

“But Now In Christ”

A Bible Study

**By
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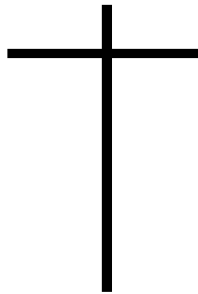
Pt. 1 – Introduction

Reality of Our Salvation

We will begin by setting forth an introduction into what I feel the Lord would have us deal with during these lessons. And we will be looking at the Reality of Our Salvation in Christ. Most of you studying this are “saved”, but the question is: are we LIVING in the TRUTH of that Salvation? And if any are not “saved”, I pray they will see this glorious Salvation that is ours in Christ and desire that for themselves.

Seeing as God Sees

And I ask that we put aside our religious teachings and church doctrines, and spend time in the scriptures, and ask God to show us our Salvation; to reveal Christ, and to enable us to see as God sees. Here is a challenge to us: 1 Corinthians 13:12b – “...*then shall I know even as also I am known.*” How do we know ourselves? Do we know ourselves as man and religion, or as the world knows us – or as God knows us? God knows us IN CHRIST, and He knows us by THE FINISHED WORK OF THE CROSS! What was the last thing Jesus said on the Cross? John 19:30 – “*IT IS FINISHED.*” So “it” was finished by the Cross, and the Cross is a Finished Work. I want to diagram this with a Cross - in the middle of everything to God.



The Finished Work of The Cross

Christians today are so anxious, and involved in a great deal of activity: most “waiting” for a day to go be with The Lord, or “waiting for Him to come to do something”, or working themselves to death so they won’t be “left behind”! But I ask you, in light of The Finished Work of the Cross, should that be so? Do you think that is the way God knows us? What does our Salvation mean if we are still “waiting” for a day, or for a Work, or for a place to go? I want us to look at our Salvation in the scripture from God’s knowledge, and I want to declare to you the **REALITY AND NOWNESS of Salvation in Christ**, The Newness of Life that He has given to us by The Work of The Cross.

But Now In Christ

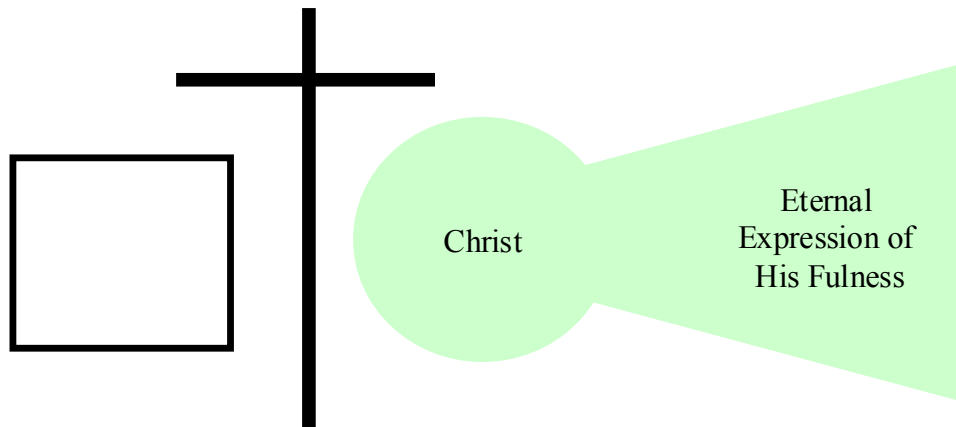
So the scripture we want to use as a springboard for this study is in Ephesians 2:13 – **“BUT NOW IN CHRIST...”** And we want to take time to look at this phrase, and ask the Spirit of God to minister this Truth to us. May we at the end of this study truly be able to say, ‘I used to be (or do)...BUT NOW IN CHRIST...’ And even that ‘God used to... BUT NOW IN CHRIST...’ And may we truly come to live in this reality.

We are IN CHRIST

The first thing we need to comprehend is that the reality of our Salvation is that we are IN CHRIST. Many preach that our Salvation means that ‘someday we will go to heaven’; but the scriptures declare MUCH MORE than that, so we will look at this. And let us see what God has planned and Christ has fulfilled.

Ephesians 3:11 – *“According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* God does all things according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. We must understand that God’s purpose is NOT in me or you, but in His Son. We all want to find our purpose – in life, before God etc. We have to find it where God has it – IN CHRIST JESUS. And all things work together toward this. (Romans 8:28- *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called, according to his purpose.”*)

We can add to our diagram – What is IN CHRIST- What was “before” the Cross can be shown as a square – with limits, but what is “after” the Cross – in Christ is without limits and has no end...



In Christ

Ephesians 1:3 – *“(God) hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly (as one with Christ, in Spirit – NOT a literal, physical place) IN CHRIST.”* Vs. 4 – *“According as he hath chosen US IN HIM before the foundation of the world.”* “WE” are not

chosen, but God’s choosing is IN CHRIST. And when we come to Christ, and are found in Him, we are God’s chosen. Vs. 6 – “...he hath made us accepted **IN THE BELOVED.**” Christ is accepted of the Father, and IN HIM we are accepted. Vs. 7 – “**IN WHOM** we have redemption through his blood (that’s the Cross), the forgiveness of sins by his grace.” (Vs.9-11 – “Having made known unto us – IN CHRIST- the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself (IN HIS SON): That in the dispensation (administration – working out of affairs) of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things **IN CHRIST**, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even **IN HIM; 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.” Vs. 12 – “That (and “that” denotes purpose) we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted **IN CHRIST.**”

We can see from these scriptures that God’s plan is IN CHRIST and what we receive by our union with Him. The question to us is: are we looking for these things IN CHRIST? We can only find them where God planned them to be, and where He chose us to be. And that is **ONLY IN CHRIST.** So we could add in our diagram all these “spiritual blessings” IN CHRIST.

