

It Is Finished

John 19:30 Jesus said, “*It is finished*”

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not **imputing** their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

- God is not holding our sins against us
- “God isn’t mad at you. Your sins aren’t a problem!”

2 Corinthians 5:17-18, 21 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- The debt has been paid
- The books have been reconciled

We Need to Approach God with Confidence

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

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.

- Mercy – I don’t get the punishment I deserve
- Grace – I get the favor I don’t deserve

Our spirits are PERFECT! – **Hebrews 10:11-14; 12:22-23**

Start acknowledging the good things that are on the inside of you, in Christ

Philemon 6 (NKJV)

⁶ that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

1 John 1:7–9 (NKJV)

⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son **cleanses us** from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we make our relationship with the Lord based on confessing or turning from every known sin, then there will be some sins we forget and don't turn from or confess

- This is why so many people live in a broken relationship and fellowship syndrome that plagues the church
- All Sin does for the believer is open the door to the Devil

When you realize you have sinned you should...

- Repent immediately, confess that sin and get the forgiveness that is already resident in your spirit
- This will strip the enemy of any footholds in your life

God's True Nature

Many times, people start to have a revelation of the Grace of God

- God is truly a merciful God
- Yet when you read the parts of the Old Testament it can seem contrary to this truth

Story in 2 Kings 1:

Ahaziah hurt himself and sends messengers to inquire of Baalzebub whether he would live or die

- Elijah intercepts them and said, *“Tell the king that he’ll surely die because he inquired of Baalzebub instead of God.”*
- So, the king became angry at Elijah and sends a captain and fifty soldiers to get him

2 Kings 1:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: “Man of God, the king has said, ‘Come down!’ ” ¹⁰ So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, “If I *am* a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

- So, the king sends another fifty
- The fire of God falls and consumes these fifty again
- A total of 102 men killed
- Doesn't sound like a merciful God

The Third Delegation

2 Kings 1:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Again, he sent a third captain of fifty with his fifty men. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and pleaded with him, and said to him: “Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight.

- The Lord told Elijah to go with them and He would protect him
- He spoke to the king and reiterated his message, and everything was fine
- The truth is Elijah didn't have to kill those 102 men
- He didn't have to handle the situation that way

Yet, nowadays people want to imitate the old testament prophets and call down fire and judgement upon people

- Or point our finger like Moses did and the ground will swallow up 250 people – **Numbers 16:28-33**
- The disciples wanted to call down fire from heaven
- Jesus rebuked them – **Luke 9:55,56**
- If He had walked the earth during the time of Elijah, He would have rebuked him also
- It was not God's best
- It was not a proper representation of Him
- Yet, it was appropriate under the Old Covenant

There are some things that LOOK contrary in the bible

- When we examine them closely we will see that the Lord is now truly at peace with us

There is a difference between the way God dealt with people under the OC and under the NC

If you try to go back and act like an OC person and relate to God, the way the OC people did then no wonder you feel the wrath of God

- Under the OC people's sins did separate them from God
- Remember, that was man's choice, not God's
- Jesus hadn't died and resurrected yet
- The Holy Spirit wasn't available to live in us

Many times, people think that God is schizophrenic

- That there is a God of the OC and a God of the NC
- That He has changed His mind
- He has not changed! – **Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8**
- We need to understand the true nature of God

Romans 5:13 (NKJV)

¹³ For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

- The law was given 2,500 years after the fall of Adam
- Until then, God wasn't imputing man's sin against him
- Man was sinning, but God didn't hold it against them
- Religion has taught us that God is angry and can't tolerate sin
- Leaning over a rail waiting to throw a lightning bolt at the first person who messes up

Religion has taught that God cast Adam and Eve out of His presence because He couldn't stand to put up with sinful man

- The wrath of God was instantly vented upon the earth
- That's not what **Romans 5:13** is saying
- God is a merciful God
- He didn't instantly start judging man and bringing punishment upon his sin
- God was operating in mercy for the first 2,500 years of man's existence
- Then the law was in effect for 1,500 years until Christ came

Luke 16:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ “The law and the prophets *were* until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.

