

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW

Part Three

How does God go about restoring fellowship (being friends again) with man while staying perfect? Remember, God is perfect and can only have fellowship with perfection. He has nothing in common with SIN! Yet, He still desires to have fellowship with us His sinful creatures. How can you have a strong friendship if you have nothing in common? What is it in sinful man that makes God able to fellowship with us –what do we have in “common”? JESUS! By BEING IN CHRIST we can now have fellowship with God, just as Jesus did and does. So, God can have fellowship with BELIEVERS because they are in Christ! We are justified by accepting this fact.

Let's do something. Let's stop thinking about what justification mean to us, and start thinking about what our justification means to God. God can now have fellowship with us as He desires. You see, God desires that ALL men be saved, but we know that is not going to happen. You mean, God doesn't get everything He wants!??? Nope! Humans have this thing called volition, the right to CHOOSE for or against God. God did not make us robots and some humans will choose against God. How sad. But they do. Not only does He want all to be saved, but He wants to be friends with all of us, too!

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

To justify means to declare righteous. Some people think they are “good”, but are they perfect? Some people get “self-righteous” about how good they are. But what type of goodness is it, really? If it is the goodness of a sinner, it is sinful righteousness and, once again, not perfect righteousness. Our goodness/righteousness must be perfect to have fellowship with God. That righteousness must come from God and be freely given to us by the grace of God. If we get involved, it becomes imperfect and therefore not acceptable to God. God, in eternity past, had to architect (design) a plan that satisfied His desire to fellowship with His creatures for all of eternity, while honoring man's free will and not going against His own Perfect Justice. WOW! He's pretty smart!

In Part 2 we described how a meeting place is a place where two people can gather together in peace, without animosity (hate), where great love and friendship can be enjoyed. The Garden of Eden was the first meeting place. Adam and Eve were created PERFECT and, therefore, God came to the Garden every day and taught them and they had great fellowship. But this perfection stayed perfect only until it was tested. The right temptation came along (no one knows how long it took but I think maybe about a

WEEK!!! LOL) and Adam and Eve became sinners. Meeting OVER! God could no longer have fellowship due to the unrighteousness (sin) found in them.



Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

Anything that isn't of God's perfect Righteousness is "violent" against God, attacks His perfection, therefore, He "hates" it with infinite hate.

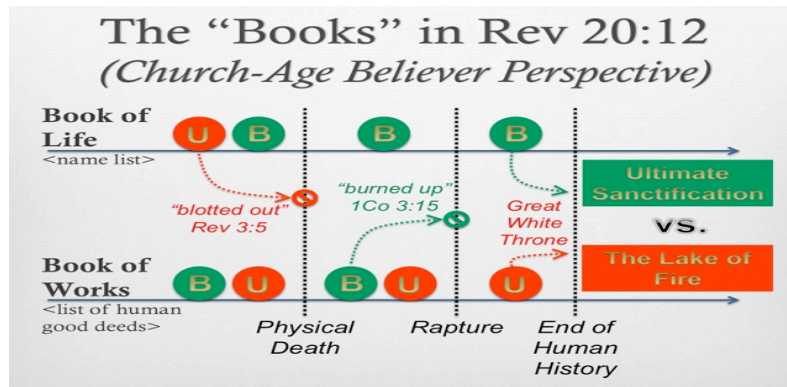


Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

The Greek Word for wrath in this verse means an anger that rises gradually and then becomes more settled; it refers to the fact that though God's wrath against sin exists, God's wrath is held back until the final judgment.

Revelation 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

This diagram shows how the wrath of God is poured out at the end of human History. It clearly shows how anyone trying to get into Heaven based on their own human, smelly, good works is doomed to face the wrath of God. How silly to think that our human goodness impresses God in any way! The only way into Heaven is to believe in The Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31).



The red U circle is the unbeliever and the green B circle is the believer. The Book of Life has every single human beings name in it (as God knows everyone that has been or will be born). When a person that did not believe in Jesus Christ, their name is erased.

The Book of Works shows all human good that unbelievers tried to use to get into heaven INSTEAD of believing in Jesus Christ. There is no other name under Heaven and Earth by which men must be saved – JESUS CHRIST is the ONLY Savior! (Acts 4:12)

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."



Jesus Christ's death on the cross provided unlimited (*NO LIMIT*) atonement. Atonement means repairing a broken relationship and unlimited refers to it being for ALL people. The blood of Christ is the ultimate payment for sin and is the basis of forgiveness for all that sin. ALL SINS PAID FOR IN FULL – It is Finished!

Matthew 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

His death is referred to as a substitutionary (*like a substitute teacher/ there instead of your regular teacher*) sacrifice, meaning He died in our place. The blood sacrifices described in the Old Testament, were an example of this. A perfect animal was killed and its blood was poured out on an altar to pay for their sins. This was a picture of Jesus Christ and showed the Jewish people what was to come.