

## The Water of Life

### John 4

True is the proverb; öYou can lead a horse to water but you canøt make him drink.ö Until he is thirsty water doesnøt interest him. Thirst is a safety mechanism that warns the body of pending dehydration. Since seventy percent of body mass is water, hydration requires much water and a billion dollar bottled water business seeks to keep up with the demands for good drinking water. Ignoring the bodyø call for water can lead to sickness and in extreme cases, death. With plenty of clean water underfoot, dehydration should be minimal, yet we hear every year of those who die this horrible death. A child left in a hot automobile will quickly succumb to dehydration.

Man has another thirst. In an effort to quench that thirst, billionø are spent by those who die every day of this thirst. They die because their cistern is broken and will not, cannot hold the Water of Life. They, like Adam in the garden when exposed to the wrath of God, sought to cover his nakedness with fig leaves. By nature, all of us reject the Water of life and build and fill our cistern with polluted, poison water with which we are all content to drink. Too late many will discover their thirst was not for living water but polluted that ends in death.

Equally true is the proverb that you can lead a person to spiritual water but you canøt make him drink. You can present the gospel to natural man and he will not believe it until God makes him willing in the day of Godø power: that day when God overcomes his ignorance and self righteous pride with abounding grace. How does He do this? The Apostle Paul said it this way in Romans 5:20, “*Moreover the law entered, (exposed my sin) that the offence might abound. (Went beyond act to motive) But where sin abounded, (when I saw my best efforts at worship and morality sinful) grace did much more abound.*” (I saw Christø righteousness imputed my only hope of eternal life.) When sin has exhausted its source, the river of grace will still overflow its banks. Nothing can stay the day of Godø power.

Christ invites, commands all who hunger and thirst to drink and eat in **Isaiah 55:11** öHo, everyone that thirstiest, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye buy, and eat, yea come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.ö

The woman of Samaria in John 4 is a type of those whom God calls to the water of life. She typifies all by nature who must seek water daily for their cistern is broken and empty of living water. Jesus said in **John 4:13** “Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again.” These daily must work to attain that water in their cistern which cannot give everlasting satisfaction. From her type as lost humanity we are given insight into this special grace.

The Water of Life has its:

Source in God the Father.

Supply in God the Son  
Sanctification in the Spirit of God.

### 1. Source in God the Father. John 4:3-6

*“He (Jesus) left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. 4 ¶ And he must needs go through Samaria. 5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob’s well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.”*

Jacob’s well was in Samaria. Remember Jacob: twin and younger brother of Esau: the Patriarch, the supplanter (cheater, thief, who stole his brother’s birthright) owned a parcel of land in what in Christ’s day was Samaria, land occupied by Assyria and the hated half breed Jews called Samaritans. In this City called Sychar was the only apparent source of water in the area. Through Samaria he must needs go because he had lost sheep in need of living water and little sheep needing to be led beside still waters: He being the only source for this water. **Read John 4:10** *“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest **the gift of God**, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”*

Jacob, twin brother of Esau bought a field in which a well was dug. He gave this well to his son Joseph, eleventh son of Jacob and first son of Rachael. To this source of water came all daily. Their life depended on it.

Jacob, the patriarch is a type of Christ. His well gave life to all who drank from it.

God has a field. That field is the world. Psalm 4:1 David wrote, *“The earth is the LORD’S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”*

He has a well in that field. That well is important because it is the only place men can drink of the water of life. In his elect this well *“shall be a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”* God gave life to his church by this well.

**Read Matthew 13:44-46** *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Hebrews 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* That field is the world. **Hidden** in that field is a treasure, the church. By nature we don’t recognize the church. Tares look much like wheat. I was one of those false prophets who cried peace, peace when I knew not the way of peace. I was as Christ described those of his day; *“blind leaders of the blind.”* But God must needs go through my Samaria one day to establish a well of water in me I knew nothing of. This well of living water was established by him who, according to Philippians 2: 6 *“Being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took on him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found I fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

**John 4:45** *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and*

*bought it.*” That pearl is the Church which Christ bought and paid for by his obedience suffering and death. It is to him, the water of life, sinners look for salvation. There is no other fountain from which to drink living waters. And yet; God’s people, by nature refuse this water.

