

The Covenant Sacrifice Between God and Christ

Fred R. Coulter—August 3, 2013

Today we are going to add some more pieces to the puzzle of understanding the Word of God.

What does Isa. 28 tell us? *'Line upon line; here a little, there a little; precept upon precept.'* What does 2-Tim. 2:15 tell us? *All of this is going to show why we need to study and re-study and re-study, because we're going to see that the Word of God is multi-layered, which means there are many meanings within the various words of God.* 2-Timothy 2:15: "...study to show yourself approved..."

What I'm going to do is assume that you have progressed beyond the beginning doctrines of Christ, which are:

- repentance
- baptism
- laying on of hands
- receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit

Peter writes in 2-Peter 3:18^[transcriber's correction]: "Rather, be growing in *the* grace and *the* knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..." How do we grow in that?

1. study the Word of God
2. live by the Word of God
3. do this on a continuous basis

We're going to look at a Scripture that all the Protestants know, but they don't understand what is really important for us to do. In Matthew 5:48 Jesus said: "Therefore, you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who *is* in heaven is perfect."

How do we get there from the 'the carnal mind is enmity against God' and repentance and baptism? *and* How do we get to the perfection? We're going to study about some of that today. Also, it shows us what we are to do. There are quite a few very important things for us to do.

Hebrews 3:10: "Because of this... [God says] ...I was indignant with that generation, and said, 'They are always going astray in their hearts, and they have not known My ways.'" How do you stay in *God's* ways? What is one of the most important things that you do on a regular basis to stay in the *way of God? Keep the Sabbath; keep the Holy Days.*

Verse 11: "So I swore in My wrath, 'If they shall enter into My rest—' Beware, brethren lest perhaps there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief... [We're going to see what that means. ***If you don't obey God, you don't believe God!***] ...in apostatizing from *the* living God" (vs 11-12).

Here's what we are to; Here's how we are to grow in grace and knowledge, v 13: "Rather, be encouraging one another each day, while it is called 'today,' so that none of you become hardened by *the* deceitfulness of sin. For we are companions of Christ, if we truly hold the confidence *that we had* at the beginning steadfast until the end? (vs 13-14). How many times have we covered: ***it's not how you start, it's how you finish?***

Verse 15: "As it is being said, 'Today, **if you will hear His voice...** [Every time you read the Word of God, these are the words of God that He spoke, that He inspired.] ...do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion.' For some after hearing, did rebel, but not all who came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was He indignant *for* forty years? *Was it* not with those who had sinned, whose dead bodies were strewn in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear *that they* would not enter into His rest, except to those who had disobeyed? So, we see that **they were not able to enter in because of unbelief**" (vs 17-19).

We can take that and we can multiply that out and see how that happens. The Protestants use John 3:16 all the time and there's a whole lot more to it than meets the eye. So, if you read it in the *King James Version*, v 16, it will read, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that everyone whosoever believes in Him **should not** perish, but **have** everlasting life." *But that's not what the Greek says!* Based upon that, they say, 'If you believe; do you believe?' Yes, I *believe!* 'Then you're saved instantly.' But *they are not!*

The proper translation that we have is in the *Faithful Version*. Here we see that built into this by the Greek, there are conditions, just like we read earlier, '***If*** you hold your confidence steadfast to the end.'

Verse 15: "So that everyone who believes in Him **may not** perish..." What does that tell you? The Greek is very, very important here, because the Greek that gives the negation *may not* is not *shall not* or *should not*, which means that it is subjunctive statement, meaning, *there are conditions found other places*. That's where Protestantism misses everything.

"...but **may have** everlasting life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." (vs 15-16). We are going to see what that means? Someone wrote me this last week and said—so we're going to cover this, as well, so we can understand it—they have gone through the series on covenants—*Covenants in the Bible*—where I said

every covenant has to have a sacrifice at the beginning of the covenant so that it will be valid. A will is entirely different. A will is not valid until the person dies. A covenant is valid when you make the covenant and you offer the sacrifice to guarantee that it will be done.

So we're going to see there are many different things in this, that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." (v 16).

Just a little sidebar: It becomes absolutely impossible for those who claim that Jesus did not exist until He was begotten in the womb of the virgin Mary, because that kind of belief negates the covenant that was between the Father and the Son. What was that covenant? *and* What were those sacrifices? We're going to see that is multi-layered.

"...so that everyone who **believes**..." (v 16). If you read the footnote that I have here at the bottom of it, it shows that *believes* is not just acknowledgement. It is not just saying, 'Oh, there's a cup of coffee on the table.' You can't say, 'Oh, I believe that Jesus is Lord, or God,' because James writes and says in James 2, 'You believe there is one God, you do well. The demons believe and tremble.'