Life

Look at even the issue of LIFE. 1 John 5:11-13 – “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is **IN HIS SON.** He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” The Apostle is writing to those who believe in the Lord Jesus so that they may KNOW that ye HAVE eternal life. When? **NOW!!!** LIFE is NOW IN CHRIST! Eternal Life is a different Life than earthly, flesh life, and IN CHRIST we have that Life **NOW.** We don’t have to “die” a physical death to get it; **BUT NOW IN CHRIST** we have Life. God wants us to KNOW what we NOW have IN CHRIST!

John 5:24 – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” How? Where? In Christ – by The Cross. When? **BUT NOW IN CHRIST!** Vs. 25 – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and NOW is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.”

“IN” Denotes Rest

Ephesians 2:4-7 – “ But God who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace

ye are saved;) And hath raised (“us” not in the original) *up together*, and made (“us” not in the original) *sit together in heavenly places* **IN CHRIST JESUS**: *That in the ages to come* (they have come in Christ) *he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*” Now the word “together” here means “AS ONE”, and the emphasis is NOT on the many of “us” that were raised up (“us” is not in the original), but on the ONE that is raised – TOGETHER AS ONE, and that One is CHRIST and HIS BODY. God has given us Life with Christ, and has raised up ONE and made us sit as ONE in the heavenly – **IN CHRIST JESUS**. When is that to be? **NOW** – IN CHRIST. When God raised Him, He raised up a Body as One with Him, having His Life, and at rest in HIS FINISHED WORK. “In” denotes a relationship of rest. There is nothing more to do since His Cross has finished all of God’s Plan and Purpose. God has rested from His labors – shouldn’t we? This is the REALITY that we as The Church, His Body should be living in, and manifesting here on the earth – making known the wisdom of God.

Mystery Hidden

This was what the mystery of Salvation was all about – all that God planned was IN CHRIST. It had been hidden – in the Old Covenant, in the Law, in the old; and sadly many Christians still believe that it is hidden today, but let us see what the scripture declares. And please be aware of: **BUT NOW IS**...

Colossians 1:25-28 – *“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God. (Christ FULFILS the Word of God); Even the MYSTERY which hath been hid from ages and from generations, **BUT NOW IS** made manifest to his saints; To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory, Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect **IN CHRIST JESUS.**”* **CHRIST IN YOU** is the glory that was expected, and that the Old Covenant promised. It is not a land or a feeling, but The Living Christ, living His Life IN YOU, and what could be more glorious than that? The Old Covenant “hoped” for it, and expected this, but we NOW HAVE IT – **IN CHRIST!** Christ NOW living in us is the realization of that hope of the Old Covenant!

Paul preached Christ IN YOU, that he may present every man perfect (fully mature, come to completion) **IN CHRIST JESUS**. Not everyone preaches “Christ in you”, but we must understand that the Gospel is not just “about Jesus”, but the revelation of this Christ IN YOU by the Work of The Cross!

Romans 16:25-27 – *“Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel (“For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him*

crucified.” 1 Corinthians 2:2), *and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, **BUT NOW IS** made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of the faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever, Amen.*” “The Revelation of the mystery” means the cover is taken off BY CHRIST in the Cross, and the TRUTH is seen in HIM. CHRIST CRUCIFIED is the revelation of the mystery that was hidden, but was made manifest by The Cross.

2 Timothy 1:9,10 – “*Who hath saved us, and called (“us” is not in original) with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose (remember God’s Eternal Purpose is IN CHRIST) and grace, which was given us IN CHRIST JESUS before the world began, **BUT IS NOW** made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*” It is by the appearing of Jesus Christ – to die on the Cross, that God’s purpose was fulfilled, and made manifest. He brought to naught death (it became of none effect), and brought forth Life, Immortality, all spiritual blessings; all of God’s purpose – and this is **NOW!** All Things of God are NOW in Christ- not hidden.

Ephesians 3:8-10 – “*Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ: And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in Christ, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that **NOW** unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.*” The Church (that’s us!) is the vessel who is to make known the manifold wisdom of God. And that wisdom is that God purposed everything IN CHRIST, and Christ fulfilled all that God planned by His Cross, and it is NOW made known.

We Are to Make This Known

The mystery was hidden – but is made manifest by Christ, and we NOW are to make it known in the earth. So we have to know what is “**But Now IN CHRIST.**” This is what we will be looking at, and my prayer for us during this time is the Apostle Paul’s prayer for the church of his day:

Ephesians 1:17,18a – “*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may **know what IS...**”*

So let us not worry about what might be... someday... somewhere... somehow..., but rather, what is **BUT NOW IN CHRIST!**

Diagram for Part 1:



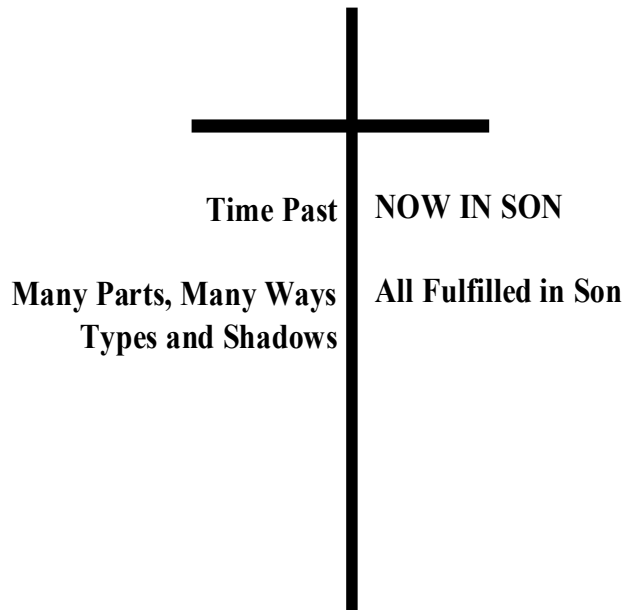
Pt. 2 – What Was Spoken Of – Now Come

The Day He Is

During this study we are asking God to bring us to a greater comprehension of our SO GREAT SALVATION and to what is NOW IN CHRIST. *“How shall we escape if we neglect (fail to give constant heed to) so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.”* (Hebrews 2:3). We should not be looking for a day to come, but living in The Eternal Day that He is, and manifesting the Light of that Day in the earth. To help us with this, let us look at a contrast in Hebrews 1:1,2 – *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”* God, who spoke in many parts and in many ways in TIME PAST to the fathers by the prophets, hath at the end of those days, spoken unto us IN SON. His Son is the heir of all things – the “all things” of God’s Eternal Plan.

