

# Living FROM THE CROSS

## LESSON NOTES

Pre-fallen man possessed peace (Shalom) and eternal life. God, who possesses all authority, delegated his authority over creation to the first Adam (man). Satan defeated and overthrew Adam, usurped his authority, and claimed control over the world (prince of this world). Under Satan's rule, sin entered the world and death followed it, so that in Adam all died.

But God promised to send another Adam (man), born of the woman's seed but not of the man's seed. (Gn 3:15) He would fight for, and successfully restore, the authority over the world, and all that was lost under the first Adam. Under the second Adam righteousness would enter the world, and with it, eternal life. Effectively reversing the law of sin and death. Jesus became that man, born of a woman's seed, and born God's seed. (Immaculate conception) Unlike the first Adam who was created from the dust, this Adam would be born fully man and fully God. A God-man.

On the cross Jesus fought and defeated Satan, thereby rendering all the powers and principalities of the kingdom of darkness disarmed and defeated as well. Jesus reclaimed "all authority" over all creation and restored "everything". Hence, referring to the original "word of promise" in Genesis 3:15, it is written, "Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'It is finished.'" With that he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." John 19:28-30

Now we wait and live by faith in this new life, in the assurance that our faith will become sight upon His return, just as God has promised.

**TEXT: John 3:1-16**

**Key vs 3**—"Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." (Note: The Greek for again also means from above; also in verse 7.)

**Amp**—Jesus answered him, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again [regenerated from above, spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] see and experience the kingdom of God."

## 1. THE BIG PICTURE (Illustrate and explain.)

**The Bible is One** book with 66 chapters. Although God used 40 human writers, it only has one Author—the Spirit of God (2 Pe 1:21), and although it includes many different characters there is only One main character—Jesus, the Messiah. (Gn 3:15)

### a. One SUBJECT—the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is His domain, rule, sphere of dominion and it includes a place & a people.

- Gen 1 & 2—records the Kingdom Created & authority delegated to Adam/man.
- Gen 3—records the Kingdom Lost—Satan usurped Adam and took his authority and took him captive.
- Gen 4—Malachi—records the promise of Redemption cloaked in prophetic type, symbol & language.
- Matt—John—the Promise of Gen 3:15 is fulfilled in Christ in Jn 3:16. The regeneration or the “new creation” is revealed. (Note: There are two creation stories in the Bible.) Jesus only taught on one subject, the kingdom of God. Cf Matt 4:23—“& Acts 1:3
- Acts—Rev—reveals on how to enter the Kingdom and how to live this new life.
- Revelation—promises Christ’s return to consummate the Restoration—faith becomes sight and “all things are made new”.

### b. One PLOT/PLAN—“Restoration” : “to bring back to, or put back into, a former or original state; to regenerate—create anew”

- So, God’s purpose in Christ is the restoration of all things by **regeneration**. Acts 3:21 —“For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final **restoration** of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.”
- **NOTE:** Genesis begins with...“God saw that it was good” and ends with “a coffin in Egypt”. Revelation begins with...“the first born from the dead” and ends with “all things made new.” What happened in between was “regeneration and the restoration of all things.”

## 2. THREE KEY WORDS DESCRIBE THIS PROCESS OF RESTORATION.

**a. Generation:** Genesis means, “the origin or coming into being of something; to bring into existence/give life; to be born; new beginning”

**b. Degeneration:** “to fall to a lower condition or worsened kind of state; to die.

- To understand and appreciate regeneration we need to understand our condition of degeneration.
- God created man in his own image—spirit, soul & body. (Pre-fallen man was also a trinity.)
- Gen 1:17— “In the day you eat of it you will surely die.” But what died?

- Spiritual death resulted in separation from God, who is a Spirit being. (A person can't be one with God without having a living spirit. Therefore, "you MUST be born again.")
- Mankind brought forth after their own kind, therefore, "all died in Adam". Those who are born of "the flesh" are born body and soul, but spiritually dead.
- Condemned already, without God and without hope. In need of resurrection or to be generated again.

**c. Regeneration:** "to be created again; generated again and restored to a higher more worthy state; to be born again"

- In regeneration a person is born of the Seed of God (1 Pe 1:23) and is therefore, a child of God. (John 1:12)
- In regeneration a person is born with Eternal Life—Jn 3:16 (Jn 10:10—abundant) Note: Eternal life and Everlasting life are not the same things.
- In regeneration a person is spiritually resurrected from the dead.

**Eph 2:1-8—"As for you, you were dead** (spiritually) in your transgressions and sins...All of us also lived among them (the dead) at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts...But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **made us alive with Christ even when we were dead** in transgressions—it is by grace (God's unmerited favour and divine power) you have been saved. And God raised us **up with Christ** and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For **it is by grace** you have been saved, **through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is **the gift of God**.

### 3. THE MIRACLE OF METAMORPHOSIS

- Metamorphosis is..."a process of transformation in which a creature or person is changed into a completely different one, by natural or supernatural means."
- Reading: The Miracle of Metamorphosis

#### a. The New Creation

- **2 Cor 5:17**
- Gal 6:15—"All that matters is the new creation."

#### b. The Significance of Baptism:

- Romans 6:4—"We were therefore **buried with him** through **baptism** into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.
- **Colossians 2:12-14**—" having been **buried with him** in baptism, in which **you were also raised with him** through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. **When you were dead** in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made you alive with Christ**. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the

charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross"....Vs 20—"Since you **died with Christ** to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules:

Gal 2:20—"I have been **crucified with Christ** and I no longer live, but **Christ** lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

c. **"Everything" is by faith** in the finished work of Christ on the Cross.

- Your soul is being restored/transformed, but your spirit is brand new.
- Transformation has a Past, Present & Future reality. I have been...I am being...I will be
- I have been transformed; I am being transformed; I will be transformed.
- I have been redeemed; I am being redeemed; I will be redeemed.

**CLOSE:** Song - I'm a New Creation - David Ingles

1  
Hallelujah, He redeemed me.  
I am born again to win.  
I think God He justified me.  
Of His fullness have we all received of Him.

Chorus:  
I'm a new creation, I'm a brand-new man.  
Old things are passed away I'm born again.  
More than a conqueror, that's who I am.  
I'm a new creation, I'm a brand-new man.

2  
I've received the Christ of Calvary.  
I have no sense of sin.  
We have a oneness and a fellowship.  
Delivered from authority of sin.

3  
God has wrought for me redemption.  
One that covers every need.  
Perfectly He's restored our fellowship.  
With no sense of guilt or memory.

