THE PAST, PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE OF THE REDEEMED

I. THE PAST OF THE REDEEMED.

We used to be dead. Physical death is the soul or spirit departing from the body. Life is gone. The temporary dwelling place is vacant. No speech, seeing, hearing or movement. We used to be dead before God. This death is a spiritual death. We do not speak, see, hear or understand spiritually. We used to be separated from God. Death indeed is a precise term that describes our past condition and relationship to God.

Our past condition is also described with words like “aliens” and “strangers”. That at time we were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world,” Ephes. 2:12.

We were also foreigners. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God,” Ephes. 2:19.

We were in this kind of condition and, really, aliens, strangers, and foreigners because we were dead in trespasses and sins. Spiritual and physical death are caused by sin.

Romans 5:12, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. James 1:14, 15, “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and is enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death.”

The very moment Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, he died spiritually and, later, died physically. We were disobedient. Our walk was a death walk. We walked or behaved according to the course of this world. The world system is influenced and
motivated by the prince of this world, verse 2. We walked under his influence and were his captives.

The devil is very active blinding' and deceiving lost people. "IN WHOM THE GOD OF THIS WORLD HATH BLINDED THE MINDS OF THEM WHICH BELIEVE NOT, LEST THE LIGHT OF THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF CHRISt, WHO IS THE IMAGE OF GOD, SHOULD SHINE UNTO THEM," II Cor. 4:4. The prince of this world instills the spirit of disobedience or defiance in those who are dead in trespasses and sin. There is a driving force and motivating power connected to the flesh to disobey God's law and violate His commandments. Lost sinners live a disobedient life because they are dead in sin and blinded and ignorant and unbelieving. They are rebels rebelling against the Light of God's Word and Person.

We were depraved. Depraved means "corrupt or wicked in every part." Jeremiah said, "THE HEART IS DECIEFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND DESPERATELY WICKED: WHO CAN KNOW IT?, " Jer. 17:9. The "heart" referred to in this passage is not the blood pump in the physical body, but it refers to man's innermost being. The heart is where we will, desire, determine, and direct our lives. The Lord said that the heart of man is deceitful and desperately wicked. It is so corrupt and wicked man is not capable of grasping the scope and extent of this corruption within. Paul wrote to the Romans, "BECAUSE THE CARNAL MIND IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD: FOR IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD, NEITHER INDEED CAN BE," Rom. 8:7. Man is by nature corrupt and the child of wrath. This corrupt nature is still a part of us, but the Lord has cancelled the power it once had on us.

II. THE PRESENT OF THE REDEEMED.

We are made living. To be "quickened" is to be made alive. We used to be dead in sin, but now we are dead to sin. We are new creatures in Christ. "THEREFORE IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRISt, HE IS A NEW CREATURE; OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY: BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW," II Cor. 5:17. The life we have in Jesus is a new and different way of life.

Jesus said, "...I AMCOME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY," John 10:10. In Jesus we have a greater quality of life. The goals, value, purpose, peace, etc., of our new life is vastly different from the old life. In fact, we really just begin to live in Christ. The quality of life has more to do with the changing of the inside rather than the outside of man. Jesus gives us a new nature in the new birth.

We not only have a greater quality of life in Jesus, we also have a greater quantity of life. "AND I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE; AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH, NEITHER SHALL ANY MAN PLUCK THEM OUT OF MY HAND," John 10:28. We have spiritual life with God which shall never end. Paul looked at life and death and stated, "TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY IS TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD," II Cor. 5:8. Even in physical death, man continues to live spiritually. Our address is simply changed. We are transferred from the earthly to the heavenly.

We are loved. The Lord loved us in our past condition. God is love. That is His nature and characteristic. He loved us so much that He gave His only begotten son to come to this world to live and die for us. Paul wonderfully stated, "BUT GOD COMMENDED HIS LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US," Rom. 5:8. John gloriously proclaimed, "...UNTO HIM THAT LOVED US, AND WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD," Rev. 1:5.

He loved us so much that He was rich in mercy toward us. His love is magnified in His mercy and grace expressed toward us. It is wonderful to be loved. It is comforting, consoling and leads us to consecrate our lives to Him. It is wonderful to know I am loved of the Lord. His love is felt and recognized in a greater way when we are unlovable. When we are at our worst God's love is at it's best. John said, "WE LOVE HIM, BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US," I John 4:18. The way that He loves leads us to love Him.

We are lifted. He has lifted us up and highly exalted us in Jesus Christ. The Psalmist said, "HE BROUGHT ME UP ALSO OUT OF AN HORRIBLE PIT, OUT OF THE MIRE CLAY, AND SET MY FEET UPON A ROCK, AND ESTABLISHED MY GOINGS. AND HE HATH PUT A NEW SONG IN MY MOUTH; EVEN PRAISE UNTO OUR GOD," Psa. 40:2,3. The Lord has lifted us up out of the mire filth, corruption, and sinful ways of the world and exalted us.