Time Past – In Son

So we see here a difference – TIME PAST – many parts, ways, all of the things of the Old Covenant and with God’s dealings with man before the Cross. But at the end of those days God has a new way, a new dealing – IN SON. We can put this on the diagram:



Examples: In the Old Covenant we have the flood and the ark, the burning bush, manna from heaven. That was the first way, the first Covenant – everything was in the natural. Those were the types and shadows. But NOW – at the end of those days, God speaks in

a different way – IN SON. He has summed up all of those parts and ways into the fulfillment of them In Christ and the Work of the Cross. “*All things are delivered unto me of my Father...*” (Matthew 11:27) Those are the “all things” of the Old Covenant.

This has some very practical applications for us today. For instance, people say that God was “executing His judgment” on people in the hurricanes. But God doesn’t need a flood and a hurricane TODAY for His judgment. That judgment came AT THE CROSS! And God has given **HIS SON** ALL authority to execute judgment! (John 5:27 – “*And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*” And Acts 17:31 – “*Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*”) But most of us today are still looking for God to speak as He did in TIME PAST, and we fail to hear Him speaking **BUT NOW IN CHRIST.**

Old Speaking of The Son

Now all of those parts and ways were all speaking OF THE SON, and we can see how great He is and His Work by the volume of all that God spoke. Here are a few examples:

Romans 5:14 – “*Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.*” The One to come is CHRIST! Adam was NOT God’s full thought of man. We quote Genesis 1:26, “*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...*” but the word “image” does NOT mean exactness, but is an illusion, a representative figure, with no substance, a vain show. That is Adam. Why? Because God’s “man” was Christ!

Hebrews 3:5,6 – “*And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken AFTER; BUT CHRIST as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*” Moses and The Law, and all things under the Old Covenant were a testimony of what would come after. And what would come AFTER? CHRIST! He would come AFTER those days, and fulfil that testimony in His very own person.

ALL that was in the Old Covenant was a testimony of The One Who was to come: not just “things” that would happen, but of ONE who would come. John 5:39, 40 – And this was a reprimand of the Lord to the religious leaders of His day. “*(You do) Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come **TO ME** that ye might have life.*” We must understand that reading our Bible, going to Church, and being “religious” doesn’t give you Life: but

coming to HIM does. (Remember we said that Life is IN HIS SON?) Vs. 46 – *“For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.”* Hebrews 10:7 – *“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written **OF ME,**) to do thy will, O God.”*

The Old Testament is not a history book, but it is God setting forth all of the aspects of His Son, and what He would do by His death, burial and resurrections. So we need to read the Old Testament looking for HIM, and see the fulfillment of all things written IN HIM.

Jesus is The Fulfillment

Matthew 5:17, 18 – *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to **FULFIL**. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass (that is the heaven and earth of the Old Covenant – not the physical entities), one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”* Everything that is in the Law would be FULFILLED. How? When? Where? IN HIM by HIS CROSS. All of the Law and prophets spoke of Him, and the fulfillment is all NOW IN CHRIST. Don’t look for the fulfillment of anything outside of Christ and all prophecy must be judged IN HIM and BY HIM. (Just an example of this: Remember the Y2K turmoil in the year 2000, when people were going crazy – looking for “The Lord to come” and for “the end of the world”? We were trying to find things completed because of a natural date on the calendar, rather than seeing that all things are already fulfilled IN CHRIST! Nothing happened in the natural on that day because everything was already done IN CHRIST – in the Spirit, in the heavens!) Revelation 19:10 says, *“...for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”* All prophecy was OF Him, and is fulfilled BY Him.

Remember when Jesus went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day? Now remember Jesus was a Jew, born under the Law, and He presented Himself first to the Jewish people. (John 1:11 – *“He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”*) But Jesus came fulfilling all of the requirements of the Law, and He comes into the Temple of His day, and begins to read from the scripture. Luke 4:16-21 – *“ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, **This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**”* He brings the FULFILLMENT of Isaiah into HIMSELF! (And historians

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say that in the synagogues at that time there was always a chair that was left vacant – for The Messiah, who they were waiting for, and no one else could sit in it. It was this chair in which He sat down, demonstrating to them Who He was!)

A NEW Day

He was the fulfillment of all that the Old Covenant had spoken, and it is HIS APPEARING that brings us into a New Day, the NOW Day. We can put this on the diagram.



Matthew 13:16, 17 – The people of Jesus’ day had the Law, but now they had HIM of whom the Law spoke. All they had to do was see HIM. *“But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men (Like those in Hebrews 11 – who all died in faith, believing God) have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.”* Those “things” are HIM! Men in the Old Testament desired to see, but could not, because things under that Covenant were hidden, but NOW – He was the “seeing” of all “those things”. Can you see how The New Covenant is so much BETTER than the old?

His Coming

It is His coming, and Christ revealing Himself that brings you from the ‘in-part’ knowledge to The Truth. Remember Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well? She was talking religion to Him! John 4:19-24 – *“The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet (but He’s greater than that!). Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we*

know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 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. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” That hour IS NOW IN CHRIST! What makes the difference? HE APPEARS! And when He appears IN YOU, and TO YOU in the Truth of Who He is, the hour is NOW for you! God no longer accepts worship in the flesh, under carnal commandments as He did under the Old Covenant, but NOW – because HE HAS COME, TRUE WORSHIP IS ONLY IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH!

Declaring The Nowness

So I want us to see that all that God had set forth in the Old Covenant, in the Law and the Prophets came to its fulfillment and Truth IN CHRIST. And the early Church and the disciples understood that; and the declaring of the Gospel was that everything they had looked for was NOW IN CHRIST! And this is important because if you don't see CHRIST as the fulfillment of all that God desires and had planned, you will still be looking for ANOTHER day, and asking God to do ANOTHER thing, rather than living in the Greatness of Salvation – NOW IN CHRIST.

