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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world - he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..” Acts 16:31a* And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Romans 10:9,10* *“For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13* *“Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1*

The New Man

Intro:

Most Christians have asked themselves the questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where did I come from? How did I become what I am? Where do I go after I die? And what is my purpose? These questions are not for personal rebuttal against evolutionism, although they can be used for that, but for our own personal edification.

A. Born Again

1. John 3:3, “*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born **again**, (from above) he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” - απεκριθη 'ο ιησους και ειπεν αυτω αμην αμην λεγω σοι εαν μη τις γεννηθη ανωθεν ου δυναται ιδειν την βασιλειαν του θεου.

The word for **again** here is *anowthen*. *Ano* meant above and *anowthen* signified the source or origin of something. We were born again spiritually, this is true, but the **origin** of our spiritual birth is from God above in heaven.

2. John 3:5, “*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*” - απεκριθη 'ο ιησους αμην αμην λεγω σοι εαν μη τις γεννηθη εξ' υδατος και πνευματος ου δυναται εισελθειν εις την βασιλειαν του θεου.

This passage brings out our physical birth and spiritual birth. Our physical birth is denoted by being born of the water of our mother's birth canal and our spiritual birth is denoted by “*and of the Spirit*”. It follows that one must be born physically before he can be born again spiritually.

John 3:7, “*Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again (from above).*” - μη θαυμασης 'οτι ειπον σοι δει 'υμας γεννηθηναι ανωθεν.

Do not be **amazed**, *thaumazo*, that we must be born from above again we have *anowthen*. The reason why is that man cannot do what only God can do. Only God can create a new man inside of us that is righteous and free from sin. Sinful man can only create sinful things.

1 Peter 1:23, “*Being born again, not of **corruptible seed**, but of **incorruptible**, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*” - αναγεγεννημενοι ουκ εκ σπορας φθαρτης αλλα αφθαρτου διαλογου ζωντος θεου και μενοντος εις τον αιωνα.

Being **born again** here is *anagegennemenoi*, which is a perfect passive participle. It does mean that one has been born and has also been born again. There are two births in view here the one physical and the other is spiritual. And even though they are different kinds of creation they still are classified as two different births, hence the idea of being born again.

The perfect passive participle tells us that this action of spiritual birth is something that the individual believer in Christ receives, so it is God who is the one created this new birth in us. The perfect participle denotes the **permanency** of it all.

Incorruptible seed looks at the spiritual seed that brought about our spiritual birth. The **source** of which, as we have seen, is **from God above in heaven**. James 1:17, “*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, (anōthen), and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*” - πασα δοσις αγαθη και παν δωρημα τελειον ανωθεν εστιν καταβαινον απο του πατρος των φωτων παρ 'ω ουκ ενι παραλλαγη η τροπησ αποσκιασμα.

Our word for **seed** in 1 Peter 1:23 is *spora*; it was used for the sowing of seed. There is the word for **seed**, *sperma*, but *spora* looked at the aspect of sowing that seed, or planting the seed, rather than the seed itself. So by using the word *spora* here it looks at the idea of God planting something inside of us, which would be the new nature, or the new man.

We see something else about this **seed** that was planted in us and that is it is **incorruptible**! The seed that man plants in the ground, or in a woman is **corruptible**, that is, it is susceptible to disease, death and decay, but not so with the seed God has planted in us – it is **incorruptible**, that is, it is not susceptible to disease, decay, or even death! #01 12-03-17 #02

So we have two words used in this passage that tell us that we cannot lose our salvation! The first one is the perfect passive participle of being born again, which tells us that our being born again is a permanent, eternal condition whereby once we are born again we will remain born again for all eternity! The second one is our word here of **incorruptible** telling us that what God has planted in us is not susceptible to death, disease, or decay. Why? **Because it was created by God!**

B. Inner Man

Romans 7:22, “*For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:*” - συνηδομαι γαρ τω νομω του θεου κατα τον εσω ανθρωπον.

