

Our Eternal Union with Christ
by Covenant by Cleansing by Completeness

Ps.136:1-7;26 exhorts and declares> *“O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. (2) O give thanks unto the God of gods: for His mercy endureth forever. (3) O give thanks unto the Lord of lords: for His mercy endureth forever. (4) To Him who alone doeth great wonders: for His mercy endureth forever. (5) To Him that by wisdom made the heavens: for His mercy endureth forever. (6) To Him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for His mercy endureth forever. (7) To Him that made great lights: for His mercy endureth forever.” (26) “O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for His mercy endureth forever.”*

Ps.103:17,19> *“...the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him.” (19) “The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens (eternity); and His Kingdom ruleth over all.”*

[Ps.47:8> *“God reigneth over the heathen. God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness.”*]

The everlasting mercy of God in His granting any lost sin-enslaved soul a truly holy hope of deliverance from the justice of unfavorable judgment for all eternity can never ever be sufficiently extolled and praised. That the Spirit of God should ever have conveyed to anyone a genuine concern about the eternal realities that lie ahead for every single transgressor that makes up the whole of fallen humanity is by itself an act of saving grace by God. For only by an act of God the Holy Spirit is there ever even given a view -- a true and soul saving sense -- of the greatness of the bestowed love of God the Father and the majesty of the fullness of eternal life found only in God the Son. **1Co.2:9-10** declares: *“As it is written [Is.64:4], Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love...and wait...for Him. (10) But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit...”*

Dear ones, **Ro.8:11-13** tells us that *“we are debtors”* --not to the flesh, but to the Holy Spirit. And, why are we indebted to the Spirit of God? We are indebted to Him because He alone quickens us -- we cannot quicken

ourselves -- and He comes and indwells us, and puts to death the fleshly deeds of our sin cursed and corrupted fleshly minds and bodies. And, we are indebted to the Holy Spirit for the wonderful revelation of the pure truth of the gospel of God's grace that causes us to understand that this indeed is so. For it is by the Spirit's revealing of Christ to us that we see all too clearly what sinners we really are -- and what a great, powerful, compassionate and complete Savior and propitiation that He really is on our behalf. Hence, it is by the Holy Spirit's revealing to us the Lord Jesus Christ that causes us to breathe after Him -- to long for Him -- to hunger and thirst for His righteousness throughout the entirety of our earthly lives.

Now, when we are granted a glimpse, if you will, of this -- the excellence and the glory of Christ Jesus -- is it not true that just that view of who He is has such a profound effect upon us? All the tinsel, gaudiness and alluring things of this world -- on which, of a truth, a mind and heart that is bent toward these fleshly things, according to scripture [Ro.8:6], is bent toward death -- all these things of the world just fade away in the magnitude and magnificence of the glory of the Lord, do they not? One moment's sight by faith of Christ will produce that effect in you! And yet, when you have done and said all with respect to how far you have to date come in your, by grace, ever growing knowledge and understanding of our sovereign Lord and Savior -- there is this to be added -- that there is yet still an infinitude more beyond to be learned and experienced -- to be discovered and discerned -- of His grace! It is the sovereignty of the gracious work of the Holy Spirit that causes this to come to pass in and throughout your Christian walk. Ro.8:14 says: *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God -- these are the sons of God."* And, Pr.4:18 describes: *"But the path of the just is as a shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."*

The Holy Spirit only works in this way in those in whom He has indeed united with in real regeneration by the blessed, holy Word of God. Paul asks from 1Co.6:19: *"Know ye not that your body is the temple (I.e. the inner temple) of the Holy Spirit which is in you -- which you have of God and you are not your own?"* Before he stated this truth, he declared from 1Co.2:12-13: *"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God -- that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things we speak -- not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but in which the Holy Spirit teaches..."*

Oh yes, there is a spirit of this world, it is true! And, it is a most evil and persuasive and convincing spirit in all the matters that lead souls astray; that hold souls in bondage to blindness and deception where the real and pure truth of the gospel is concerned. But, the true child of God does not receive the spirit of the world. For God the Father and God the Son send no other spirit save the same Holy Spirit that is in complete harmony and union with themselves. Jesus said in Jn.14:16-17, “*And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever -- (17) even the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive, because it sees Him not, neither knows Him -- for He dwells with you and shall be in you.”*

The distinguishing characteristic trait of the three persons of the Trinity is their perfect and complete union -- and unbreakable harmony -- with one another. There is never a quibble or controversy between them. They work in complete concert with each other for the eternal good of their elect unto eternal salvation...for the eternal glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the eternal Son of God, the only sovereign Savior/ Substitute of sinners that there ever was, is or ever will be! The unique harmonious unity of the Trinity declares this to be gospel grace truth.