The prodigal son lived according to his will and came to himself in the hog pen. He had reached such a low estate in life that he ate the husks that the swine did eat. He came to himself in that condition and returned to his father's house. The father of the prodigal said, "FOR THIS MY SON WAS DEAD, AND IS ALIVE AGAIN, HE WAS LOST, AND IS FOUND." The life we now possess and live is like a resurrection from the dead.

We now in faith and in mind sit with Christ in heavenly places. "...WHEREIN ALSO YE ARE RISEN WITH HIM THROUGH FAITH OF THE OPERATION OF GOD, WHO HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD," Col. 2:13. We are made to sit together in heavenly places. We do enjoy heavenly experiences. We do experience a foretaste of heaven and all of its glory. As a result we get homesick and desire to be with our precious Lord.

III. THE FUTURE OF THE REDEEMED.

The Lord will show to us. The Lord will show to us the exceeding riches of His won-
derful grace. How will He show us the riches of His grace? He will show us the riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. Paul describes God's goodness toward all men in Romans 2:4. "OR DESPISEST THOU THE RICHES OF HIS GOODNESS AND FORBEARANCE AND LONG-SUFFERING; NOT KNOWING THAT THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADETH THEE TO REPENTANCE?" We sing the song, "God is so good, God is so good," and "He's so good to me."

The Lord will show us or cause us to understand many things we do not have the capacity to understand now. We have so many things that prevent us from understanding God's word more fully. The flesh, feelings, fears, future and forces of wickedness hinder us greatly in understanding God's word. Thank God and praise His name the Lord will teach His people eternally. The Lord will show us His eternal glory, power and kingdom.


God created man for the purpose of sharing all of His riches and glory. It is wonderful to see the magnificent views and scenes upon this earth. There are breathtaking scenes upon this earth. To see the sun in its brightness, the moon and stars illuminating the heavens at night is to acknowledge in amazement the Divine Creator, Builder and Maker.

God has shared His world and possessions with me all of my life. He is my partner in life. He supplies all the capital and I simply use it and invest it to the best of my knowledge. He is going to share all of His glory and majesty with us eternally.


We see the Lamb of God by faith now, but then we shall see Him face to face. "AND THEY SHALL SEE HIS FACE...." Rev. 20:4. What will we want to see first and foremost in heaven? Will it be the streets of gold or the purely white city, or our loved ones, or the various sights of the city? No. No, a thousand times NO! We will want first of all to look upon Him who loved us and died for us and washed us in His own blood. The best is truly yet to come!

NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF

BY RANDY CRAWFORD

TEXT: Romans 1:16

Paul found out the gospel was nothing to be ashamed of when he met Jesus on the Damascus highway. This gospel has not changed and neither have the reasons that Paul was not ashamed. Let us examine four reasons we should not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I. ORIGIN

A. Paul states in verse 1 of this chapter that this is the "gospel of God."
   1. God had promised this gospel "beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scripture."
   2. All the sacrifices and rituals in the Old Testament pointed to this gospel.
   3. The Law was just a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, Galatians 3:24.
   4. Isaiah wrote much of this gospel, Isaiah 53.

B. This gospel did not originate in Nazareth, as the Romans supposed.
   1. Promised as long ago as Adam and Eve, Genesis 3:15.
   2. The gospel of God existed actually before the foundation of the world, Rev. 13:8.

C. The gospel was a message from the King of Kings.
   1. Romans understood the importance of a message from their emperor. One had better heed the message or suffer the consequences!
   2. Paul wanted them to realize the importance of this message because of its origin - God.
   3. We should heed this gospel message because of its origin. If we do not, the consequences are severe and eternal.

II. OPERATION

A. This message operates by the power of God.
   1. God is ALL POWERFUL.
      a. His name is "Almighty God" - Gen. 17:1.
      b. He raises from the dead - Romans 4:17.
      c. He creates from nothing - Romans 4:17.
   2. The Greek word here for power is "DUNAMIS." Close to our word for dynamite. This gospel is the dynamite power of God.

B. Since God is ALL POWERFUL, He could have chosen any method to operate His gospel. Surely He must have chosen the best method.
   1. Christ is called the power, "DUNAMIS", of God in 1 Cor. 1:24.
GETTING WHAT YOU WANT AND LOSING WHAT YOU HAD

BY GLEN E. TROPP

Text: Proverbs 15:16-17

Introduction:
A. The writer - Solomon
B. The worth of this to us today - the Bible teaches Christians to be content.
1. Hebrews 13:5
2. Philippians 4:1

C. Words for your earnest and serious consideration.
1. Discontentment causes more heartaches - sorrow - broken homes - and unhappiness than any other sin you can mention - almost every sin goes back to this one.