So, this *believing* means you believe on a continuous basis. What did we read earlier? *Holding fast your confidence that you had at the beginning, unto the end!*

"...believes in Him **may not** perish..." (v 16). Now what does this tell us? If you don't finish, you *will* perish. This is not a *should* or *shall* statement. A *shall* statement is, you shall. In law that means it must be done. *Should* is not quite as strong, but *may* is entirely different, because that lets you know there are conditions. So, we have all the different things that come about as a result of that.

"...believes in Him may not perish, **but may** not have everlasting life" (v 16).

Covenant with Adam and Eve

Let's take a look at the covenants. What was the verbiage of the covenant that God gave to Adam and Eve? *They were to live in the Garden!* They were living with God, and God appeared to them as a human being, though He was God. He had to appear in that way, because if He appeared in His glory, they would have died, because no man can be in the presence of God in His glory and live.

Like God told Moses, 'No man look on my face and live.' Their covenant was, 'You may freely eat of all the trees of the garden except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. In the day that you eat thereof, you shall surely die; in dying you will die.' They were to dress the Garden. They were to keep it.

They didn't listen to God, because the first thing that Satan does is always come along and discredits God, discredits His Word whether verbal or written, and puts doubts in the minds of people so then their minds will go against God.

Having done that, they sinned, they were judged and they were thrown out of the Garden of Eden. Then God took two goats and those were a sacrifice for that sin that they could still come to east entrance of the Garden of Eden and meet with God at specific times. So, whenever there is sin there must be a sacrifice to cover it. That was for their own personal lives at that time.

Covenant with Noah

Now then, after that the next major covenant we have is with Noah. What happened after they came out of the Ark? God made a covenant with them, told them to replenish the earth. Before the Flood, God was responsible for judging those who committed capital crimes, such as He did with Cain after he killed Abel.

After the Flood we find that God said that if by the hand of man someone is killed, he must likewise by the hand of man be killed. I'm just summarizing these, because that is the covenant. That covenant then established for the nations after the Flood that all the sovereign nations were to make their laws after the laws of God, and it was based upon the capital punishment of taking the life of a man who takes another man. You know the rest of the story.

Just a little side bar concerning Nimrod and Semiramis: There are articles going around now saying, everything about the *Two Babylons*—book by Alexander Hislop—you can't believe, because the Bible doesn't tell us. How much does the Bible tell us? *Let's read about Nimrod!* How much does God have to tell us?

Since all of God's Word is spirit and all of God's Word is correct, let's see it here. How did all the races come after the Flood? Do you know how to answer that? Does anybody know how to answer how all the races come after the Flood? *God already determined the bounds and habitations where they would live!* How did the races come to be? *They were probably before the Flood, as well!* But when you reduce it down to three men and their wives, and the three men came from Noah, because he was perfect in his genealogy, how did they come? *God can make the races at any time He determines!*

Genesis 25:20: "And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Albany the Syrian. And Isaac prayed to the LORD

for his wife because she *was* barren. And the LORD heard him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. And the sons struggled together within. And she said, ‘If *it is* well, why *am* I this way?’ And she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, ‘**Two nations are in your womb...**’ (vs 20-23).

There we go! How did one of them come out? *Smooth skinned and the other one hairy, almost like a goat!* Can you imagine their surprise when that happened? ‘Lord, what is this?’ The point I’m making is this. If God explains a little bit about Nimrod and we can find the rest in history, we don’t need it all contained in the Bible.

Genesis 10:8: “And Cush begat Nimrod. He began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter against the LORD... [The Hebrew can mean *in place of the Lord*. What does this tell you going back to the religion before the Flood?] ...Therefore, it is said, ‘Like Nimrod—the mighty hunter against the LORD’” (vs 8-9)—or in place of the Lord.

Verse 10: “And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land he went forth to Assyria, and he built Nineveh, and the city of Rehoboth Ir, and Calah” (vs 10-11).

That’s all we need to know about Nimrod. God preserved the history of what He did and thus we have available to us the book, *The Two Babylons*, by Alexander Hislop. But there are people who come along with a lie and say since God didn’t have all of this in the Bible, none of it’s true. That’s the way that people do.

Covenant with Abraham

Let’s look at the covenant with Abraham. We’re going to review these quite rapidly, because I’ve covered them in detail in the past. God made His covenant with Abraham. He told him, ‘You’re going to have a son from your own loins.’ He told him that ‘your seed shall be as the stars of heaven.’ Later He said ‘as the sand of the sea.’