The reason why Paul delights in the law of God in the inner man is because God created the inner man; the same God who gave us the law, his Word and Bible Doctrine is the one who created this new species of humanity in us, so it would follow that the inner man delights in the law of God, the truth of God's Word and the doctrines of God's Word.

2 Corinthians 4:16, “*For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*” - διο ουκ εκκακουμεν αλλ' ει και 'ο εξω 'ημων ανθρωπος διαφθειρεται αλλ' 'ο εσωθεν ανακαινουται 'ημερα και 'ημερα.

Even though the condition of the outer man, our flesh natures, are deteriorating, due to sin indwelling our bodies. The inner man that God created is being renewed daily through the filling of the Holy Spirit and faith in the Word.

Ephesians 3:16, “*That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inward man;*” - 'ινα δωη 'υμιν κατα τον πλουτον της δοξης αυτου δυναμει κραταιωθηναι δια του πνευματος αυτου εις τον εσω ανθρωπον.

It is the indwelling Holy Spirit that strengthens us and this strengthening takes place in the inner man.

As Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13, “*I can do all things through Christ which **strengtheneth** me.*” Also in 2 Timothy 4:17, “*Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and **strengthened** me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.*”

C. God's purpose

James 1:18, “*Of his own **will** begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*” - βουληθεις απεκυησεν 'ημας λογω αληθειας εις το ειναι 'ημας απαρχην τινα των αυτου κτισματων.

The word for **will** here is *boulomai* and it does refer to a function of the will. But there are two words for **will** *boulomai* and *thelema*; *thelema* looks more at the impulsive and unconscious side of one's volition; volition by inclination toward something or natural instinct, while *boulomai* is rational and conscious. It is a decision based of will based upon deliberate resolve, a firm determination to do something, to decide firmly on a course of action.

This passage is very clear in that it teaches that our salvation came about as the direct result of God the Father making a predetermined decision to save us, that it was according to the purpose of God. **Boule**, the noun, looks at the inner deliberation of the individual, then making a conscious deliberate decision, followed by the resolve to see it done. It was often used of kings when they made their decisions; when they decided, then the matter was done.

It was used often of God and it referred to the divine counsel when God makes a decision and was also used of the matter of our salvation by his grace. Ephesians 1:11, “*In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the **counsel** of his own will:*”

D. Image of Christ, who is the image of God.

Romans 8:29, “*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the **image** of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*” - 'οτι 'ους προεγνω και προωρισεν συμμορφους της εικονος του 'ιου αυτου εις το ειναι αυτον πρωτοτοκον εν πολλοις αδελφοις.

This new man, that God has created in every born again born from above believer in Jesus Christ, has been created in the image of Christ, (Christ being the prototype and archetype after which we are the models of it), and God has also predetermined that every believer in Christ is to be conformed to that image of Christ, who is the image of God!

The word for **image** is *eikon* and in the Greek mind it did include the physical representation of the person's visible characteristics, like a bust of the individual's head, or a stamping of their likeness on a coin, or their likeness being displayed in works of tiles, but the important distinctive of *eikon* was that the essence of the individual was present and operating in the thing that bore his likeness! So, if it was a statue of Zeus in their temple his essence was present and operating in that statue. Or, if his likeness was a painting, or a tile relief, then his essence was present and fully operational in that painting.

So, when it comes down to Christians, we are the image of Jesus Christ, which means that as the image of Christ he is fully present and operational inside everyone of us! And that is due to: 1) our union with Christ, 2) our being baptized into Christ's body, 3) and due to the Spirit of Christ that indwells us. Our being **conformed** to Christ is where we are being inwardly changed where we become like Christ more and more each day, which is accomplished through our spiritual growth in the Word of God.

1 Corinthians 15:49, “*And as we have borne the **image** of the earthy, we shall also bear the **image** of the heavenly.*” - και καθως εφορεσαμεν την εικονα του χοικου φορεσομεν και την εικονα του επουρανιου.