D. Words of Warning - Examples of people who got what they wanted and lost what they had

I. Concerning The Pride Of Life - I John 2:15-16
A. The Example - Adam & Eve.
B. The enlightenment.
1. Because of the pride of life - desire to become wise as gods - they sinned.
2. They got what they thought they wanted - but lost what they had.
   a. Perfect surrounding
   b. Perfect fellowship
   3. Note what a terrible loss it was.

II. Concerning Provisions - Philippians 4:19
A. The example - Esau
B. The enlightenment.
1. Esau did not believe God would sustain him.
2. He desire a mess of pottage.
3. He did not see the importance of his Spiritual Heritage.
4. He got what he wanted but lost what he had.
5. He sold out cheap.

III. Concerning Prosperity - Psalms 1:3
A. The example - Lot.
B. The enlightenment
1. Lot was not willing to wait upon God and meet God's requirements for prosperity - thus he pitched his tent toward Sodom.
2. He got what he wanted but lost what he had.

IV. Concerning Protection - Exodus 14:14
A. The example - Israel
B. The enlightenment
1. Israel, as a nation, had forgotten how God had kept his promises to fight for them and be their protection.
2. They cried for a king like the heathens had.
3. They got what they wanted and lost what they had.

V. Concerning the Pleasures of Sin - Galatians 6:7
A. The example - David
B. The enlightenment
1. David had forgotten the law of harvest and wanted another man's wife for his pleasure.
2. He got what he wanted and lost what he had.

VI. Concerning Pay - Matthew 26:14-15
A. The example - Judas Iscariot
B. The enlightenment
1. Judas was so discontent that he wanted to sell Jesus for a price.
2. He got what he wanted but lost what he had - his life.

Conclusion:
A. The unconverted man may get what he wants in this life - but oh, the loss he suffers.
1. What does it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul.

B. The examples
1. Rich young ruler
2. Rich fool
3. Rich man in Hell


c. He created him for a purpose.
d. He has given a book of moral and spiritual values for us to live by. His book of instructions is perfect and guaranteed to work!

I. BUILD A HOME LIKE GOD PLANNED AND ORDAINED!
A. This is the only kind that will work.
2. James 1:22.
3. God created the heads of the home and gave them instructions to live by! Hebrews 13:4.
B. God's order for the home spelled out plainly:
1. Eph. 5:25, Husband love your wives!
2. Eph. 5:22,23.
4. I Cor. 7:5.

II. BUILD A HOME WHERE GOD'S WORD IS THE RULE BOOK!
A. The "blessed" ones are those "WHO DELIGHT IN THE LAW OF THE LORD, AND IN HIS LAW DO MEDITATE DAY AND NIGHT." Psalm 1:1-3.
B. These are the successful ones also. Joshua 1:8.
C. Examples of homes built on the Word of God:
1. Abraham's, Genesis 19:19.
2. Timothy's, II Tim. 3:15.
4. Where do you suppose Isaac learned that a lamb was necessary to an acceptable offering?
   b. I Sam. 3:1.
D. Remember Jesus and the word of God.
2. Matt. 4:7

III. BUILD A HOME WHERE CHRIST IS WELCOMED!
A. The home of Lazarus, Martha, Mary in Bethany, John 12:1-3.
1. Martha served Jesus.
2. Lazarus feasted with Jesus.
3. Mary anointed Him at a great cost.
C. Build a home where Jesus is...
1. Foundation and Head.
2. Light
3. Example in loving, giving, serving, sacrificing, obeying, forgiving.

IV. BUILD AN EVANGELISTIC MISSIONARY HOME!
A. II Kings 4:8-10.
B. Romans 16:3-5

V. BUILD A HOME THAT WILL STAND AND WITHSTAND THE STORMS. They are many, death, sickness, loss of material, outside intrusions, etc. Matt. 7:24-25.

WHO IS THE MAN
IN JAMES 4:17?
BY
RICKY KNIGHT

INTRO:
A. Our text portrays man in a way that we seldom think of ourselves.
B. Most people consider themselves good people if they have not committed evident evils.
C. Our text deals with the law abiding citizen, perhaps the good parent, and even the faithful church attender.
D. Who is this man in James 4:17? "him".

I. HE IS A KNOWLEDGABLE MAN.
A. Our text says this man knows to do good, vs. 17.
   1. He has been instructed in the right and wrong.
      a. He is not some heathen in Africa.
      b. He is not someone behind the Iron Curtain.
   2. He can discern the difference between right and wrong.
      a. He is not a child.
      b. He is not a retarded person.
B. This man may know that it is right to receive Christ as Saviour.
   1. He knows that God exists.
   2. He knows that Christ would save him if he would only confess sins and ask.
C. This man may know what he needs to do to live the Christian life.
   1. He knows to study his Bible.
   2. He knows that prayer, giving and witnessing are important.
   3. He knows he ought to lead his family in the right path. But he does not.
D. This man may know that God should be first in his life, But.