After that there was a particular covenantal sacrifice that Abraham sacrificed the animals according to God’s instructions. They were cut down the middle and each half laid back to back, but to put a trail down the middle to walk through.

God walked that path. That path, when you walk through the covenant sacrifice, signifies this: ‘If I do not perform this covenant with you, I will become like those animals.’ When you cut them down the middle and open them up that way, guess what? Everything is there. It is bloody, it is messy, it is raunchy beyond belief. A covenant, if you don’t perform, you are going to die that way.

However, with this covenant there are other applications with it. This was a foretelling of how Christ would die when He ended the covenant with Israel, as well. Here again we have it layered.

Gen. 22 becomes the point in the Bible where everything from this point forward makes up the rest of the entire Bible. It all comes from that. Let’s stop, and we will ask about the circumcision (Gen. 17). The circumcision was a *sign of the covenant* that there would be physical nations and kings and queens, a multitude of nations, and that’s the starting of everything that was brought out in Gen. 49. What we need to do in understanding these things is to look at it much more expansively as God brings out in His Word.

Abraham was told to go offer his son for a ‘sacrifice on Mount Moriah, the place I will show you to go.’ So he did! He offered his son and also Isaac had to be willing—didn’t he? *Yes, he did!* This becomes the whole crux of everything in the Old Testament. Everything in the New Testament comes from this point.

Genesis 22:10: “And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called to him from the heavens and said, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ And He said, ‘Do not lay your hand upon the lad, nor do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me’” (vs 10-12). That is really a tremendous thing that was done there.

We will look at the Scriptures in the New Testament that expanded from this point. Then God provided the ram (v 13).

Verse 14: “And Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide...” [notice how God responded to this, v 15]: ...And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, ‘**By Myself...** [that becomes powerfully important] ...have I sworn,’ says the LORD, ‘because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son; that in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens... [that has to do with the New Testament] ...and as the sand which is upon the seashore....’” (vs 14-17). So, we have *spiritual seed as the stars of heaven!* Jesus said that those of the children of the kingdom will ‘shine as the sun,’ which is a star.

“...And your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, **because you have obeyed My voice**” (vs 17-18).

You can take that all the way forward to Gal. 3 where Paul shows clearly that this is talking about

those who are called under the New Covenant. So, here we have

1. covenant with Israel through Isaac
2. covenant with the Church through Christ

Isaac was a type of the seed of Christ. Christ was the only Begotten of the Father. Here we have a covenant sacrifice *now sealed by God based upon the love and the obedience of Abraham!* God was bound from that time forward to fulfill His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. That's why you have it so many times in the Old Testament: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the fathers, very important to remember.

Let's see what Paul wrote about this very thing. This is why God gave the covenant and the promise to Abraham before he was circumcised so that when the covenant of Israel was set aside by the death of Christ, then the plan of God could move forward with the New Testament through Isaac.

Romans 4:17: "(Exactly as it is written: 'I have made you a father of many nations.')

before God in Whom he believed, Who gives life to the dead, and calls the things that are not as though they are."

Some of you will remember the sermon that I gave just recently showing what sand magnified looks like—*Genesis: Creation and Sand*—you look at sand, you would never believe how beautiful that it really is. Likewise, God calls things that are not as though they are. God's plan and His Word is layered just like that.

Verse 18: "And who against hope believed in hope, in order that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, 'So shall your seed be.' And he, not being weak in the faith, considered not his own body, already having become dead, being about one hundred years old, nor *did he consider* the deadness of Sarah's womb" (vs 18-19).

God, in order to show us how great He is, did things that were impossible, unless He intervened, to do it. Likewise, we're going to see that with Christ. Can you imagine how the television news would cover it if some woman today 90-years-old gave birth in a retirement home? *That would be never ending!* God did this for a great purpose! This is also to teach us concerning faith. When you just look at the circumstances, it may not be what you think it will be.

Here's Isaac, now he grows up, and then God says, 'Go sacrifice him.' Heb. 11 tells us that Abraham did it because he '*counted God able to raise him from the dead.*' You need to think about that concerning the resurrection, too. Some of the

great things that they are understanding about human beings and genetics. They, even from blood, have taken the genes and have cloned little rats. Do you think God can raise the dead from the dust of the ground? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 20: "And he did not doubt the promise of God through unbelief; rather, he was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God; for he was fully persuaded that what He has promised, He is also able to do" (vs 20-21). That's the faith we need to have. What does it say to Isaac? '*Because Abraham obeyed My voice, kept My commandments, My laws, My statutes, and My judgments.*'

Belief requires obedience. If you don't obey, you don't believe. So therefore, the faith that the Protestants teach is dead, *because they don't obey!* They may be nice people. They may be better than the criminals in jail, that's true. But God is not interested in just 'good' people; He is interested in *perfected* people *through His Spirit*, which only God can do.