Look at how the Apostles understood this.

1 John 1:1-4 – *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you that ye also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”* That which “was from the beginning” was God's plan in Christ. This is not just knowing Jesus in the flesh, but knowing Him as The Father knows Him. This Life was manifested unto them, and they NOW have that Life in them. This is what they declared, and this is where truly fellowship is!

1 Peter 1:10-13 – Peter speaks of the Salvation the prophets spoke of, that would come to you. *“Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of CHRIST which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* It was the Spirit of Christ in them at that

time (Old Covenant time), and it all testified of Him. They ministered for those to come; who would receive the fulness at the revelation of Jesus Christ. HE WOULD MAKE ALL THINGS KNOWN. And when you truly see Him and know Him, then you know the fulness of your Salvation.

2 Peter 1:19 – Peter said, “*We have also a more sure word of prophecy, (or the prophets made more sure); whereunto you do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.*” Why did they have the word of prophecy made “more sure”? Because they have SEEN HIM – of whom all prophecy spoke! And Peter refers to the voice that they heard from the holy mount. Vs. 16-18 – “*For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.*”

This is recorded for us in Matthew 17:1-8 – “*And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save **JESUS ONLY.**” Notice the words in verse 1 – Jesus took them after six days (the number of man and that whole creation), up into a high mountain apart. This is into God’s view – into the heavens! And He was transfigured, and no longer in the flesh. He appears with Moses and Elijah (the Law and the prophets). Peter wants to build three tabernacles to honor each of them, but the Father overshadows Peter’s fleshly knowledge and brings him into the heart of The Father. ‘This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased – hear ye HIM!’ Moses and Elijah are swallowed up and fulfilled in The Son. In this greater understanding it is NOT what WE can do for Him: but that ALL THINGS are fulfilled IN CHRIST, and He NOW is the Tabernacle of God where the Father is worshipped. God is bringing them to another view – a greater view – what will be IN CHRIST. And when they lifted up their eyes (above the earthly realm) they saw NO MAN, save JESUS. When would this be manifested? Vs. 9 – “*And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.*”*

“But Now in Christ”

This will be made known when the Son of man be risen from the dead. All things are fulfilled by The Cross, and NOW all things of God are IN CHRIST!

Lift Up Your Eyes

Well, Christ HAS come, and He HAS risen, and as He is revealed by The Father as from the beginning, and all that the Law and prophets spoke of, there is only ONE to see, and we have all things NOW IN CHRIST. May the Lord open our eyes to see the Truth of this, and may we live in the reality of what is **NOW IN CHRIST.**

Pt. 3 – Old-New/ Access

Old and New Covenant Understanding

As we are looking at what is NOW IN CHRIST, we must distinguish between Old Covenant Understanding and New Covenant Living. Before the Cross in the first Covenant God set forth types and shadows, promises and prophecies, all speaking of what was to come. But nothing ever came to fulfillment under that Covenant. They are only fulfilled IN CHRIST.

2 Corinthians 1:20 – *“For all the promises of God **IN CHRIST** are yea, and **IN HIM** Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

The Law

Now the Old Covenant was summed up in the Law and its ordinances; with the feasts, sacrifices, priests, and earthly tabernacle, but the Law had its limitations. Hebrews 10:1 – *“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.”* The Law had the shadows, but the very image of the things is only IN CHRIST. And the Law could not perfect those under it: no one ever came to God’s full thought for man under the Law. Hebrews 7:19 – *“For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.”* This is talking about bringing in another priest. And notice the word “better” here. The book of Hebrews uses that term “BETTER” in contrasting the Old Covenant with the New: now in Christ there is a BETTER Testament, a BETTER Covenant, BETTER promises, BETTER sacrifice, a BETTER country, a BETTER Resurrection, BETTER things! The book of Hebrews was written to bring them from the Old to the New – in understanding, and see the fulfillment of the Old IN CHRIST. So the “better hope” is another priest: vs. 16 *“Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.”* Who else could this be – but Christ! His is the BETTER Priesthood. Hebrews 7:23, 24 – *“And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man (**CHRIST**), because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.”* And it is by this Priest that we draw nigh unto God.

Changing The Covenant

And with the changing of the priesthood there is a changing of the Covenant. Hebrews 8:1 – *“...We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.”* Vs. 6-13 – *“BUT NOW hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was*

*established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a **NEW** covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 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.”* The Second Covenant is NOT as the first one was. The first Covenant was written on stone, in a book – outside of them, and they did not keep it. The Second Covenant will be ministered differently. *“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel **after those days** (those days came to an end AT THE CROSS), saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.”* Remember what is said of Jesus in Hebrews 10:9 – *“Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.”* And we will find in the scripture that the SECOND is always established – not the first!

This is the difference between the Old and the New Covenants: The Old is outside of the people, and they cannot keep it; and even though they have the formality of the Law, they do not know God. The New is written in them, as a Living Word, and this brings them into relationship with God, and they can have fellowship with Him. And He makes Himself known to them, and they can experience His mercy and forgiveness. Under the Old Covenant they just “knew” God in fiery judgment, and were always fearful of Him. Even though today because we are IN CHRIST, we are under the New Covenant, sadly many Christians still read the New Testament with an Old Covenant understanding: it is Law to them, written on a page, and they “try” to keep it, but are unable to do so; and they never come to maturity in Christ, and have real communion and fellowship with the Lord.

Access

I want to now look at the issue of access to God, and see how things differ under the Old and New Covenants.

