God's Word tells us how to be in Christ Jesus, and exactly how to enter into our inheritance that He provided in His plan to deliver us from sin and Satan's bondage, by sending His Son to die for our sins. We enter in by faith (or trust) on His Son, through believing in what He has done to free us from sin.

(Romans 5:1) "Standing then acquitted as the result of faith, let us enjoy peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also, as the result of faith, we have obtained an introduction into that state of favor with God in which we stand, and we exult in hope of someday sharing in God's glory."

(Rom.6:1-4), "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" (Paul was saying, shall we continue to live in the ways of the old life, that God's mercy or grace may be greater, and bring more glory to Him for being more merciful to us?) Then he used the strongest language, "God forbid!"

(The Apostle continued) "How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore, we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (delivered from sin and Satan).

God's Word (in 2 Peter 1) is a Bible Booklet of instruction for the believer, as it tells us just what Jesus' Atonement work has provided and promised, and it instructs us on just how to 'walk in newness of life'. (verses 3-7 say), "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness, through our knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love."

(9-11)" But if anyone does not have them, he is near-sighted and blind and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

God's plan for our deliverance (established by blood of the new covenant), has also delivered us regarding disease, trouble, and poverty, which were taken away by Christ's work on the Cross. Good health and prosperity are in the Atonement work of Christ. Once we come to believe that and take the position that we have died with Christ and became free from every evil thing that we had inherited from Adam, (including freedom from the influence of our old nature), we are then to consider ourselves as being in union with Jesus Christ. We must see ourselves as a new person, and believe that we are an entirely different people, who are in Christ, through faith in His saving grace.

(Rom.6:5-8) "For if we have been united in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him (meaning our old evil nature), that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we also must believe that we shall also live with Him," for that is how we connect with the death and resurrection of Christ (as verse 11 says), "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Thus, we must admit to our sins, confess them to God, and see ourselves forgiven, because the price of atonement has been paid. "Jesus paid it all" (for us). We only have to believe in real faith that we are free from sorrow, illness or poverty, to be delivered from it (because of what the shed blood of Christ has already done for us). When people in the Bible understood that and believed it, they were delivered at once from any trouble they were in. That is God's plan for our deliverance, and that is why we all need to put great emphasis on it and understand it thoroughly, so that we might receive our victory in Christ. (The Truth about cleansing power of Jesus Blood)

That is the Truth that sets people free from sin as Jesus said. (John 8:31-32), "Jesus therefore said to those of the Jews who had now believed in Him, 'As for you, if you hold fast to my teaching,

then you are truly my disciples; and you shall know the Truth, and the Truth will make you free."

That is what the Bible teaches, and God's Word makes it as plain as possible for us to grasp, and to receive the great benefits from knowing and believing it. Death was conquered when He was raised to life, and we were raised to life with Him, if we will only "believe on Him whom God has sent" and follow Him. It is God's plan for our deliverance, and what it means to be in union with Jesus Christ.

We were counted as dead when He died, and, counted as having come back to life when He was raised from the grave. That new life in union with Christ, is meant for everyone born since Adam fell, (if one will only believe to receive it and be transformed to that new nature of Christ). The sacrifice of God's only Son (the perfect Son of God) to deliver us, was a perfect sacrifice (that cannot be improved upon). Therefore, it was an eternal sacrifice made on our behalf that could not have been accomplished by any other person or by any type of animal sacrifice (as all others would be imperfect). That is why the perfect Son of God, had to be sent to earth by the mercy of God (His Heavenly Father), to take the curse of Adam's rebellion away from us, by the eternal sacrifice that He made for us on the Cross.

Knowing that Christ's sacrifice on the Cross was made for us, believing that we (our old nature) died with Christ, and that we were also raised with Him in His resurrection (with a new nature in ourselves) we also want to understand that His sacrificial blood covers everything in the life of a true believer.

The Old Testament example of Cain and Abel's sacrifice is a written example of what it means to be under the blood for remission of sins, and to receive all that the shed blood has paid for.

After Adam and Eve fell into sin, Cain and Abel were born to them with the same evil nature as their parents. Abel became a shepherd of the flocks, while Cain tilled the soil to raise crops. (Gen.4:3-5 says), "In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor."

Cain's offering (taken from crops in his fields) was the work of his own hands, while Abel's offering was portions and blood from the firstborn of his flocks that had been blessed by God and by which Abel received God's blessing. (Heb.11:4) "Through faith Abel offered to God a more

acceptable sacrifice than Cain did, and through this faith he obtained testimony that he was righteous, God giving the testimony by accepting his gifts; and through it, though he is dead, he still speaks."

We want to notice that it was not anything acceptable in the man offering the sacrifice, it was faith in the excellence of the sacrifice being offered, that the man obtained testimony that he was declared righteous in God's sight.