Verse 22: "As a result, it was also imputed to him for righteousness.... [right standing with God] ...But it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; rather, *it was also written* for our sakes, to whom it shall be imputed—to those who believe in Him Who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offenses and was raised for our justification" (vs 22-25).

Let's just take a quick view concerning how sin came into the world for human beings, and how we got our human nature. This is why no human works will bring about salvation. You need *the works of God* to do:

- with the Spirit of God working in you
- with the Spirit of God perfecting
 - ✓ your mind
 - ✓ your heart
 - ✓ your love
 - ✓ your obedience

Because regardless of how much people really do to make themselves the best that they can be, there is one thing they cannot change: *human nature!* That is no human activity or obedience in the letter of the law can remove *the law of sin and death* within; *only the Spirit of God!*

Romans 5:12: "Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world..." It talks about Eve back there in 1-Tim.; she was deceived. But Rom. 5 is telling us Adam was not deceived. Also, Adam was responsible for his wife, and he should have said, 'Put that down.'

"...and by means of sin came death; and in this way, death passed into all mankind... [we inherit our carnal, sinful nature genetically] ...and it

is for this reason that all have sinned” (v 12). Therefore, you can’t get rid of it without the Holy Spirit of God.

The New Covenant

Let’s talk a little bit about the New Covenant. When the apostles came to this last Passover of Jesus Christ, they had no clue as to what was going to take place. They didn’t even know where they were going to keep the Passover, because Jesus didn’t tell them until the last minute.

Mark 14:22: “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread; *and* after blessing *it*, He broke *it* and gave *it* to them, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.... [we’ll talk about the body of Christ a little later] ...And He took the cup; *and* after giving thanks, He gave *it* to them; and they all drank of it. And He said to them, ‘This is My blood, the blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for many’” (vs 22-24). All of this is based upon the crucifixion and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We have it recorded in Matt. 26, Luke 22 and 1-Cor. 11.

Just a little sidebar: This covenant ceremony is so important for those who have the Spirit of God that Satan likes to come along and move it just a little bit. If you can start bringing in a little bit of error, which will be multiplied over and over and over again by human beings, you have what you have today: the Eucharist daily—how many times on Sunday—the Lord’s Supper. ***Everything but the Passover, because none of those people are in covenant with God!***

Let’s talk about—this is the sacrifice that covers our sins—let’s talk about what Christ did. Heb. 10 talks about the sacrifice of Christ. It talks about how that it was once for all time. We will see how this came about. We will start with the end product and then we will go back to the steps that God had to take to come to this point.

Hebrews 10:1: “For the *priestly* law... [of sacrifices] ...having *only* a shadow of the good things that are coming, *and* not the image of those things, with the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, is never able to make perfect those who come *to worship*.” ***The goal of God with the New Covenant is perfection!***

Verse 2: “Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered? For once those who worship had been purified, *they would* no longer be conscious of sin. On the contrary, in *offering* these *sacrifices* year by year, *there is* a remembrance of sins” (vs 2-3). The Passover is a remembrance of removal of those sins.

Verse 4: “Because *it is* impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. For this

reason, when He comes into the world, He says, ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but You have prepared a body for Me’ (vs 4-5). That was prophesied in Psa. 40.

Verse 6: “You did not delight in burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin. Then said I, ‘Lo I come (*as* it is written of Me in *the* scroll of the book)...” (vs 6-7). We do not know where *the scroll of the book* is, where He said, ‘I come to do Your will, O God.’ We have many prophecies concerning the sacrifice of Christ, the life of Christ and all of that in the Old Testament.

Verse 8: “In the saying above, *He said*, ‘Sacrifice and offering and burnt offering and *sacrifices* for sin (which are according to the *priestly* law) You did not desire nor delight in’; then He said, ‘Lo, **I come to do Your will, O God....**’” (vs 8-9).

Stop and think for a minute here. What did Jesus say? ‘*I can of My own self do nothing.*’ That’s profoundly important. The Greek means out from within me, by my personal, human good intentions. But He always did what the Father wanted Him to do. Was Jesus perfect? *Yes!* This shows us how we go toward that perfection.

Verse 9: “...He takes away the first covenant in order that He may establish the second covenant; By Whose will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (vs 9-10). Christ died to make this possible. Then it talks about every high priest, and so forth.

