

## My Assurance of Being In Christ

Before the creation existed, God wanted to have a people whom He could love forever, and who would love and appreciate Him forever. *This is the central purpose for God's creation.* God created a wonderful world with a myriad of beautiful plants, unique animals and gorgeous scenery. He wanted the one's He loved to see His love for them in the beauty of the place where they would live. Most people appreciate the natural beauty of the creation but don't appreciate the creator.

God also made angels, some who are loyal to God and some who are not. Satan, the Devil, is the chief angel who is against God and God's people.

Since you are reading this paper, it means you have accepted, or are willing to accept, the following four principles which provide a firm foundation for your getting acquainted with God.

### **(1) God loves you, and He wants a personal relationship with you.**

"This is eternal life; that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3)

God loves all mankind and wants a personal relationship with each of us. As I have already said, the prime objective of the creation is for God to obtain a people who He can love and who will love Him forever.<sup>1</sup>

### **(2) All Men are Sinners and are Separated from God**

"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

"There is a way which seems right to a man, but it's end is the way to death." (Proverbs 14:12)

Since you believe that God exists and that you are a person who has realized you do not think and act as God would have you think and act, you have decided you need to change, and allow God to direct your life.

### **(3) Jesus Christ is God's Only Provision for Man's Sin. Through Him Alone Can We know God Personally and Experience His Love.**

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me'" (John 14:6)

"But God demonstrates His own love towards

us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Jesus came to Earth and said to everyone, "I am God."<sup>2</sup> His disciples believed Him but the religious leaders of the day did not. And so the religious leaders crucified Him in a most horrible way. Can you imagine looking up at Jesus on the cross, His disciples on one side, the religious leaders on the other. Mere men torturing the High, Holy and Lifted Up Lord of the Universe!

But at the same time, Jesus proved His love for us by *staying* on the cross. The Father would have taken Him off the Cross if Jesus had asked.<sup>3</sup> The Bible says He had the power to call down hundreds of angels; enough power to destroy everyone in the world.<sup>4</sup> But He did not. He was kind to us when we were cruel to Him. While He endured excruciating pain, He said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."<sup>5</sup>

But let's not be too quick to judge the religious leaders because you and I are just as guilty of crucifying Him as they. Why? Because, we have not believed that He was God come in the flesh either. We, at some point, in our lives did not believe He was God either.

He asked, "Who do men say that I am?"<sup>6</sup> And we ask the same question to you today. Is He God or is He not? He proved who He was by fulfilling over 800 prophecies given over 600 years before He lived on this Earth. The Father validated His claims and ministry by raising Jesus from the dead.

### **(4) We must individually Accept Jesus as Savior of Our Soul and Manager of our Life; Then We can Know God personally and Experience His Love**

To receive Him means to believe who He is, to accept His promises as applying to oneself and to cooperate with Him in changing one's own life. God

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2. John 1:1, 14; John 5:18; John 10:30-33, 36-39; John 18:5-6; Col.2:9

3. Psalms 91:11

4. Matthew 26:53

5. Luke 23:34

6. Matthew 16:13-17

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1. Ref. Luke 10:27; If loving Him is the greatest commandment of the law, then it also must be His highest objective. Why? Because, there is nothing greater that we can do.

says,

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)

Agreeing that Jesus is God establishes His right to Lordship over one’s own life. Appreciating who Jesus is and what he has done motivates us to *want* His leadership in our lives. Appreciating His leadership and living out His plan for our lives is the definition of love for God. Loving Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s plan for the creation. It is by this plan that God will obtain a people who will love Him forever. Thus, our overview of God’s plan is complete. The only question left: What do you believe? Jesus said,

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him.”<sup>7</sup>

If you have opened the door of your heart right now, you may want to talk to God in the form of a prayer which goes something like this:

“Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and accept you as my Saviour and manager. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life and make me the kind of person You want me to be.”

When we receive Christ, we have experienced a new birth.<sup>8</sup> In another place the Bible says,

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things become new.”

If you prayed the above prayer, part of the new you is your new point-of-view about Jesus and what He has done for you. You may have a fresh new hope for a better life. You may feel like a great burden has been lifted from your shoulders; as a result of giving Jesus responsibility for success of your life. You may feel a new appreciation and gratefulness toward God. If so, He is starting to fulfill His goal for your life: that you should love Him as He loves you. Now, didn’t we say that was God’s goal right from the start?

## His Plan for Our Righteousness

Let’s say I am a new believer, I am not positive how God works in my life. Someone tells me I must confess all my sinful infractions or God will not hear my prayers. Then to complicate life further, my car engine develops a knock, the value of my stock shares go to zero and I discover a lump on my body where one is not supposed to be. Is God mad at me? Does He care if I hurt as long as I do what is right? Or is He just working for my good in a way I cannot understand? I really don’t know.