Christ Jesus, Himself, is in the same perfect and complete manner united to us as our eternal Savior/substitute. And, it is the Holy Spirit of Truth that reveals this to us through the Holy scripture of God. So, therefore, by God’s grace let’s pray that for our eternal benefit and growth in grace that we be able to see our eternal unity with Him as being such in three profound ways: In eternal covenant union -- in perfect cleansing union -- and in complete holy union.

First of all, the Lord Jesus is our eternal Savior by His having entered into an everlasting Covenant union with us as our substitute -- as our surety -- as our propitiation. Triune God cut this covenant with us in His promised “seed” -- which, again, is the eternally beloved Son of God. This was precisely David’s experience as recorded and related to us from his last words. 2Sam.23: 1-5 tells us: “*Now these be the last words of David. David, the son of Jesse said -- and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel -- said, (2) ‘The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and His word was in my tongue. (3) The God of Israel said -- the Rock of Israel spake to me: He*

that ruleth over men must be just -- ruling in the fear of God! (4) And, He shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth -- even a morning without clouds -- as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. (5) Although my house be not so with God -- yet He hath made with me an everlasting covenant -- ordered in all things, and sure. For this is all my salvation, and all my desire...'."

Ps.89:3-4 has God declaring> *"I have made (I.e. I have cut, or I have confirmed) a covenant with my chosen. I have sworn unto David my servant, (4) Thy seed will I establish for ever..."* **Vs.14-17** says: *"Justice and judgment are the habitation (i.e. the foundation) of thy throne. Mercy and truth shall go before thy face. (15) Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound (the hearing of the gospel) -- they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. (16) In thy Name shall they rejoice all the day -- and in thy righteousness [which is as eternal as He is] shall they be exalted. (17) For thou art the glory of their strength -- and in thy favor our horn shall be exalted."* (which is to say that many shall be born again)

Jesus, the greater Son of David, at the last Passover Seder with His chosen disciples, held up the cup and announced that it represented His blood that was about to be shed for His people. He said in **Mt.26:28**: *"For this is my blood of the New Covenant which is shed for many, for the remission of sins."* And, the writer of the Hebrews ended this great epistle by announcing from **He.13:20**: *"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting Covenant..."*

This **Covenant union**, as is stated from this text, is **an eternal union** that earlier in the epistle of Hebrews is declared to have been established by God upon what is scripturally referred to as *"better promises"*! **He.8:6** says: *"...how much also He is the mediator of a better Covenant which was established (by law) upon better promises"* And, **vs.7-10** go on to declare: *"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second! (8) For finding fault with them, He saith, 'Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a New Covenant with [or, lit., upon] the house of Israel and with [or, upon] the house of Judah: (9) not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt -- because they continued not in my covenant; and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. (10) For this is the covenant that I will*

make with with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord: I will put [or, lit., give] my laws into their mind -- and write them in [or, lit., upon] their hearts. And, I will be to them a God -- and they shall be to me a people.”

So, we see that the Word of God clearly says that the difference between those that did not keep the first Covenant and those that do keep the second Covenant is the fact that God finds fault with those under the first and He does not find fault with those that are under the second. And, why is that? Even because the second Covenant is a better Covenant that is established upon better promises. Even because the second covenant is centered upon Christ -- in whom all the promises have been fulfilled. Promises whereby God graciously gives His laws (lit.) into the disposition of the thinking of the minds of His chosen people -- and whereby He writes them upon their hearts! And, beloved, this is exactly what He has done in, and with, the Lord Jesus Christ -- the Savior -- the Surety and propitiation for all of the elect of His grace unto the eternal benefit and salvation of their souls.

It is into this eternal Covenant union that the elect of grace are drawn by the Father and led of the Holy Spirit.