Let’s see, now that we understand Christ’s sacrifice of Himself for the New Covenant, how we have a sacrifice with that. We all know it. This is why

- if there is not repentance
- if there is not baptism
- if there is not obedience

it is not in covenant with God. You can go read all the things that Jesus said, John 14-17, the four most awesome chapters in the whole Bible.

Romans 6:1: “What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound?... [that’s exactly what Protestantism does] ...MAY IT NEVER BE!....” (vs 1-2).

Stop and think about this for a minute. They use the Bible, but they don’t follow the Bible because *they don’t believe in what God has said*. They believe in their false interpretations and their human traditions because ***they have never made a covenantal sacrifice of themselves to God***. How does that start? *Christ made the covenantal sacrifice of Himself!*

“...We who died to sin, how shall we live any longer therein? Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into his death? (vs 2-3). That was His covenant death to forgive our sins so that *He was made sin, so that we could become the righteousness of God*. So, we join in that through baptism.

Verse 4: “Therefore, we were buried with Him through the baptism into the death... [that’s His] ...so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life.”

We will see that it is a process. We will see what was the covenant sacrifice spiritually that Jesus Christ Who became the Son and God the Father made.

(go to the next track)

How did God do this? Let’s see the practical results of it!

Verse 5: “For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be *in the likeness* of His resurrection.” To fulfill the promises of God that He gave to Abraham.

Verse 6: “Knowing this, that our old man was co-crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be destroyed... [this shows it is a process] ...so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin.” As we covered last time, we don’t *practice* sin.

Verse 7: “Because the one who has died... [that’s our covenant death to sin] ...has been justified from sin. Now if we died together with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him” (vs 7-8). What did God have to do, Christ have to do, in order to bring this about?

2-Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore, if anyone be in Christ, *he is* a new creation... [not finished, as long as we’re in the flesh, but *being* perfected] ...the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. And all things *are* from God, Who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ... [as I’ve said many, many times, *it is to God the Father*] ...and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation. Which *is that God was in Christ*...” (vs 17-19). The Father was actively involved in the whole process.

Verse 19: “Which *is* that God was in Christ, reconciling *the* world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them; and He has entrusted to us *this* message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; *and* God, as it were, is exhorting *you* through us. We beseech *you* on behalf of Christ, ‘Be reconciled to God.’ For He made Him Who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, **so that we might**

become *the* righteousness of God in Him” (vs 19-21). How did He do that?

I don’t think there’s one Scripture that we haven’t covered sometime in the past and in many cases many times. But here is why anyone who says Jesus was only conceived in the virgin Mary and did not exist before that point, does not understand what God has done, nor the sacrifice of Christ.

This is clear, simple, and irrefutable in any language, if it’s properly translated, John 1:1: “In *the* beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in *the* beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and not even one *thing* that was created came into being without Him” (vs 1-3). *That’s the One Who became Christ!*

We know that the Bible reveals there is the Father and the Son, in the Old Testament called *Elohim*. So, one of God became the Son, and one of God became the Father. Again, God, because He is God, did that which is impossible for men to do and can only understand these things spiritually with the Spirit of God.

Verse 14: “And the Word became flesh... [Why? *Because as God, He was spirit!*] ...and tabernacled among us (and we ourselves beheld His glory, *the* glory as of *the* only begotten with *the* Father, full of grace and truth.”

Luke 1—the angel Gabriel came to Mary and he told her exactly what’s going to happen. Here was a young woman, having never had any relations with any man. God made the choice of Mary and He performed a miracle to accomplish His goal.

Luke 1:30: “Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found grace with God; and behold, you shall conceive in *your* womb and give birth to a son; and you shall call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called ***the Son of the Highest***...” (vs 30-32). This tells us whenever you have referenced to the Highest in the Old Testament, this is the One Who became the Father. The Lord God of the Old Testament was the One Who became Jesus Christ of the New Testament.

“...and *the* Lord God shall give Him the throne of David, His forefather. And He shall reign over the house of Jacob into the ages... [this is going on into eternity] ...and of His kingdom there shall be no end.’ But Mary said to the angel, ‘How shall this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?’ And the angel answered *and* said to her, ‘*The* Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and *the* power of *the* Highest shall overshadow you; and for this reason, the Holy One being begotten in you... [taking place right at the very time he was speaking.

This is present-tense passive in the Greek.] ...shall be called *the* Son of God” (vs 32-35).

Covenant between God the Father and Jesus Christ

What was the sacrifice between God the Father and Jesus Christ for this to occur and when He came in the flesh? We will see what kind of flesh He had.

Philippians 2:5; talking about Christ; telling us the goal of everything that God is doing in us: “Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus.”