**Read Jeremiah 2:13** *“For my people have committed **two evils**; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”* The problem with men in need of this water is twofold. Number one is our forsaking the fountain of living water. To forsake means to lose affections for and neglect the means thereby of worship and study.

Can God’s covenant people commit such sin and still remain his people. I sure hope they can or I’m without hope.

Our father Adam forsook the lord for his own idol. He sided with Satan against God. He lost his affections for the God who created him. So did we, being in the loins of Adam by representation first and then and by practice. Our father Adam, in open rebellion and idolatry, according to Romans 1:25 *“Changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature.”* That’s what God saves sinners from. God’s word plainly says to those without his righteousness imputed; *“ye shall surely die.”* WE mime Satan: *“Ye shall not surely die.”*

**Read again Jeremiah 2:13** *“For my people have committed **two evils**; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”* The first great evil by man was when we forsook the fountain of living waters, that wherein is the very life of man. Where is the evidence? It is displayed in the second evil we committed, we have hewn out (at great labor) our cisterns, broken and that **cannot** hold water.

A cistern is a reservoir to catch and hold water in time of plenty for those times of famine. They are dug in the ground at strategic locations to maximize their effectiveness in catching and holding water. We maintained one in rural Alabama in my boyhood. It was located at the eave of the house where a valley in the roof centralized the flow of water. But even they are effective only for short periods of time. They cannot hold water for long. And the water they hold is filled with impurities and insects to render it useless for consumption. Its only use was to water livestock and wash clothes.

To a man we have forsaken the fountain of living water for the cisterns of self righteousness.

**Read John 4:13-14** *“13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water (cisterns) shall thirst again: 14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

Why would any reasonable man choose cistern water over spring water? Reasonable men won’t. It is the fool who said in his heart no God for me. It is the fool who builds broken cisterns that

hold no living water. Building cisterns is multi-faceted. Cisterns are those sinners who fashion their lives around trying to please God in order to gain or maintain his favor. Anything we do in the way of seeking to gain or maintain our salvation reveals we have forsaken living water and its source for stagnant, unreliable cistern water. Anything we build is broken. The best we can build is broken cisterns. Our cistern won't meet God's standard of perfection. Jesus answered his critics with this parable in **Matthew 9:17-18** *"Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved."* New wine (the Holy Ghost) will not cohabit with old bottles (natural man). These bottles break and they perish.

The old man cannot build a cistern that will hold living water. His cistern is broken by the fall and he is beyond ability to fix it. Any attempt will always leave us short of God's requirements. **But** *"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, (Not an old cistern repaired) old things have passed away, behold all things are new."* The Holy Spirit in him **is a well of water springing up into eternal life** And all things are of God. He is the Source of living water.

**Read Psalm 46:4-5** *"There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.5 God is in the midst of her;(the church) she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early."*

Is your water supply by cistern or by spring? It's one or the other.

**The Water of Life has its source in God the Father.**

**The Water of Life has its supply in God the Son**

How blessed it is to know there is a well dug from which to draw physical water. What a tragedy to be ignorant of a fountain flowing from the heart of God with living waters. The woman of Samaria came for water that leaves thirsty those who drink it. She had to draw her water each day. Spring water requires nothing with which to draw. It is ever flowing. She was ignorant of him who is living water. **Read John 4:10-12** *"10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?"*

This woman reveals several truths about us all.

**V10** *"If you knew the gift," which you don't.* By nature, in spiritual matters we don't know a gift is a gift. A gift is given by one and received by another. A gift can have no merit attached, otherwise the gift becomes obligation. **Read Romans 11:6** *"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace:"*

*otherwise work is no more work.*” The gift is eternal life in Christ, the Water of Life. Ignorance of the true Christ and what he has provided sets us going about to make his gift an earned right. We don’t know it as a gift but something we earn. Do you have the gift? You can. God gives it freely to any who thirst. *“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.”*

**Revelation 22:17** *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”*

**V-10** “If you knew the giver, which you don’t.” *“Thou hast nothing to draw with.”* Is there anything worse than a Christ with nothing with which to draw. He cannot access the well of life for his people He is not able, in and of himself to save anyone unless they do their part. They know nothing of an accomplished redemption. They know not the Christ who promised that if: *“And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me.”* If I be lifted up (on the cross) I will have satisfied all the laws demands against all who come to me. If I be lifted up in the preaching of the gospel, *“My sheep will hear my voice and follow me, and I will give unto them everlasting life.”* If I be lifted up in the heart of the sinner I will send you another comforter and he shall be in you a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Do you know the giver? Does he know you?