He.12:22-24 tells us: *“But you are come unto Mt. Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to the innumerable company of angels, (23) to the general assembly, and the church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all and the spirits of just men [i.e. justified men] made perfect (24) and to Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant...”*

There are none that can be honest and at the same time deny that eternity is stamped upon every aspect that is here being described. Whether we refer to the city of the living God -- the heavenly Jerusalem - or, to the innumerable company of angels -- or, even to the justification of the elect before they are made to be perfect by their going to heaven. Hence, it is the eternal union of the Trinity that performs this feat of eternally saving grace.

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Secondly, not only are we united to Christ in an eternal Covenant union, but we are also united with Him by virtue of a perfect, sin atoning

Cleansing union. The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God and eternal Lamb of God, is united to His elect in the eternal efficacy of His atonement. It is in the eternality of His atonement that we have been eternally reconciled unto God. The very power of the blood of Christ that has cleansed us from our sins is also that which has changed the very nature of our relationship with Holy God. Instead of remaining enemies with Him as we exuded when we were born into this world -- we have been vicariously represented by the life of Christ, and thoroughly cleansed by the blood of the death Christ, into being His loving, obedient children. All of this has been accomplished on our behalf by virtue of the eternal redemption that He has obtained for us.

Peter describes this from 1Pe.2:24> *“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree...”* Paul describes this from 2Co.5:21 which very aptly says: *“For He hath made Him to be sin for us -- who knew no sin -- that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Also, the scripture touches upon the eternality of the Christ’s work of atonement when it concludes from He.9:24-26: *“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. (25) Nor yet that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters into the holy place every year with the blood of others -- (26) for then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world! But now, once for all in the end of the ages hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”* Heaven -- and the presence of God -- cannot be referred to apart from an understanding of eternity as well! And, Christ is, in fact, described from Re.13:8 as being the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world -- which has to, without a doubt, mean from eternity.

Earlier from He.9:11-12 and 14 it was very aptly explained: *“But Christ -- being come an High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle -- not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building (or, not of this creation); (12) neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once for all into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us!” (14) “...how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?!”* Once again, eternality is not only being stressed here, but focused upon! If our redemption accomplished by Christ is an eternal

redemption -- then just when in time did it happen? There is no time in eternity.

Also 1Jn.1:7 descriptively declares: *“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another (“God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all” 1Jn.1:5) -- and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us (I.e. eternally continues to cleanse us) from all sin.”*

Finally, not only are we united to Christ in an eternal Covenant union, and by virtue of His shed blood, by a perfect Cleansing union, but we are also united to Christ, our eternal Savior/Substitute in a Complete and holy union. In Him -- by virtue of His Covenant with us and His blood having Cleansed us -- we are in Him made to be Complete in His holiness. And, this is what we are before God the Great Triumvirate right now! Col.2:9-10 says: *“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. (10) And you are complete in Him -- which is the head of all principality and power...”*

This Completeness that we have before holy God in Christ is that which is referred to earlier in this same epistle in Col.1:21-22 which says: *“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now has He reconciled (22) in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in His sight...”*

This Completeness in Christ is also alluded to from Eph.5:25-27 from where it is declared that *“Christ...loved the church and gave Himself for it (26) that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word” -- Why? -- (27) “that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing -- but that it might be holy and without blemish.”*

All of this is the wonderful work of the person of Christ Jesus that only the Holy Spirit can reveal unto a sinner. Receiving the pure truth of the holy Word of God is only experienced in the genuine regenerating reception -- from God -- of the Holy Spirit of God. It is this experience that the child of God longs for to happen...time and time again...in this earthly life. And, the Spirit of God is the only one that can and will make this happen. Paul addressed the Thessalonians regarding the profound effect that understanding this truth has upon the life and walk

of the true believer when, from 1Th.2:10-13, he told them: *“You are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe -- (11) as you know how we exhorted and comforted and charged everyone of you, as a father does his children, (12) that you would walk worthy of God, who has called you unto His Kingdom and glory. (13) For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you received it -- not as the word of men -- but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually works also in you that believe.”*

Even so then, our union with Christ by His everlasting Covenant -- and our union with Him due to our having been Cleansed from our sins by His shed blood -- and our union with Him in our having been made Complete in His perfection according to the declaration of His word -- may the Spirit of God cause the eternal truth of all these grand things of the gospel to truly be believed in, and effectually worked out in us also.

Amen