Since spirit beings don’t bleed, there had to be a sacrifice in order for the covenant between God the Father and Jesus Christ to take place that we read of, it’s ‘written in *the scroll of the book* concerning Me.’ What was the covenant between God the Father and Jesus Christ? What was that sacrifice? It had to be spiritual, because of what Christ had to have the Father do to Him to become that pinpoint of life in the virgin Mary.

His sacrifice was that *He gave up His Divinity as full God*. He retained just enough of God to be called the Son of God and God manifested in the flesh. That was Christ’s sacrifice. The Father’s was giving up the Son, because there was a risk in doing this.

Verse 6: “Who, although He existed in *the* form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **but emptied Himself...**” (vs 6-7). Meaning He divested Himself of His spiritual power and glory to become that pinpoint of life to be begotten in the womb of the virgin Mary. As the angel told Mary, *this was not impossible with God*.

“...and was made in *the* likeness of men...” (v 7). Isn’t it interesting, you juxtaposition this with the creation of man and ‘God made man in His own image and likeness, male and female created He them.’ That’s why we’re made in the likeness of God, so that we can become as He is. In order for God to take care of the sins of human beings, because with the judgment of Adam and Eve, they had the sentence of death conferred into their very being and genes, and *the law of sin* that Paul describes in Rom. 7. That is called *the law of sin and death*.

He gave up His being, “...emptied Himself, and was made in *the* likeness of men... (v 7). Everything that we do—we have eat, sleep, breathe, all of the bodily processes and everything that have to be, Jesus took upon Him.

“...and took the form of the servant” (v 7). The word here in Greek is ‘doulos’—it also could be *slave*; so that no human being would ever be able

to say, ‘Oh, God, you don’t know what it was like, what I had to go through as a human being.’ We’ll see why in just a bit.

Verse 8: “And being found in *the* manner of man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even *the* death of *the* cross.” That was His sacrifice as Creator of mankind and giving into all of mankind *the law of sin and death* by inheritance. That sacrifice covers all those sins *when* there is repentance.

How was Jesus made sin for us? What did He do? This becomes very important to understand. Rom. 7 talks about overcoming *the law of sin and death* through the power of God. Because we are striving for that and repenting every day, growing in grace and knowledge.

Romans 8:1: “Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...” If you don’t have the Spirit of God, you don’t belong to Christ and you don’t receive the Spirit of God unless you repent and are baptized and obey God.

“...who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit... [we are led by the Spirit of God] ...because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has delivered me from the law of sin and death” (vs 1-2). That deliverance is step-by-step and day-by-day as you grow and overcome. The completion of that will be the resurrection.

Verse 3: “For what *was* impossible for the law to do... [remember, ***no law can give eternal life***] ...in that it was weak through the flesh, God, having sent His own Son in *the* likeness of sinful flesh...” What does that mean? What did Christ have to do, because some people say, ‘It was impossible for Jesus to have sinned’? *No, it wasn’t!* We’ll see that in just a minute here.

“...in *the* likeness of sinful flesh...” (v 3). What did Jesus have to receive from his mother Mary that was not in the contribution of God the Father, that whatever genetic combination that was—and only God knows how He did that. But that united with the genes and chromosomes from Mary, and she had *the law of sin and death* within her, so He received *the law of sin and death*.

Think of this: ***This proves the absolute justice of God!*** God took that upon Himself when He came in the flesh, because He sentenced all mankind, *with the law of sin and death*. So you cannot condemn sin in the flesh and for sin. “...in *the* likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh” (v 3).

Hebrews 4:11—let’s see what it says of Jesus: “We should be diligent therefore to enter into that rest...” That is talking about:

1. the weekly Sabbath
2. entering into the Kingdom of God

“...lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience. For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, *and* of both *the* joints and *the* marrow, and *is* able to discern *the* thoughts and intents of *the* heart” (vs 11-12).

Whenever you're watching any program concerning crime, isn't it interesting how many of them appear so very innocent? Why? *Because only God can read the mind!* Only God knows the heart, that's why He's called the *heart-knowing* God.

I know sometimes when you watch some of those things, as I have, you ask: How could the person do that? *There's something in human beings that blocks their judgment*, because we only look to the outward appearance of things—don't we? That's all we can do. We can't read their hearts or minds. They have known this, that when the criminals—either male or female—are good looking, have a good personality, people trust them. But if they are not good looking and rather homely—and even maybe be kind of on the ugly side—they impute things to them by looking at them. And they don't know the heart. ***God knows the heart!***

Verse 13: “And there is not a created thing that is not manifest in His sight; but all things *are* naked and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account.” Amazing, isn't it?

Since God has this power, *He also had to be subjected to it Himself*, through *the law of sin and death*, and yet, never sin. That also was part of the sacrifice of Christ.

