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REDEEMED AND RECONCILED

Because the church passed through long periods of darkness, it has taken long for us to get the clear message, and understand the works of the Spirit of God to turn our soul, (mind, affections and emotions), back to our first love. The gathering of Jesus's true church began when the Holy Spirit swooshed into the upper room and baptized the first hundred-and-twenty who had been waiting there. This baptism continued to be poured out through the centuries, until a new wave was felt in the forties with the "Latter Rain Movement," and later when men like Oral Roberts and others, were filled with renewed vigor to preach the reality of this baptism along with the gifts of the Spirit. Along with these waves God brought to light, the truth of sonship and of reconciliation. As it is common when new things are revealed, false prophets join in and confusion ensues. Nevertheless, God's Holy Spirit moves on, and the gathering continues. It will not stop until all is completed, and the perfect Man, (Christ in the sons), appears in the earth. In one of his epistles, Paul lays out the steps of creation, redemption through the blood of the cross, followed by the work of reconciliation, in that order. I was filled with joy when it all fell in place for me, and I hope that it will do the same for you.

Speaking of the Father's dear Son, Paul writes, "*For by him were **all things** created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created BY HIM AND FOR HIM. And he is before all things, and by him all things CONSIST. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should ALL FULNESS, (or the fulness of all things), dwell; **And, having made peace by the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.***"(Col.1:16-20) The truth is obvious; all creation belongs to God's Son who created all things, meaning living things; and all things keep on existing, or consist, because of they belong to Him. The enemy who turned their hearts away from Him cannot give them life. But God so loved those things, that He sent the only One who could pay the price to redeem them. The Son of God paid the debt in full. The payment is His precious blood, and He finished the work of redemption on the cross. By His blood, Jesus paid the full price to redeem the entire world, past, present and future. After He paid the price, Jesus went down into Hades, to preach the good news of redemption to those who in the previous age, rebelled against the preaching of Noah and perished in the flood. (I Pet.3:19) The work of redemption by His blood was complete then, and always will be. "*And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the **Saviour of the world.***"(I Jn.4:14) This cannot be changed or altered in any way, forever.

Paul confirms it this way, "*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*" (I Cor.15:22). Some have said that Paul meant that after being made alive, man will still have the choice to nullify the payment in full that Jesus made on the cross for them, and refuse His salvation. They truly believe that after they are bought back, their will can supersede the will of God "*Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*" (I Tim.2:4) To believe that man's will is stronger than God's, one has to think that men have the preeminence over their Owner, and that

the will of God is second to their own will. Such thoughts can only issue from carnal minds still in darkness.

THE SON IS RECONCILING ALL THINGS UNTO HIMSELF- It is important to know what “to **reconcile**” really means. It is not the same as to redeem. To redeem is to buy back with a payment, to reconcile is to “win over, to make friendly again. It is to settle a quarrel, to make compatible or consistent again; to make content and submissive or acquiescent. It is to bring back into harmony. These definitions are found in both Webster’s dictionary and Strong’s Concordance dictionary. By our own life experience we know that this is the work that the Son of God has worked in us. Day by day He has been bringing us to closer agreement with His Word and with His will, and through this, He has separated us from the attractions of the world and the need to be part of its systems. This reconciliation work is the Son of God’s goal for the living things of His entire creation, and it is also the work delegated to the sons throughout the ages to come, until all things are reconciled and alive in Him. *“And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself, be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”* (I Cor.15:28)

It is certain that, as the Son of God reveals Himself to those who seek Him, we are assured, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that He will not lose any of His purchased creation; it is impossible for Him who so loves, to lose one thing, one person, for love conquers all. In their own order, He will reconcile all things that His Father so loves. On the cross, Jesus first redeemed creation by His blood. Then by the power of His Holy Spirit, He began the work of reconciling the firstfruits, and He will continue the work until all creation is in perfect harmony with the mind of Christ and the will of God. We who have been redeemed from among men and called, are still coming into harmony with God whose will is that all men be saved. We are being *“...transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we may prove (to ourselves and to the world), what is the good, and acceptable will of God.”* (From Rom.12:2).

To the measure that we have been reconciled to God by Jesus Christ, we can impart reconciliation to others. *“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given us the ministry of reconciliation. To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”* (II Cor.5:18-19). The scriptures are clear about this, the world has first been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, and the sons, His firstfruits are first to be reconciled that they, in the likeness and image of the Son, may continue the greater work of reconciling the world unto Him.

Paul specifically addresses the saints and faithful in Christ, those whom He has called and who are first to be reconciled; he writes, *“And **you**, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight; if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.”* (Col.1:21-23) These saints needed to be reminded and encouraged to continue and persevere in the faith. And it is with the words of the apostle that we, as sons, also take courage and keep the faith and the vision burning bright before us, until we ourselves, are transformed and empowered for the great and eternal work at hand. May all who hear and understand say Amen!

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*