- The law was only temporary until Jesus came to end it
- It was given by Moses, but Grace and Truth by Jesus

Galatians 3:23–26 (NKJV)

²³ But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

- 6000 years of existence
- 2500 from the fall till Moses
- 1500 from Moses to Jesus
- 2000 years from Christ till now

Adam and Eve were not kicked out

Genesis 3:22–23 (NKJV)

²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

- “*Therefore*” – this verse is dependent on what He said in **verse 22**
- God sent them out, so they wouldn’t eat of the tree of life and live forever
- God didn’t kick them out because He couldn’t have communion or fellowship with unholy man
- This is still what many preach today
- It’s not the truth
- After the fall we see that God is still talking with them in an audible voice
- They hid from Him

Cain and Able lived in the presence of God

Genesis 4:3–4 (NKJV)

³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering

- How did they know to bring an offering?
- God spoke to them and had relationship with them

Genesis 4:5-7 (NKJV)

⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. ⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

- There must have been something visible or audible in the way God communicated with them
- He was talking to them in the same way He did Adam and Eve

Familiarity breeds contempt

Genesis 4:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. *Am* I my brother’s keeper?”

- This was the very first time a man murdered another
- While he had the blood on his hands, God spoke
- You would have thought he’d have dropped dead
- Instead he lies to God
- It seems obvious here that he was used to the voice of God
- He was accustomed to talking to Him
- Familiarity breeds contempt
- This proves that God was still walking and talking with man

Genesis 4:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.

- Cain was the one who left God's presence
- He couldn't stand to be in the presence of God because his own conscience was condemning him
- God didn't take His presence from him
- God was still being merciful towards man
- We walk away from God, He doesn't walk away from us!

Abraham had a covenant with God

- He married his half-sister— **Genesis 20:12**
 - An abomination before the Lord
 - Under the law, he could have been stoned— **Leviticus 18:9-11**
 - He lied twice and almost allowed Sarah to be in an adulterous situation
 - God never intended these kinds of things to happen
 - God didn't punish him
 - Instead, God blessed him and rebukes the king
 - He dealt with him in mercy and became his friend
- **James 2:23; 2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8**

Jacob married two sisters — Leah and Rachel

- An abomination before the Lord, punishable by death
- **Leviticus 18:18**
- Yet he wrestled with God and prevailed — **Genesis 32:24-28**
 - God changes his name and names the people of Israel after him

When Cain killed his brother, he lied to God and tried to cover it up

- There was no repentance on his part
- He was just sorry he got caught
- He wasn't sorry he killed his brother
- Cain tells God that he's afraid people will hear about what he did and try to kill him
- God puts a mark on him to protect him

Genesis 4:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

- God protected the first murderer on the face of the earth
- He didn't approve of what he'd done
- But instead of judging or killing him, he extended mercy

Compare this to the first time someone is put to death under the law, simply for picking up sticks on the Sabbath

– Numbers 15:32-36

- God did deal with people differently during the dispensation of the law
- It wasn't truly God's heart
- The law was to show man their sinfulness – Romans 3:20

What about Sodom and Gomorrah, or Noah's ark?

In both cases God acted in judgment toward a certain segment of mankind in order to show mercy toward the human race as a whole

Luke 17:26, 28, 30 (NKJV)

²⁶ And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

³⁰ Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

- We are only now starting to approach the wickedness of these two times in history

If God wouldn't have destroyed those people, there wouldn't have been a virgin left for Him to fulfill His promise through

Grace and mercy have always been God's nature

The law was given as a tutor and a disciplinary to restrict the amount of sin being committed

God had to create the law to teach us right from wrong until we could be born again

Galatians 3:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

You must be born again

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.