My physical father loved me and did not separate me from himself because I did not confess every broken house rule, and I cannot believe my Heavenly Father, who loves me more, would treat me that way either.<sup>9</sup> Well then, you ask, what is my true position with the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ?

Romans 5:19 says about Adam and Christ:

“For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made *righteous*.”<sup>10</sup>

It is through the obedience of Christ, not us, that makes us righteous. So, through Christ’s finished work, there is a way for me to be *righteous* before a holy God. The way this happens is simple; God forgives our sin past, present and future.<sup>11</sup> That plan gives us time to be transformed, from our old state of mind, by the renewing of our mind,<sup>12</sup> into the new state of mind and person that God wants us to be.

## How I became Righteous

To answer your question, “What is my true position with the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ?” I’ll ask you back, how were your sins forgiven in the first place?

The way you became righteous is by your faith. Faith is believing in something to the degree that you act upon that belief. Saving faith in Christ requires believing and acting upon the following:

9 if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;

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9. Matthew 7:9-11

10. Emphasis in all the quotes are mine.

11. Romans 4:6-8

12. Romans 12:2

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7. Revelation 3:20

8. John 3:3

10 for with the heart man believes, resulting in *righteousness*, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.<sup>13</sup>

Therefore, the way you became *righteous* was to believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. And you are saved by acting on that belief by confession and living out your life with Jesus as Lord (boss, manager) of your life; as best you can.

## Righteous Men in Bible History

Genesis 15:4-6.

- 4 Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him (Abram), saying, "This man (Eliezer) will not be your heir; but one who shall come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir."
- 5 And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "so shall your descendants be."
- 6 Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned (accounted) it to him as *righteousness*.<sup>14</sup>

Hebrews 11:4

- 4 By faith Abel offered a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was *righteous*, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

Our believing makes us righteous and our confession (a demonstration of faith) makes us a partaker in the promises of salvation just like the Old Testament saints.<sup>15</sup>

## I am Free from Sin

If I admit I am a sinner and keep asking and trusting Jesus to heal me, then that qualifies me to be declared righteous for all the future. Why? Because giving up my will and ways to adopt Jesus' will and ways is a figurative death for me, and it is a real death for my self-will and ways.<sup>16</sup>

- 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also in the likeness of His resurrection.<sup>17</sup>

7 For he who has died is free from sin.  
(Romans 6:7)

*God is saying I have no sin in His eyes.* I am sinless. Do you understand the enormity of that concept? That is good news! This means God likes me even when I do things considered sinful! It means when my car breaks down He still likes me, and when lumps appear where they shouldn't, it means He still likes me.

For the future, it means that God is working in my life to teach me something.<sup>18</sup> It means that God is operating in order that I might become a partaker of the divine nature (II Peter 1:4). Even though my discipline hurts, I can be confident He still loves and *likes* me.

## No Condemnation!

God says in Romans 8:1:

- 1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

In the past, was I in Christ Jesus? Yes. I was righteous then, because God forgave my sin and there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

Am I in Christ Jesus now? Yes. I am now righteous because there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

Will I be in Christ Jesus in the future? Yes, if I continue to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, and I continue to confess Jesus as Lord of my life. Then I will be righteous in the future because there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.

He has forgiven all sins past, present and future. Therefore, I am righteous all the time; just as Jesus is righteous.

## What If I Slip?

What happens if I *unknowingly* commit an act considered sinful under the law or forget to confess some infraction? Am I, in God's eyes, back under the law or am I still under grace where there is no condemnation?

Answer: I am still under grace because my being righteous is not a function of my works (my sin under the law) but a function of Christ's work, and my confessing that Jesus is Lord and believing in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.<sup>19</sup> And as long

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13. Romans 10:9-10

14. See also Romans 4:3, Galations 3:6

15. Romans 10:9-10

16. Romans 6:1-17

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17. Romans 6:5

18. I Peter 5:6-10, Hebrews 12:6-11

as I believe that, I am righteous.

What happens if I *knowingly* commit an act considered sinful under the law but for now don't choose to confess it? Am I, in God's eyes, back under the law or am I still under grace where there is no condemnation?

I am still under grace. My being righteous is not a function of my works but a function of Christ's work. And, my confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.

However, that is not the end of it. Although I have not lost my righteousness, by ignoring my sin, I have begun a path that will lead me away from wanting Jesus as Lord.

Because of that act, and previous experience of being under the law, I will *feel* guilty which causes me to separate myself from God to some degree. But in God's eyes, the blood of Christ has wiped away my sins past, present and future so I am *not* guilty at court. Whenever Satan accuses me before the Father, Jesus intercedes and the Almighty Judge pronounces me innocent.<sup>20</sup> Hallelujah! But sinful thinking processes are very deceitful.