Adam is the image of the earthly; Christ is the image of the heavenly. Being in the image of Adam means that the essence of Adam is fully present and operational in us through our human frame; but as Christians the essence of Christ is fully present and operational in us.

2 Corinthians 4:4, “*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the **image** of God, should shine unto them.*” - εν 'οις 'ο θεος του αιωνος τουτου ετυφλωσεν τα νοηματα των απιστων εις το μη αυγασαι αυτοις τον φωτισμον του ευαγγελιου της δοξης του χριστου 'ος εστιν εικων του θεου.

The disciples wanted to see the Father, but Christ replied to them in John 14:8,9, “*Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*”

Colossians 1:15, “*Who is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*” - 'ος εστιν εικων του θεου του αορατου πρωτοτοκος πασης κτισεως.

If God is invisible to man, then how in the world are we ever going to perceive him? 1 Timothy 6:16, “*Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; **whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.***” The answer to that is that Jesus Christ is the image of the Father.

I've often wondered if his image also carried over to the likeness of his looks, or if there were similarities, for we read in Hebrews 1:3, “*Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express **image** (charaktēr) of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*”

Colossians 3:10, “*And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*” - και ενδυσαμενοι τον νεον τον ανακαινουμενον εις επιγνωσιν κατ εικονα του κτισαντος αυτον.

Spiritual renewal is how we keep stress and sin out of the soul and it's how we get the garbage out of our soul! It is both the prevention and the cure. And spiritual renewal comes about as the result of *epignosis* doctrine in the soul, which is the Word that we have learned and believed under the filling of the Holy Spirit. “*which is **renewed** in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*” And Paul said that he was being renewed every day.

E. Created by God

1 Corinthians 11:9, “Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.” - και γαρ ουκ εκτισθη ανηρ δια την γυναικα αλλα γυνη δια τον ανδρα. The first man, Adam, was created by God out of the chemical elements of the earth.

The new man is also created by God the Father/Creator, but not out of matter, but something else. Our origin is from God in heaven above, but what did he create us out of? Perhaps the analogy of a seed will help. A seed is really the container for the DNA of whatever we are talking about, whether trees, or plants, or animals, or people. The soil, sunlight, water and air are only the things that provide the environment for the seed to grow.

When a redwood tree drops its seed the DNA in it determines what that seed will grow into – another redwood tree! It's in the DNA. Now right next to that redwood seed could be another seed, a weed seed, and its DNA will determine what it grows up to be. And the seed and its DNA have been passed down to the very first redwood tree created by God in the garden. So all redwood trees, whether on the coast, or over in the valley came from the original redwood tree's seed.

So the Father/Creator created anew an entire race of new human beings here on the earth all coming from the “spiritual seed” found in Jesus Christ. But remember a seed is the thing that contains the DNA of whatever the item is, so the thing that has been planted in all believers is the spiritual “DNA” that comes from Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:4, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” - 'ο δε θεος πλουσιος 'ων εν ελεει δια την πολλην αγαπην αυτου 'ην ηγαπησεν 'ημας. The new man has been created by God out of Spirit and truth and it the Father's creation from its conception all the way through its growth to becoming a completed man being conformed to the image of Christ. It has been planted in the soil of human clay bodies, but its, sunlight, water and nutrition comes from fellowshiping with God each day, living in the filling of the Holy Spirit and the teaching of Bible Doctrine.

Ephesians 4:24, “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” - και ενδυσασθαι τον καινον ανθρωπον τον κατα θεον κτισθεντα εν δικαιοσυνη και 'οσιοτητι της αληθειας. This creation is called the “New Man” and believers are called upon to live their lives operating in the sphere of the influence of the new man and not the old.