Ephesians 2:11-13 – *“Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: **BUT NOW IN CHRIST JESUS** ye who sometimes were*

*far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.” Under the Old Covenant those who were uncircumcised were strangers to the covenant of promise and had no hope. But NOW in Christ, those who were far off are made nigh by the BLOOD OF CHRIST. So we see it is THE CROSS that has brought in the New Covenant, and now we can come to God and know Him. Vs. 17, 18 – “*And (Jesus) came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh (Gentile and Jew). For through him (Christ) we both have ACCESS by one Spirit unto the Father.*” This is all done by The Cross!*

Adam

Go back to Adam, the first man. We know that Adam sinned and did not eat of the Tree of Life that God had placed in the garden, but ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 3:23, 24 – “*Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the WAY of the tree of life.*” Man was sent from the garden and from God’s presence. Earthy man has NO access to God, but God keeps THE WAY of the Tree of Life. That Way is THE CROSS OF CHRIST, and Jesus Himself says, “*...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” (John 14:6) HE is the ONLY Way to the Father. So the first man was kept out of God’s presence, but throughout the Old Testament, we see that God always kept the Way.

Moses and The Law

So what about access to God under Moses and the Law? God spoke to them through Moses (who is a type of Christ the Deliver). God speaks to them through a burning bush, a pillar of cloud and fire, etc. God was hidden from them and far off, but Moses could go up to Him, and God spoke out of the mountain. Exodus 19:20-24 – “*And the Lord came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the Lord called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. and the Lord said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the Lord to gaze, and many of them perish. And let the priests also, which come near to the Lord, sanctify themselves, lest the Lord break forth upon them. And Moses said unto the Lord, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it. And the Lord said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the Lord, lest he break forth upon them.*” The people can not come up to Mount Sinai: there were bounds to keep them away. The people themselves could not see God or hear Him: He was hidden and inaccessible to them. And sadly many Christians today still live in this understanding – that God is far off, and they have no way to hear Him or know Him. This is OLD Covenant understanding!

Types Speak of Access

Even in the Tabernacle and Temple worship of the Old Covenant, the Law did not give open access to God. It spoke of access to God, but man was still kept away from the presence of God. They could only enter in by one Door (Jesus said, *“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”* John 10:9) But when they came into the Tabernacle and Temple they could only enter by facing the Brazen Altar, where there was a death, a sacrifice, and blood was shed. Why? Because of SIN – man in his state of sin could not come to a Holy God. But God ordained a priesthood who would go into The Holy Place for you. The type of this is the High Priest who would go into the Holy of Holies – one man, once a year on the Day of Atonement, with blood for the sins of the people. But when he went, he went with all of Israel with him! Exodus 39:6,7,14 – *“And they wrought onyx stones inclosed in ouches of gold, graven as signets are graven, with the names of the children of Israel. And he put them on the shoulders of the ephod, that they should be stones for a memorial to the children of Israel; as the Lord commanded Moses...And the stones (of the breastplate) were according to the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, every one with his name, according to the twelve tribes.”* So when the High Priest went in, he took all of Israel into the presence of God with him, and when He was accepted of God – THEY were accepted of God also! And He was their assurance that all was well with them and God for that year.

Only For A Time

But this was only for a time. Hebrews 9:6-10 – *“Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing. Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.”* This was all a figure for the time then present – the time of the Old Covenant, all under the Law UNTIL the time of reformation – when all things would be put right.

But Christ Being Come

All of the Law and the First Covenant remained UNTIL....when? Vs.11 – *“**BUT CHRIST BEING COME** an high priest of things to come (those were all promised under the Old Covenant), by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building. Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but*

by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.” That’s THE CROSS. The priesthood of the Old Covenant was necessary UNTIL Christ came. And then He fulfilled ALL that they spoke of. He now brings forth a greater Tabernacle, a better Covenant, a greater Ministry, and He provides access to the Father, for all who will come by HIM.

Veil Removed

In the Old Covenant Temple worship the presence of God was veiled, and only the High Priest could enter, but now CHRIST, as The Great High Priest not only goes through the veil, but in His death, the veil is rent and removed! *“And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.”* (Matthew 27:51) And NOW we have access – by HIM!

Hebrews 4:14-16 – *“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

Hebrews 10:19-23 – *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh: And having an high priest over the house of God: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised:)”*

Under the Old Covenant understanding we could NOT come into the presence of God. There was always fear, and God was a God of wrath and judgment. But Jesus is The Way to The Father, and **NOW IN CHRIST** we can come boldly to Him, in full assurance of what Christ has done, and that we are accepted in Him. *“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”* (Ephesians 1:6) Now through HIM we have access by One Spirit unto The Father. We looked at some of this in Ephesians 2, but let’s look at this again, seeing what was done by THE CROSS. Ephesians 2:14-18 – *“For he is our peace, who hath made both (**Jew and Gentile**) one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace. And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were far off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one spirit unto the Father.”* He made the two ONE at His Cross, and slew both of them. Then He brought forth ONE NEW MAN

“But Now in Christ”

who is at peace with God, so by Him we both have access to The Father. And Vs. 19 – *NOW therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.*”

Praise God, **NOW IN CHRIST** we are One with God! This is NOT looking for a day in the future, but this is the reality of our Salvation NOW in Christ!

Pt. 4 – Walk In Truth

Knowledge of Him

I pray that through these lessons we will come to a greater KNOWLEDGE of The Lord. Our Salvation is not in question, but God would have us to come to really KNOW Christ, Who is our Salvation. 2 Peter 1:2-4 – “*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the **knowledge** of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us ALL THINGS that pertain unto life and godliness, through the **knowledge of him** that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*” So let it be our prayer that we would KNOW Him – who has given us all things, and that we NOW are partakers of His very Life!

Walk in Reality of A Finished Work

So now that we are in Christ, the Lord would have us WALK (live daily) in the reality of what He has done. And what He has done is THE CROSS – a Finished Work by His death, burial and resurrection. This is The Truth as it is in Jesus. Look at what the Apostle John has to say about this.