## The Deceitfulness of Sin

The deceitfulness of sin comes in when I feel guilty, and if I didn't know the truth, I would believe that I am guilty before God, when in fact, I am not. This guilt causes me to separate myself from God because I don't think He is pleased with me so I tend to hide just as Adam and Eve did in the Garden. It becomes more difficult to keep my mind "set on the Spirit", and easier to keep my mind "set on the flesh". One is spiritual life and the other is spiritual death.<sup>21</sup>

A person in this situation is faced with two choices: (1) Confess his sin and be released from guilt (I John 1:9) until his next sin, which produces a "roller coaster" Christian experience; (2) Neglect to cleanse himself and allow the guilt to be stored inside. When enough guilt is stored, a degree of hardness of heart occurs.<sup>22</sup> Thus your *closeness* and *faith* in Him is decreased.

What we see happening here is that decreased faith leads to separation from God, and separation from God leads to stunting of growth and unfruitfulness.<sup>23</sup> Hardness of heart and unfruitfulness allow Satan to have a *greater* influence on our lives.

Jesus said in John 15:5-6,

- 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

This is the result of separating yourself from Jesus.

Here is another similar passage. Hebrews 6:4-8 gives us the "destination" at the end of the road leading to separation from God.

- 4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,
- 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,
- 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.
- 7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls upon it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God;
- 8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned."<sup>24</sup>

At what point are you not righteous any more? If this process of hardening of the heart by degrees persists, then at some point you will cease to believe Jesus should be Lord (Boss / Manager) of your life and that God raised Him from the dead.<sup>25</sup> This is the point of original entry into the family of God. So a person goes out the way he came in; by faith or lack of it.

Are we saying then, that one does not need to confess his sins? May it never be! Everywhere the scriptures asks us to confess our sins one to another; especially to God. But if we have our mind on the Spirit, God has already forgiven us before committing the sin. Confession to God is needed for those having their minds on the flesh, namely, the natural

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19. Roman 10:9-10

20. Romans 8:33,34; Hebrews 6:20

21. Romans 8:6,7

22. Hebrews 3:13; 12:15

23. John 15:4-6

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24. See also parable of talents; Matthew 25:14-30

25. Hebrews 6:6

man. We must confess sins and ask forgiveness to be freed from the separation producing guilty conscience. This insures closeness to the Father, especially for the new believer, long enough to enter God's "rest";<sup>26</sup> even though it produces a roller coaster Christian experience.

## Entering God's Rest

Entering "God's rest", is realizing your true status with the Father. When you read and believe this concept, you will have true liberty. You will always be comfortable with Jesus and the Father knowing they like you, and therefore you are free to love them.

15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! "Father!"<sup>27</sup>

God has allowed us this grace so we have sufficient time to renew our mind enough to see that God is truly good. Over time we learn that man is evil and God is good. After some christian experience we get to where we appreciate God for who He is. As we appreciate Him, we move into loving Him.

Isn't this what it is all about, to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength"? You have to know He likes you as well as loves you before you can fully love Him.

## Confession before Cleansing?

But what about I John 1:9 which says,

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Isn't that a conditional statement that requires confession before cleansing?

Verses Eight and Nine are addressed to the person who says they have no sin: "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us." That person has crossed the line into unrighteousness. Why? Because saying one has no sin is the equivalent of denial, of avoiding the truth, and embracing a lie which causes one to believe he doesn't need Jesus as Lord.<sup>28</sup> Therefore, verse nine is needed to restore such a one.

But verse Seven is addressed to the man who is walking in the light or, in other words, is walking according to the enlightenment of God's revealed truth. Verse seven says, "...but if we walk in the light, we have

fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses from all sin." The result: I am clean as long as I realize I am a sinner and need Jesus as boss / manager of my life.

It is such a comfort to know that as long as I recognize His Lordship, as manager of my life, I am forgiven; and therefore righteous by His blood.

However, Jesus cannot be faithful to forgive without confession, if I am deceived into believing I have no sin, (verse 9) and therefore don't need Him anymore.

It is believing that you are righteous which allows you to come, guilt free, to the throne of grace; that you may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need (Heb.4:16).

It is believing that you are righteous which assures you that no matter what negative thing happens, that God still loves you and likes you.

Since, you don't need to worry that your relationship with God might be broken. Thus, you always feel accepted.

May God bless you.

For more information, you can get the next paper in the **Meaning of Life** series, "**Allowing God to Manage Your Life.**"

You can read my book, "**Managed Cooperation Theology,**" Norman E. Jones, Divinely Timed Publications, 2011, available at Amazon.com.

You may also go to my website at: "[www.soul-survival.info](http://www.soul-survival.info)"

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26. Hebrews Chapter Four

27. Romans 8:15

28. II Thess. 2:10-12, Romans 1:25