**V-12** If you knew the greater, which you don’t. *“Art thou greater than our father Jacob? Jacob was a great man. His name is always mentioned in reference to the Fathers. God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jacob is a type. Christ is the Anti-type. The anti-type is always greater than the type. Christ is Jacob’s Lord, acknowledged so by Jacob. Moses was a type. He was mediator of the Mosaic covenant. Christ is mediator of the everlasting covenant of grace. John the Baptist said this of him in Mark 1:7 “There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.”* We make much of the Father’s faith and works. But by nature we think little of their God. They knew the gift; they knew the giver; they knew the greater and they saw the glory.

**V-19-20** If you had seen the glory, which you have not yet. 19 *“The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”*

Israel was still under the Mosaic Economy. Christ had not yet been lifted up in sacrifice. The cities of Bethel and Dan in Samaria were appointed by Jereboam, king of the ten northern tribes of Israel as cities of worship. God had expressly commanded Solomon at the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem to seek only in Jerusalem to worship Him.

There is only one place in which to worship God. That place is where his Shekinah glory is revealed: in the person and work of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. That place is his church. It is not just any church but that church of which Christ is the head; his people being the body. He

said *“Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I also in the midst of them.”* It is that place where we behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

It is the one place the true gospel is preached uncompromisingly: How God is just to justify the ungodly based on the accomplished work of Christ to establish the one righteousness of God which he freely imputed to his people in eternity past and sent Christ in time to establish that righteousness for every sinner the Father gave him in the everlasting covenant of grace. This righteousness imputed insures the elect receive all the benefits and blessings of salvation, up to and including eternal life in heaven, based totally on Christ’s accomplishments on our behalf.

God’s love is the only source of our living water. He is the cause of our salvation. Christ’s finished work is the only supply of living water.

The Water of Life :

### **Has its source in God the Father**

**Has its supply in God the Son.** Philippians 4:19 *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”* How?

**3. Has its sanctification in God the Holy Spirit. John 4:21-24** *“Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.22 Ye worship ye know not what: (if you did, you wouldn’t) we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

Vital to the eternal well being of God’s elect is the source of Living water. Of equal importance is him whose life and death secured a never ending supply of Living water for every sinner for whom he died; vindicating a holy God in the salvation of the ungodly. Equally vital is the Spirit of God in the revelation of this grand work to those chosen of the Father and given to the Son.

2Thessalonians 2:13 *“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because (God chose) hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation(Christ saved ) through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”*

Sanctification is the setting apart by the Holy Spirit in regeneration and conversion under the preaching of the gospel. This is always accomplished in the sinner who believes the truth. It is that hour that cometh to every set apart sinner when the Spirit in him becomes a well of water springing up into eternal life. **Read again John 4:23-24** Here Christ is speaking of the coming of the Holy Spirit after his ascension. **Read John 7: 37-39** *“37 “ In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living*

*water.39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

It is the Spirit of God, sent by the Son of God to reveal to the sons of God their union with God through the Christ of God.

**Read John 4:24** *“God is spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth.”*

It was expedient that Christ should die for his people and return to his Father, for in so doing, he promised to send the Holy Spirit, (called the Spirit of Truth) to convince the world **(1)** of the sin: (of forsaking the fountain of living water) **(2)** of righteousness: hewing out broken cisterns (seeking to establish our own righteousness in opposition the one established and imputed by the Son who, after he had satisfied law and justice in establishing the one righteousness by which the Father freely imputed to his people, went to his Father and we see him no more. **(3)** Of judgment because the prince of this world is judged, he is rendered helpless to ðlay any anything to the charge of Godø elect.ö

Is this your gospel? Is this where you find relief from thirst? Donø die of dehydration. Donø be like the horse. Drink evermore of the Water of life.

**Revelation 22:1** *“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.”* Do you by the Spirit see this river? Is this river your life?

**Revelation 22:17** *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”*

*By Winston Pannell*