2 John 1-3 – “*The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in **the truth**; and not I only, but also all they that have known **the truth**; For **the truth**’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in **truth** and love.*”

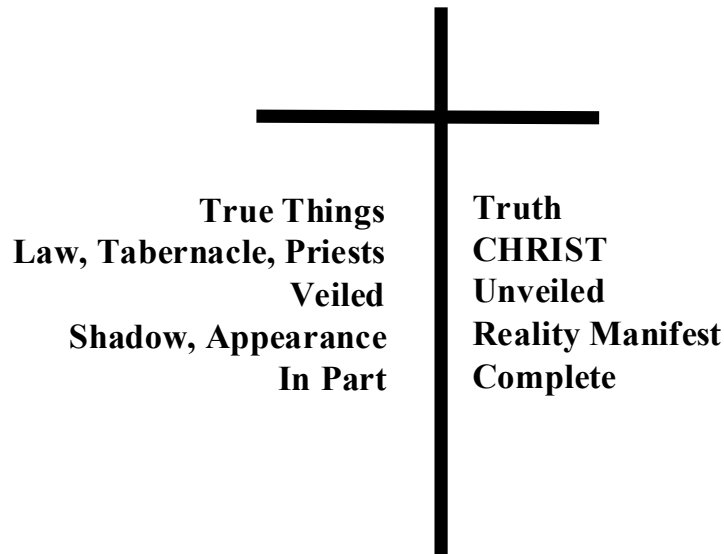
3 John 3,4 – “*For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of **the truth** that is in thee, even as thou walkest in **the truth**. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in **truth**.*” God desires that we walk and live daily in and by The Truth that is IN US.

Truth

But this word “TRUTH” doesn’t just mean ‘don’t lie’, but scripturally The Truth is: the unveiled reality lying at the basis of, and agreeing with an appearance. It is the manifested TRUE essence of matter: the reality pertaining to an appearance. So TRUTH is the revealed essence of what something appeared; and that definition brings us to **CHRIST**, who said, “...*I am the truth*...” (John 14:6) HE is the reality behind all the things of the Old Covenant and when He came, He came as The Truth of them. The Old

Covenant was full of “true things”, like the Law, the Tabernacle, the priests etc., but those were only the types and shadows that spoke of HIM.

So in our diagram we can put:



Truth Came By Christ

John 1:17 – “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” When Christ came and died, and rose again, then the REALITY behind everything that God had previously set forth under the Old Covenant became manifest, became known. NOW you know what “things” and concepts really were: **HE** made them known. And example is holiness and righteousness. Under the Law this was seen in clothing and food and activities. **BUT NOW IN CHRIST** you see the TRUTH of holiness and righteousness. It is HIM! And then “*But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.*”(1 Corinthians 1:30) This is true with the feasts and sacrifices: The TRUTH of them is NOW seen in Christ, and what He has done by The Cross. Under the Law they only had the shadow of things, and they had to be obedient to that, but the TRUTH of all things came in Christ, so much more now, we have to be obedient to HIM – not to the things that spoke of Him, but to Him Who is the TRUTH of those things.

Living By Truth

And now, as you see Christ to be the Truth of all things, you are to live in and by that Truth. And that will necessitate a putting away of the first, the in-part knowledge of true things. 1 Corinthians 13:9-11 – Paul is speaking about the time when they were under

the Law, and knew God under the Old Covenant. *“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.”* Nothing under the Old Covenant and the Law was fulfilled and complete, and brought them to fulfillment. It was all ‘in-part’ knowledge, veiled and hidden, with lots of parts and ways. *“But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be taken away.”* This is the perfect knowledge that comes with Christ and the knowledge of Truth that He brings. So when the perfect knowledge comes (which He is), then that which is in part shall be done away. *“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”* And the word “child” there is a word meaning ‘infant’ – not able to speak or understand. And the Bible calls those under the Law as children. *“Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all.”* (Galatians 4:1) But when I became a MAN = when I come to maturity, I put away childish things. And those things are the ‘in-part’ things of the Old Covenant, the types and shadows, but not The Truth. Those things all spoke of Christ and all that He would do, but it took HIM coming as The Truth, as the fulfillment of those true things to manifest the very essence behind them. And He did this by **HIS CROSS**.

In-Part Done Away

So **NOW IN CHRIST** these in-part things and in-part knowledge must be done away. For if the perfect has come, what need do you have for the things that were only a shadow of what was to come? The Truth has come and has been made manifest! Now you can live in the Truth, the Reality, not in the shadows that had no substance. Colossians 2:6-8- *“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord (and the early Church preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified – not prosperity and spiritual gifts like we preach today), so walk ye IN HIM (in Truth): Rooted and built up IN HIM, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”* And you can really only be established in TRUTH – you can’t be established in a shadow, a vapor, something that has no substance – that’s like trying to catch a puff of smoke! *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after CHRIST.”* Verses 14-17 – *“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to **HIS CROSS**, And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the **body is Christ.**”* The substance is CHRIST, and all of the Old Covenant ordinances and commandments that were against us were taken to the Cross when Christ died, and done away with. So NOW – in light of the Cross and what Christ has done, don’t go back to the old ordinances. He has taken them away in His Cross! He is THE TRUTH of all of those things, so now you worship only Him. 2 Corinthians 3:14 says *“...which veil is*

done away in Christ.” And that vail and all the old ordinances must now be TAKEN AWAY in us, and “*Nevertheless when it (the heart) shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.*” (Verse 16) He has removed the veil in His death so that we now can see and walk in The Truth!

Stand In Truth

Galatians 5:1-7 – “*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.* (That is the Old Covenant religious ordinances. See Galatians 4:24-26, which speaks of the two covenants, “...*the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Hagar, For this Hagar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is and is in bondage with her children, But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.*”) *Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.*” (At this time in the early Church people were insisting that new converts be circumcised like a Jew in order to come to Christ, and Paul is telling them that this is taking them “back” to the Law, away from God’s grace by the Cross.) “*Christ is become of no effect unto you (that’s serious!), whosoever of you are justified by the law: ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Ye did run well: who did hinder you that ye should not obey **the TRUTH?***” Paul is telling them that NOW in Christ they are NOT in bondage, but in the liberty of The Truth. Now a partial circumcision of cutting away a piece of the flesh (which was the sign of the Old Covenant) will profit you nothing, and you are fallen from God’s grace which came at The Cross. Now is only FAITH IN CHRIST and The Work of The Cross. Now we have to obey the TRUTH. And that Truth is IN HIM and IS HIM.