In Abel's case it was faith in the excellence of the blood of a slain animal, that meant a full pardon and cleansing from sin, a deliverance from the power of Satan, and the fulfillment of God's Spirit and righteousness. However, we have the blood of the Son of God as the foundation for our faith, by which to be declared righteous if we will believe on the cleansing power of His Blood. And we want to realize, that by declaring Abel to be righteous, in reality, God was telling Abel that he was restored to the place that his father, Adam, had fallen from.

That is the place we all want to get back to, through faith that we have been cleansed and are being restored through the renewing of our mind (to have the mind of Christ within ourselves), that we may "prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

In the case of Cornelius, the Bible says, that "He was religious and God-fearing and so was every member of his household. He was also liberal in his charities to the people, and continually offered prayer to God." (Acts 10:2). "But he had no more religion or true spirituality than a wooden Indian" (the Pastor commented). "He was just like Job, only not so stubborn." However, God saw a possibility of him receiving the Truth of His Salvation Message, so He took great measures to see that Cornelius had the opportunity to hear that Message. God told him to send for Peter to come visit him and his household. *Cornelius had that same 'power of choice' that we all have. He could have felt secure in a self-righteous position, and chosen not to send for Peter, however, he chose to listen to God (a right choice) and to send for Peter to come to his house.*

When Peter arrived, Cornelius said, "All of us are now assembled here in God's presence, to listen to what the Lord has commanded you to say." (He was open-minded to hear Peter speak God's Word, just as we should be open-minded to God's written Word as it speaks to us). And why wouldn't we want to listen to and follow the Word of God Who wants to give us His peace and happiness, through believing on His Son? Why would we want to listen to the devil's lies, when he wants to bring misery

and death here, and the Lake of Fire forever?

However, Cornelius chose right, and he was really saying, "we are ready to listen to God". So, Peter began telling them of all the good things that Jesus Christ had done (not even mentioning any good things that Cornelius had done, nor did he tell him to do anything). Rather, he only told them of what Christ has already done, and that the Jews had killed Him, "by hanging Him on a tree". By submitting to that kind of death, He became a *blood sacrifice* (just as Abel's sacrifice had represented).

Then Peter said the most important thing, (Acts 10:43), "To Him all the Prophets bear witness, and testify that through His Name all who believe in Him receive the forgiveness of their sins." That means that whoever truly believes that Christ died on the Cross for them, and that His death was their death, and His resurrection was their resurrection, will be fully delivered from the old evil nature, as well as from its guilt and its power of controlling them. The fulness of God's righteousness and peace will take the place of the evil nature in the heart of the true believer. That is God's plan for our deliverance from the curse of Adam's rebellion, and the control of the evil nature.

Cornelius and his household still had their power of choice, and they could have chosen not to believe and accept the Truth of God's Salvation Message (as they were hearing from Peter). However, they were ready to believe, accept, and receive their deliverance (verse 44), "While Peter was speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all who were listening to the Message."

That experience shared by these new believers in the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, bore witness both in type and reality to all teaching about His death and resurrection. (Romans 6:11) "In the same way you also must regard yourselves as dead in relation to sin, but as alive in relation to God, because you are in Christ Jesus." Cornelius and his household, now had the responsibility to continue seeing themselves acquitted as the result of faith in the atonement work of Jesus Christ, "through whom also, as the result of faith, we have obtained an introduction into that *state of favor* with God in which we stand, and we exult in hope of some day sharing in God's glory." (Rom. 5:2).

That state of favor we are to enjoy when we place ourselves and family under the shed blood of Christ, includes our peace, the provision of our needs, and the health of our body. It is the same as when God saw that the Israelites in Egypt were willing to listen to Him, He told them to place the blood of a slain lamb over their doors and on the

side-posts. God told Moses (Exod.12:13) "The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt." As they listened to Him and did according to His Word, they were fully protected from the plagues cast upon the Egyptians.

We want to notice that God said, "when I see the blood", (nothing in you, nothing you have done or could do), but "when I see the blood, I will pass over you." That blood of a slain lamb was a type of the blood *or work of Jesus Christ on the Cross* in God's sight, and it provided perfect protection for the Israelites when He saw that they had placed themselves under it. God said, "There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt--worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any man or animal. Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel."

Imagine that, not even a dog could bark to disturb their peace, when they were under that blood of a slain animal in obedience to God's instructions. How much more effective would that favor be if we claim in faith, the Atonement blood of Christ *over ourselves, families, and homes*. Surely, it would even include a crying baby, or noisy neighbors that the devil would use to try to disturb our peace. *We must resist and refuse to let the devil rob us of our Atonement rights in Christ Jesus.*

Placing ourselves and family under the cleansing and protective blood of His Son is God's plan and His provision for our deliverance. That is, to believe in the One whom He has sent to the Cross to die in our stead, place our trust on Him that we may be saved from being condemned along with the world, and receive our divine inheritance of His peace, protection, and all things that He provides for our enjoyment in this life. That's God's plan for all who will believe on His Son, *because we are delivered by His Atonement work for us.*

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