

## **5. The Cross and the Resurrection.**

There are two halves to this matter: the first is what the Lord has delivered us from; the second is what the Lord has delivered us to. The first half concerns the Cross and what it has accomplished. The second is the Resurrection and what that has accomplished.

### **PART 1. The Cross.**

The Cross did three things for all mankind. It delivered us from Sin, Law and Death. Those things are only accomplished individually, and deliverance is personally received through repentance and faith.

#### **1. Sin.**

- a. The cross dealt with all past sin in an individual. We are now permanently forgiven because Jesus died to take the punishment that we all deserve in the eyes of a Holy and Righteous God.
- b. It dealt with guilt. There is never any reason to feel guilty again for any sin that we have all done.
- c. There is now therefore no condemnation to all those who are in Jesus Christ (Rom 8:1).
- d. The Cross removes from us all addictions from our old life, except one. We all have one vulnerability, which is a gift from God to keep us humble and relying on the Holy Spirit's daily guidance. We all have "A thorn in the flesh." (2 Cor 12).
- e. We all once saw sin as breaking the law. Now we see sin as failing to do God's will.

#### **2. Law.**

- a. Law was given
  - i. To tell us we are bad (Rom 3:20).
  - ii. To stop us getting worse (Gal 3:23).
  - iii. To bring us to Christ (Gal 3:24) by condemning us as failures.
- b. Law leads to Legalism – trying to be righteous through self-effort. None of us can accomplish this – ever. No law can make anyone righteous because we are weakened by the flesh – our sinful nature (Rom 8:3).
- c. The Cross delivered us from Law. (Eph 2:15). The Law remains, but Christians are no longer governed by it or under its direction. Law is for unredeemed sinners only, graphically analysed by Paul in 1 Tim 1:8-11. We are not under law, but under Grace (more of which later) (Rom 6:14). Rom 4:15: "*And where there is no law there is no transgression.*" Christians delivered from Law don't sin!
- d. Law has been replaced. That is part of Resurrection Life (below).

#### **3. Death.**

- a. God's definition of death is "Separation."
- b. Death is the eternal consequence of sin. But for those delivered from sin and all its consequences, death no longer applies. The *body* has to die because it is part of this fallen world. But death no longer has any hold on the Christian soul. John

8:51: *"Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death."* (See also Rom 8:2).

c. A non-Christian is twice dead – in his body and in his soul. A Christian is once dead – in his body only.

d. The Cross also has delivered us from the *fear of death*. Heb 2:14-15.

e. God's amazing method was that the death of Jesus set us free from the death of sin. It took death to defeat death. We are now saved from death through the Cross.

#### 4. Summary.

1 Cor 15: 56-57: *"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

### **PART 2. The Deliverance of the Resurrection.**

At the Resurrection, God did an amazing thing: He created a brand-new creature, by birth, not by construction. Jesus' resurrection body was not a tidied-up version of a human being. It was altogether new. Christians are new creations by a new birth (John 3:5-8) and will have new resurrected bodies at the Second Coming of Jesus (1 Cor 15:42-44).

After His resurrection, Jesus could change His shape. No one initially recognised Jesus in all the appearances in the 40 days after the resurrection. He was recognised as a man, but He was utterly different from mankind as We know it.

The expression "born again" or "born from above" is clear – it is a new and completely different kind of being. 2 Cor 5:17 says *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!"* Born again Christians are NOT an improved version of mankind; they are an altogether different form of being.

The Resurrection of Jesus brought us into three things that replaced the Sin, Law and Death of the old body. It is a completely different kind of living, in every aspect of human life. Those three new things are Righteousness, The Grace of the Holy Spirit and Eternal Life.

#### 1. Righteousness.

a. Righteousness is no longer governed by Law in any way. (Law is redundant and dead).

b. Righteousness is no longer governed by effort.

c. Righteousness is first of all Imputed. Christians are declared blameless and faultless by God. God considers FAITH in Jesus AS righteousness.

d. Righteousness is second of all Imparted – daily by the Holy Spirit.

e. Righteousness is a **gift** from God. *"Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."* (Rom 4:3).

#### 2. The Holy Spirit.

a. The Holy Spirit has replaced Law. How? He tells us in every moment of every day what the will of God is for us. He guides, He directs, He suggests in all things. Matt 4:4: *"Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every (spoken) word that comes from the mouth of God."*

- b. He tells us when to obey the law of the land, and He tells us when we can disobey the law of the land. We have no guilty conscience for doing it. Jesus sometimes disobeyed the Sabbath laws in the Israel of His day.
- c. If we always obey what the Judge of all the earth tells us to do, there is never any condemnation for any of our actions, providing we are being obedient to Him.
- d. There is only one Law to obey – like in the Garden of Eden. John 14:23 *“Jesus replied, ‘Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.’”* Lk 11:28: *“He replied, ‘Blessed rather are those who **hear** the word of God and obey it.’”* 1 John 2:6: *“Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.”* Heb 10:16: *“This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord, I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”*
- e. We must be born again of the Holy Spirit. We must also be baptised in and filled with the Holy Spirit. Those who have the first but not the second do God’s will in their own strength. Those who have both do God’s will in God’s strength.
- f. This daily leading of the Holy Spirit is part of God’s Grace.

### 3. Eternal Life.

- a. All LIFE comes from God – physical, mental, spiritual, eternal.
- b. *Eternal Life* is a GIFT from God. 1 John 5:11-12: *“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”*
- c. Eternal Life is lived in all the day long. As we walk with Jesus, we walk in Life. In Him only is Life.

The Cross has delivered us from Sin, Law and Death. The Resurrection of Jesus, into a new recreated kind of life, has replaced those three with Gifted Righteousness, The Grace of the Holy Spirit and Eternal Life.

Gifted Righteousness replaces Sin. The Holy Spirit replaces Law. Eternal Life replaces Death. Those are the basics of Christianity.

(Dick Bell).