Truth Has Come

The Apostle Paul especially, who was raised up strictly under the Law, and prospered in it, came to understand that because the TRUTH HAD COME – **IN CHRIST**; by The Cross in His death, burial and resurrection, they were NOW to live in that Truth, and no longer in the types and shadows of the Old Covenant. Paul’s understanding has changed. Philippians 3:3 – “*For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*” Paul recognized that all things of the Old Covenant were fulfilled in Christ; now in the Spirit, in a higher realm. (Colossians 2:11 – “*In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.*” That is the Cross – a TOTAL putting away of that whole old man and that first realm. THAT circumcision is greater, and completes God’s plan regarding man.)

That I May Win Christ

Philippians 3:7 – “*But what things were gain to me, those I counted LOSS for Christ.*” What were those things? Verses 4-6 – “*Though I might also have confidence in the flesh, If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*” The things that were “gain” to Paul was his life under the Law: all the in – part knowledge and religious activities under the Old Covenant to which Paul had excelled.

Verse 8 – “*Yea doubtless, and I count all things (all of the old) but loss (detriment) for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I might win **CHRIST** (not a higher religious position in the Church). (Remember 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.*”) Verse 9 – “*And be found **IN HIM**, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.*”*

Forgetting Things Behind

This was Paul’s desire: to be found IN HIM, to know HIM. And Paul says the ONE thing he has to do is: Philippians 3:13, 14 – “*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind (before the Cross, the old Jewish religious types and shadows), and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*” This is the Eternal Fulness of All Things NOW in Christ, but Paul knew that he had to count all of the old as NOTHING, and let it pass away in him so that he could walk in the reality of what was The Truth in Christ. Paul did not go back to what was in Old Covenant religion, but his desire was to know the fulness of all that is **BUT NOW IN CHRIST**. May that be our desire too!

Pt. 5 – Darkness Is Past

Darkness

As we are finishing this study, I pray the Lord has opened eyes to see what is **BUT NOW IN CHRIST**. And we need to do this because of what The Cross has done. Not walking in the Truth of the Finished Work is denying THE CROSS!

1 John 2:8 – *“Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the **true light now shineth**.”* We must understand this “darkness” is not evil, but the Old Covenant understanding. Everything in the Old was in-part, veiled, and there was no true knowing and seeing. **But Now In Christ** the darkness IS past, and the TRUE Light now shines. That True Light is Christ and He brings The Truth to be manifested. And we now are to walk in that light, that full understanding of the Truth of all God’s Plan fulfilled in Christ by His Cross.

1 John 1:7 – *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”*

The True

But I want you to notice here the **TRUE light**, because this is what is NOW IN CHRIST, and the types and shadows of the old are summed up in the very Person of Christ: not another type, but Who He is.

John 1:6-9 – *“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the **true Light**, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”* John was to bear witness of that Light – Jesus, and that was the One he declared. It is interesting that in the New Jerusalem, *“...the city had no need of the sun, neither the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”* (Revelation 21:23) We see here that Christ – as The Lamb slain is that True Light, and now in the New Creation that He has brought forth in His Resurrection, there is no need of any other light. This is NOW in Christ, but the question to us is: are we walking and living by that True Light that He is?

John 6:32,33 – The people were asking Jesus for a sign so that they could believe Him, and wanted him to send manna from heaven like their fathers received in the wilderness, under the Old Covenant. But Jesus is bringing them from the TYPE of the manna, to the TRUE Bread that He is. *“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the **TRUE** bread from heaven. For the bread of God is **HE** which cometh down from heaven, and giveth*

life unto the world.” Jesus makes Himself known as the TRUE Bread – by His death. The question to us is: are we eating of THAT bread that we may never die? (Vs. 49,50,53 – “Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven that a man may eat thereof, and not die...Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.”)

John 10:7-9,11 – “Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me (in the Old Covenant types and shadows) are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture...I am the good (true) shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” Jesus brings this concept of the Door which was known to Israel and the shepherds in the past all to a summation in HIMSELF – who gives His Life for them, and BY HIM, they can enter into the Father.

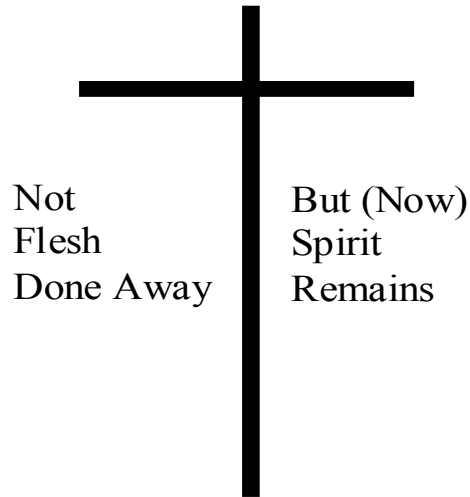
John 15:1 – “I am the **TRUE** vine, and my Father is the husbandman.” They now are to live by Him, and bring forth fruit to glorify the Father.

Hebrews 8:2 – He is “A minister of the sanctuary, and of the **TRUE** tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.” He is the **TRUE** priest of which the Old Covenant priests were only a type of. See how much “better” He is: Hebrews 7:23-27 – “And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this he did once, when he offered up himself (that’s The Cross!). And now because of the True High Priest that He is, we don’t have to go to an earthly priest, but to HIM! He is the BETTER Priest, and He is the **TRUE** sacrifice – of which all those other sacrifices for hundreds of years spoke of! You can see Christ’s greatness when you bring all of the parts of the Old Covenant into Him and see that HE IS the substance of all those things, and they are fulfilled in Him. IN Him all things are “better”, and we saw that the word “better” is so important in the book of Hebrews: bringing them from the Old Covenant way in time past, to how God is NOW speaking IN SON.

Not/But

Another understanding I’d like for us to come to through these lessons is the NOT/BUT comparisons, and this will help us to further see what is **BUT NOW IN CHRIST**. And those terms can go in our diagram. In God’s mind everything under the Old is seen as

“Not”, because everything is “But” Now in Christ. And we have to make that distinction in our heart also.