Verse 14: “Having, therefore, a great High Priest, *Who* has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, we should hold fast the confession of *our faith*. For we do not have a high priest who cannot empathize with our weaknesses, but *one Who* was tempted in all things according to *the likeness of our own temptations*; yet, *He was* without sin” (vs 14-15). Though He became sin for us.

The only way He could become sin for us is to have *the law of sin and death* within Him and never sin. That was the great sacrifice between God the Father and Jesus Christ. What was the promise to Christ? *That being successful in that, God would raise Him from the dead!* They had to have this agreement and this covenant between them. This is what has had to happen in order to save human beings.

Now notice what this is to inspire us to do, v 16: “Therefore, we should come with boldness to the

throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 5:7 is talking about Jesus when He was in the flesh. That's why He did nothing of Himself, because if He did it motivated from Himself, it would have been motivated from *the law of sin and death* and He would have sinned. It doesn't say that He *could not* sin. It says He *did not* sin. So it took all of God's Spirit, whatever amount that Jesus had, to be completely obedient to God all the time and never succumb to a temptation.

How did Jesus start His ministry? What was the first thing He had to face? *The one who deceived Adam and Eve, Satan the devil*—right? *Yes!* Were not those temptations greater than anything we would be subject to? *Yes, indeed!* He came through it because He relied on the power of the Father.

Hebrews 5:7: “Who, in the days of His flesh, offered up both prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him Who was able to save Him from death...” Because He knew that if He would have sinned one time, giving in to *the law of sin and death* within Him, He would have died for His own sins. Now that's how much God the Father loves us and Christ loves us. Look what They have done and look at the sacrifice that They have made to make this take place.

“...and was heard because *He feared God*. Although He was a Son, yet, He learned obedience from the things that He suffered; and having been perfected...” (vs 7-9). He had to go through the whole thing until He gave up the last breath. What was the last thing He said before He died? *'Into Your hands I commend My Spirit!'* Then He said, ‘It is finished’; then He died.

At that point, everything with the covenant between God the Father and Jesus Christ, between Christ and what would be for all of those that would be called, was set.

- it fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament
- it fulfilled the covenant between God the Father and Jesus Christ to make the New Covenant available for us

Verse 9: “And having been perfected, He became *the* Author of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him. After He had been designated by God *as* High Priest according to the order of Melchisedec” (vs 9-10). That, I hope, explains the sacrifice that They had to make.

Let's see concerning about Jesus; let's see how God defines the death of Jesus. Later Paul wrote that if one died, then all died.

Hebrews 2:9: “But we see Jesus, Who *was* made a little lower than *the* angels...” Isn’t that something?

1. Could God defeat Satan the devil at any time, as God? *Yes!*
2. If God could made into an angel, would He be able to defeat Satan the devil, being an angel? *Probably so!*

But what if God became a human being, lower than the angels, lower than God and live in the flesh with the law of sin and death within Him and never sin? *Therefore, His death, at the crucifixion, is full payment for all the sins of all people*—past, present and future. That’s how significant it was.

Verse 9: “But we see Jesus...crowned with glory and honor on account of suffering the death... [the greatest death possible] ...in order that by *the* grace of God He Himself might taste death for everyone”—who are *baptized and conjoined to His death* (Rom. 6)—payment for your sins.

Verse 10: “Because it was fitting for Him, for Whom all things *were created*... [this ties it all together] ...and by Whom all things *exist*, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”

Stop and think about this for a minute. This is hard for us to grasp. God lives up here in perfection and love and everything is fantastic. Don’t you think that living in the flesh, being God manifested in the flesh, that that was a complete life of sacrifice to live and sacrifice to suffer, even up to His physical death? He knew it was imminent, didn’t He? *Yes, He did!*

Verse 11: “For both He Who is sanctifying and those who are sanctified *are* all of one; for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren.” Isn’t that an amazing thing? That’s why when you read the introduction to every one of the Epistles of the Apostle Paul, he says, ‘Grace and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.’ Remember the Scripture that says that if God be for you, who can be against you? *No one can, brethren!*

Verse 12: “Saying, ‘I will declare Your name to My brethren; in *the* midst of *the* Church I will sing praise to You.’” Now you can take that and expand it out in many different ways. Christ in us, we get together as brethren. We sing praise unto God. At the resurrection, when we’re all resurrected and on the Sea of Glass, Christ is going to declare us to the Father. ‘Behold, the brethren.’ We have it right here:

Verse 13: “And again, ‘I will be trusting in Him.’ And again, ‘Behold, I and the children whom

God has given Me.’” That’s going to be something—isn’t it? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 14: “Therefore, since the children are partakers of flesh and blood, in like manner He also took part in the same, in order that through death He might annul him who has the power of death—that is, the devil.” Everything that the devil has done is going to be completely undone, with the exception of those who reject God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Verse 15: “And *that* He might deliver those who were subject to bondage all through their lives by *their* fear of death. For surely, He is not taking upon Himself to help *the* angels; but He is taking upon Himself to help *the* seed of Abraham” (vs 15-16). Whose seed we are *if* we are Christ’s.