II. HE IS A REBELLIOUS MAN.
A. While this man knows to do right he refuses to do it.
B. To refuse to do that which we know is right is rebellion, I Sam. 15:3; 19-23.
   1. Saul is an excellent example.
   2. God described exactly what he wanted Saul to do. Vs. 3.
   3. But Saul had other plans which were contrary to God's.
   4. God described his attitude as rebellion, vs. 23.
      a. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.
      b. Stubbornness is like the sin of idolatry, vs. 23.
   5. It is better to obey in every circumstance.

FORE TASTE OF HEAVEN
BY
HAROLD DAVIS

TEXT: I Peter 2:1-3
INTRODUCTION: Peter speaks of those who have "...tasted that the Lord is gracious." Thus they have had a foretaste of heaven.

1. A good taste
A. A taste of food is in reality just a small portion of what is being sampled.
B. Food will either taste good or taste bad.
C. God's graciousness towards us tastes good.
   1. The mercy of God tastes good.
   2. The purity of God tastes good.
   3. The love of God tastes good.
   4. The riches of God tastes good.
D. The sweetness of God's grace contrasts greatly with the sourness of sin, the bitterness of the disappointments of life, and the tastelessness of vain pleasure.

II. A favorable reaction after tasting
A. It causes one to praise God.
B. It causes one to spread the gospel to others that they might taste.
C. It causes one to love God.
D. It causes one to change his way of living.
E. It causes one to look forward to the time when the main course is served.

III. A deep satisfaction
A. It satisfies the desire for peace with God.
B. It satisfies the hope for better conditions.
C. It gives contentment in every king of situation.
D. It never loses it's sweetness.
C. There are multitudes of rebellious people who know Christ.
   1. They have the knowledge to do.
   2. But they refuse to follow what they know is good and feel justified in it.

III. HE IS A GUILTY MAN.
A. We who have the knowledge of right and do it are not guilty before God.
B. We would never consider ourselves on the level of:
   1. The infidel-unbeliever.
   2. A thief.
   3. A liar.
C. But in God's sight we are still guilty, vs. 17.

NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF - Continued from Page 3

2. If a man will not allow this gospel to operate in his life, nothing will affect him. Example: the rich man in Luke 16:31.

III. OUTCOME
A. The outcome of this gospel delivered by the power of God is salvation.
   1. Romans understood salvation as freedom from oppression, rest, peace.
   2. Paul wanted them to see true freedom, rest and peace - complete salvation comes only through Christ.
   3. There is no oppression like that of sin. There is no freedom like that of Christ. The King of Glory offers to take our burdens. Would the emperor of Rome make himself a slave to help the people? NO!
B. Salvation is true freedom.
   1. It is not laws and burdens - "do's and don'ts."
   2. It is not man-made ideas - emperors messages helped some, hurt others.
   3. It is not anti-intellectual. True intellectualism comes from God; see Solomon.
   4. It IS good news from God about Christ. Salvation is for undeserving sinners.

IV. OUTREACH
A. Who is an undeserving sinner? Every person born on this earth, besides Jesus, Romans 3:23.
   1. This gospel is "for everyone", Romans 1:16.
   2. Salvation is offered to everyone - including the Romans who despised those delivering this message to them.
B. This includes you if you have not believed.
   1. You can be saved - it is nothing to be ashamed of.
   2. You can receive this gospel - it is nothing to be ashamed of.
THE GOSPEL MESSAGE
Romans 1:15-19
Charles Swilling

I. THE GENUINENESS OF THE GOSPEL
A. Genuine in fact. 1 Cor. 15:1-4.

II. THE GENTLENESS OF THE GOSPEL
A. The preacher should proclaim it gently out of love.
B. The Holy Spirit convicts gently.
C. God gently invites men to receive the gospel message, Matt. 11:28-30.

III. THE GOODNESS OF THE GOSPEL
A. It expresses God’s goodness, II Peter 3:9; Romans 2:4
B. It offers God’s goodness, Psalm 23:6; II Cor. 5:21
C. It accomplishes good for all.
1. Nations where the gospel flourishes enjoy a healthy, happy and honorable way of life.
2. The gospel transforms individuals like Paul.

IV. THE GLADNESS OF THE GOSPEL
B. The sinner rejoices in receiving salvation.
C. The saints rejoice in the salvation of others.

V. THE GRANDNESS OF THE GOSPEL
A. It is grand because of the Saviour.
1. He forsook Heaven and all of its glory to live for me, Hebrews 2:9.
2. He gave His all to die for me.
B. It is grand because of the sinner.
1. Jesus included me, John 3:16.
2. Jesus wants all to be saved, I Timothy 2:4,6.

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