Titus 3:5-7 – “**Not** by works of righteousness which we have done, **but** according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” His grace and mercy are NOW in Christ, shed on us through the Work of The Cross.

Romans 8:1,9 – “ There is therefore **NOW** no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk **not** after the flesh, **but** after the Spirit...**But** ye are **not** in the flesh, **but** in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” “After the flesh” here is speaking of after the Old Covenant Law and ordinances. That is what is “not” to God; and the second is Spirit, the New, Christ, and is always “but NOW” to God. This is how He knows us by The Work of The Cross.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 – “**But** as it is written, 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 him. **BUT** God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” Under the Old Covenant the “all things” of God that He prepared were hidden, all according to God’s Eternal Plan in Christ; but at that time they could not understand this. **BUT NOW** God hath revealed those hidden things, and the mystery that had been hidden is NOW made known IN CHRIST by His Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:6 – “*Who (God) hath made us able ministers of the new testament: **not** of the letter, **but** of the spirit: for the letter killeth, **but** the spirit giveth life.*” The “letter” is the Law, the ordinances and in-part knowledge by types and shadows. There was no Life in that; but Life is only by the Spirit, that Life Giving Spirit who Christ is. Now there was a “glory” to the old administration, the Old Covenant, but there is a glory that EXCELLETH! Verses 9-11 – “*For is the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. (The Law brought condemnation, but Christ brings righteousness and Life.) For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.*” The first glory is done away in Christ and ONLY the second glory REMAINS. Remember Jesus said in Hebrews 10:9 – “*Lo, I come, to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second.*” The first is **NOT** Now in Christ! We NOW have the glory that excelleth, and should be living in that glory that remains. The first glory always came and went, but THIS glory abides with us – forever!

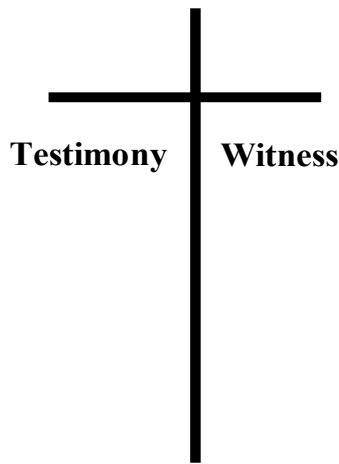
Hebrews 9:11-14 – “*But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; **Neither** by the blood of goats and calves, **but** by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ (The Cross) , who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works (the works of the Law) to serve the living God?*”

Hebrews 12:18-24 – “*For ye are **not** come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; (This is all Mount Sinai, the Old Covenant. And notice that this is the voice of words (plural) – many ways of God speaking. BUT NOW IN CHRIST there is only ONE WORD – and He is that Eternal, Living Word!) which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded. And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: (Remember we said that there was NO ACCESS for people under the Old Covenant) And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) **BUT** ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” We are NOT “going to go to Zion someday”: YOU ARE ALREADY COME NOW IN CHRIST! You don’t have to “die” and go be with Jesus: by HIS death, you are NOW come!*

And lastly, a summation of all the NOT/BUT comparisons that Paul came to, and we must also. Galatians 2:20 – And notice that this comes out from a TRUE knowledge of The Cross. *“I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet **not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**”* And in order for us to have a real understanding and appreciation of what is NOW in Christ we must come to this also: NOT I, BUT CHRIST!

Testimony/Witness

And one last thought I want to leave with you, and that is concerning Testimony and Witness. These are two more words we can put in our diagram.



Testimony

Hebrews 3:5 – “ *And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a **testimony** of those things which were to be spoken after.*” We must understand the Old Covenant was a TESTIMONY of what would come after – and that would be CHRIST!

Hebrews 10:7 – “ *Then said I, Lo, I come, (in the volume of the book it is written of ME), to do thy will, O God.*”

John 5:39,46– “*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which **testify** of ME...For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of ME.*”

The Testimony spoke of ONE TO COME – and all of the parts of the Law, the Tabernacle, Feasts, sacrifices, priests, ordinances, were all patterns of the things in heaven, and figures of the True.

Witness

But Christ came, and He is NOT a Testimony, but **THE WITNESS of that Testimony NOW COME!** Revelation 1:5 – “*And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness...*” HE validates the whole Testimony by His death, burial and resurrection, because IN HIM everything of the Testimony is totally fulfilled. The Witness is NOT of what is to come, but what is NOW! Jesus didn’t come to give us another Testimony of “what will be someday”; but He is the Witness that what God said He would do – He has done! The Witness is unto Life, and this was manifested by His Resurrection. HE is that Witness of the Truth of the Testimony.

I encourage you to search this out in the scriptures. What did Jesus say to the brethren when He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Ghost? Acts 1:8 – “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*” They were NOT to testify of what was going to come; but be the **WITNESS** of what was NOW in Christ!

The Witness In US

Christ as that Witness is IN US and we now – here in the earth, are to be the witness of HIM and all that He has done. We do that not by the many words that we speak, but by The One Life that we NOW live – CHRIST! And we can only be the Witness of Him as we allow Christ, the faithful Witness to Live His Life in us.

2 Corinthians 2:14 – “*Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*”

Ephesians 3:10 – “*To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.*”

1 Peter 2:9, 10 – “*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*” We as The Church, His Body, The Fulness of Him are to be the witness of His mercy and grace in this world. It is through us that the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God!

Holding Forth The Word of Life

How do we do this? By allowing His Work in us, manifesting His Life in us and through us – not some day when “we all get to heaven”; but NOW – HERE, in the earth, that we would truly be the Witness of **BUT NOW IN CHRIST!**

*Philippians 2:12-16 – “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always observed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom **ye shine as lights in the world**; Holding forth **THE WORD OF LIFE**; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”*

May The Lord minister the Truth and Reality of our Salvation in Christ to us and work it in us **NOW**, that HE may be glorified in the earth.

Amen