Verse 17: “For this reason, it was obligatory for *Him* to be made like *His* brethren in everything that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, in order to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because He Himself has suffered, having been tempted *in like manner*, He is able to help those who are being tempted” (vs 17-18).

So this is quite a thing—isn’t it? We know that Jesus was raised from the dead after three days and three nights. We also know that He did not ascend to the Father until the first day of the week at approximately 9 o’clock in the morning. It was very interesting when the disciples came to view the tomb. Peter and John went in and Peter was still mystified, but John believed because here were the grave clothes.

I would have to assume that since spirit can go through physical things, that here were the grave clothes that He was wrapped in. The shroud is a lie. It probably was kind of indented in because His body was no longer there. Then they looked over to another place and here was what they called the napkin that covered His face. It was folded up and laid in another place. So, *John believed* because He understood that He had to be alive in order for Him to fold it up and put it there. Because if anyone would have stolen the body, they would have taken everything and left nothing.

Christ was raised and later ascended into heaven. Let’s look at the reunion of Christ and the Father. Remember, Christ said to Peter, when Peter wanted to know what’s going to happen to John? ‘What is it to you if I desire that he remain until I come? You follow Me.’ John did see the return of Christ through the visions of Revelation. Here is quite something: *a greater vision of the throne of God than given to any other man in history, to the disciple whom Jesus loved!*

Revelation 4:1: “After these things I looked, and behold, a door opened in heaven; and the first voice that I heard *was* as if a trumpet were speaking with me, saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you *the* things that must take place after these things.’ And immediately I was in *the* Spirit; and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one was* sitting on the throne. And He Who *was* sitting was in appearance like a jasper stone and a sardius stone; and a rainbow *was* around the throne, like an emerald in its appearance. And around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones; and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments; and they had on their heads golden crowns. And proceeding from the throne were lightnings and thunders and voices and seven lamps of fire, which are the seven Spirits of God, *were* burning before the throne. And before the throne *was* a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne and over the throne *were* four living creatures, full of eyes before and behind” (vs 1-6). There’s the scene!

When Christ ascended to present Himself to the Father, this was His time to come back to the Father. He had seen the Father in vision, while He was in the flesh. Now He was coming back person-to-person, spirit being. He had the nail holes in His hands and the wound in His side. Now it was completed.

I just have in my mind that that was the most joyous reunion that could ever be in the history of the universe. That here, ***Jesus succeeded! He overcame death!*** God raised Him from the dead and now He appears in the presence of God for us for the forgiveness of our sins and presents Himself to the Father and says, ‘Father, it is finished.’ They embrace and all the angels sing glory to God. The twenty-four elders bow down and worship. They say, like it says here at the end:

Verse 8: “...‘Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was, and Who is, and Who *is* to come.’”

Now the plan of God would be perfected. ***The covenant between God the Father and Jesus Christ was complete!*** God the Father did His part. Jesus Christ did His part.

That spiritual sacrifice between them now was completely healed. With that, they can be about the work of developing the sons and daughters of God through a special work by God the Father and Jesus Christ that the world knows nothing about.

So that’s the sacrifice between God the Father and Jesus Christ!

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter (except where noted)

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- 1) 2-Timothy 2:15
- 2) 2-Peter 3:18
- 3) Matthew 5:48
- 4) Hebrews 3:10-19
- 5) John 3:16, 15-16
- 6) Genesis 25:20-23
- 7) Genesis 10:8-11
- 8) Genesis 22:10-12, 14-18
- 9) Romans 4:17-25
- 10) Romans 5:12
- 11) Mark 14:22-24
- 12) Hebrews 10:1-10
- 13) Romans 6:1-8
- 14) 2-Corinthians 5:17-21
- 15) John 1:1-3, 14
- 16) Luke 1:30-35
- 17) Philippians 2:5-8
- 18) Romans 8:1-3
- 19) Hebrews 4:11-16
- 20) Hebrews 5:7-10
- 21) Hebrews 2:9-18
- 22) Revelation 4:1-6, 8

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- Galatians 3
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- John 14-17
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