Colossians 1:16, “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:” - 'οτι εν αυτω εκτισθη τα παντα τα εν τοις ουρανοις και τα επι της γης τα ορατα και τα αορατα ειτε θronoi ειτε κυριοτητες ειτε αρχαι ειτε εξουσιαι τα παντα δι αυτου και εις αυτον εκτισται. God is the Creator of all things and that includes the new man.

Revelations 4:11, “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” - 'αξιος ει κυριε λαβειν την δοξαν και την τιμην και την δυναμιν 'οτι συ εκτισας τα παντα και δια το θελημα σου εισιν και εκτισθησαν. God creates because it pleases him.

Revelations 10:6, “*And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer.*” - και ωμοσεν εν τω ζωντι εις τους αιωνας των αιωνων ος εκτισεν τον ουρανον και τα εν αυτω και την γην και τα εν αυτη και την θαλασσαν και τα εν αυτη 'οτι χρονος ουκ εσται ετι.

2 Peter 3:4, “*And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*” - και λεγοντες που εστιν 'η επαγγελια της παρουσιας αυτου αφ' 'ης γαρ 'οι πατερες εκοιμηθησαν παντα 'ουτως διαμενει απ' αρχης κτισεως. There has been one act of creation from which we see all that is here now. Spiritual regeneration is a new act of creation in time.

1 Peter 4:19, “*Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.*” - 'ωστε και 'οι πασχοντες κατα το θελημα του θεου 'ως πιστω κτιστη παρατιθεσθωσαν τας ψυχας εαυτων εν αγαθοποιια. Our Creator is faithful to us.

F. A New Creation

2 Corinthians 5:17, “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*” - 'ωστε ει τις εν χριστω καινη κτισις τα αρχαια παρηλθεν ιδου γεγονεν καινα τα παντα.

The **new** man is described as being new in the sense of something that is totally different as we have here with *kaine* used for the word **new**. And it is also referred to as being **new** in the sense of being new in time because of the use of the word *neos*. Colossians 3:10, “*And have put on the new, (neos) man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.*”

G. The flesh's war against the new man

Galatians 5:17, “*For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*” - 'η γαρ σαρξ επιθυμει κατα του πνευματος το δε πνευμα κατα της σαρκος ταυτα δε αντικειται αλληλοις 'ινα μη 'α αν θελητε ταυτα ποιητε.

The word **spirit** here refers to the new man inside of us, but we see something else at work here and that is the flesh is against it. The word for **against** is *kata*, which is to be taken in the sense of hostility, so what it's telling us is that the flesh nature is in a continual state of hostility against the new nature, which, if we remember, has been created in the image of Christ!

So what we have here is a microcosm of hostility working inside of every believer in Christ along the lines of the macrocosm of the world system. 1 John 3:13, “*Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.*” When it says that the world hates us, it's saying that the flesh nature hates us. John 15:18, “*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.*” Luke 21:17, “*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.*”

There is a war going on inside of every believer in Christ; it's the flesh nature warring against the new nature. Everything that the spirit stands for; everything that hopes to be gained, or attained to in the new nature is being fought against by the flesh nature. Romans 7:18-25, "*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*"

The good news is that we don't have to live being controlled by our flesh natures any more. God has made a provision through the indwelling Holy Spirit whereby we can rise above and operate outside of the control of Adam's flesh nature. And not only that, the inner strengthening that God provides for us is done in the spirit, or the new man.

More good news is that when we die physically, the old man, the flesh nature is the thing that dies and it goes back to the soil. What does survive physical death is the new nature that God has created in all believers. It's very nature is not only spiritual, but eternal, so it lives on past physical death and past the second death in the lake of fire.

Ephesians 6:12, "*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*" - 'οτι ουκ εστιν 'ημιν 'η παλη προς 'αιμα και σαρκα αλλα προς τας αρχας προς τας εξουσιαις προς τους κοσμοκρατορας του σκοτους του αιωνος τουτου προς τα πνευματικα της πονηριας εν τοις επουρανιοις.

The new man not only wars against the flesh nature, and the world system, but also gets all the demons of Satan's army!